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**SJ Learns Launches RFP
After-School Program Funding Opportunity for San José K – 3 Students**

SAN JOSÉ— The Request for Proposal (RFP) for SJ Learns, an initiative by Mayor Sam Liccardo to expand high-quality after-school programs, went live on Fri., July 24. SJ Learns provides an opportunity for organizations to apply for funding up to \$500,000 to support innovative after-school programs in San José elementary schools for K – 3rd graders.

The RFP is being administered by Silicon Valley Community Foundation and can be found at <http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/other-funding-opportunities>. San José school districts, charter school networks, and established elementary school coalitions are encouraged to submit a proposal to participate in the program.

“We know that third-grade reading proficiency strongly correlates with high school graduation rates and remains a challenge for too many of San José’s children,” says Mayor Sam Liccardo. “Since the 1990s, our residents have recognized the need for City-funded after-school programs that, if well designed, can deliver consistent achievement gains. This is a first step in re-engaging the City of San José in supporting these critical programs that, after a decade of budget cuts, were all but eliminated.”

An informational conference call about the RFP and application process will be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2015, from 3 to 4 PM. To register for the call or learn more about SJ Learns, go to www.sanjoseca.gov/SJLearns.

The proposal submission deadline is August 21, 2015 at 5 PM. Applicants will be informed of grant decisions in October 2015.

“The grants available through the SJ Learns initiative will help San José’s young children—especially low-income kids with working parents—get the opportunities they need to succeed in school,” said Emmett D. Carson, Ph.D., CEO of Silicon Valley Community Foundation and one of the co-chairs of the SJ Learns Working Group. “I’m proud to be a part of this timely effort that will have a positive effect on so many children and their futures.”

SJ Learns will work with partners to explore strategies with the potential to further expand high-quality after-school programs. SJ Learns’ priorities were established by a working group of leaders in the education and youth development fields throughout San José.