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CISPAC to award \$100,000 in matching grants to new school districts this spring

PITTSBURGH (March 24, 2021) –

Communities in Schools of Pittsburgh-Allegheny County (CISPAC) a leading provider of integrated education support services in Southwestern PA, will launch re-engagement programs in up to four new school districts this spring. Targeting the Southwestern PA school districts with the greatest student performance challenges, CISPAC will award \$100,000 in matching grants this spring giving districts with limited resources access to CISPAC's educational services as schools recover from this pandemic.

For over 30 years, CISPAC has worked with students and families beyond the classroom to provide educational support and gather resources to give more opportunity to students in Southwestern Pennsylvania. However, the cost of a comprehensive program is not small, and often the districts most in need of our services are those that can least afford them. **Thanks to generous support from the Staunton Farms Foundation, the Hillman Foundation and another anonymous funder, this grant program will allow CISPAC break down financial barriers and give more students opportunity to achieve academically.**

It is a pivotal time to invest in education. Uneven learning, increasing absenteeism, and escalating trauma and stress from the pandemic have taken their toll on students throughout the region. Teachers in the most vulnerable communities report up to 50% of their students have never logged on to online learning, cutting these students off from education and other support services. **CISPAC is helping to locate and re-engage students as schools reopen, organizing provider services for students with special needs, and providing trauma informed support through our Sanctuary®-certified programming.**

It is a crucial time to invest in education and bring our students back to the business of learning. CISPAC is incredibly grateful to our generous funders for recognizing this need and look forward to increasing the number of students we can help through this difficult time.

Application for matching grants is open now through April 9th. District administrators and leaders interested in starting a partnership with CISPAC to increase student success can contact executive director Bridget Clement at bclement@cispac.org for a link to get started.

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About Communities In Schools of Pittsburgh – Allegheny County

CISPAC is part of the Communities In Schools ® network that ensures all students have what they need to stay in school and on a path to a brighter future. Working directly inside more than 2,500 schools and community sites across the country, we connect 1.62 million students to caring adults and community resources designed to help them succeed in school and life. With a proven mix of evidence-based practice and human capital, we do whatever it takes to empower kids to realize their full potential. To learn more about CISPAC, visit cispac.org.

Communities in Schools of Pittsburgh - Allegheny County (CISPAC) is a Sanctuary®-certified institution committed to deepening its understanding of trauma's impact on individuals, schools, and communities. CISPAC works actively to promote trauma sensitivity within our internal operation as well as in our work throughout the Greater Pittsburgh region.