Cornerstones Awarded 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant
$1.6 million in grant and in-kind support to benefit Herndon High School students and families

(Reston, VA) - Herndon High Schools students will have a new opportunity for academic, social, and emotional support, thanks to a $191,048 Virginia Department of Education Title IV, Part B 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) three-year grant, awarded to Cornerstones and Fairfax County Public Schools. Beginning this school-year, Cornerstones and Fairfax County Public Schools will implement a new afterschool and summer enrichment program. They also plan to leverage an additional $357,000 per-year in in-kind support from multiple partners bringing the total potential program investment to more than $1.6 million for local high schoolers and their families.

“Since 1970, Cornerstones has worked purposefully with educational and government partners to eliminate barriers to educational success. Together, we can help Herndon High school students obtain the vital educational, life skills, and cultural support needed to graduate and plan for a brighter future,” offers Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Cornerstones. “Our CCLC afterschool and summer programs will also ensure that many more local families can secure stability, empowerment, and hope for their children’s future.”

The new Herndon High School afterschool programs will include opportunities for greater academic support and enrichment; career and college explorations; life skills and youth development; service-learning and community involvement; and cultural awareness and understanding. CCLC programming will continue during the summer months with an eight-week program taught at the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center. In addition to the year-round student program and services, CCLC programs will help families build stronger relationships and ensure more parental education and leadership skills training to support their children’s school, afterschool and summer program experiences.

“I want people to know that we are excited about this opportunity to partner with our community organizations to provide resources that our students need. Alone, a school or community service program can only do so much. When we work together, we create powerful possibilities for our students,” said Dr. Elizabeth Noto, Principal, Herndon High School, Fairfax County Public Schools.
The new Herndon High School CCLC grant provides a continuum of out-of-school programming in support of Herndon Middle School’s 21st Century Community Learning Center grant, already in its second year. By joining forces, the two schools can identify rising 9th-grade students who will benefit from continuing CCLC program and services at Herndon High.

“This is an extraordinary new opportunity to help every Herndon high schooler and their family fulfill their goals for living a healthy, connected life. Cornerstones is proud to help harness new resources and rally committed partners so our community remains a vibrant, equitable, and healthy place to live and raise a family,” notes Ms. Wilson.

*Per notification requirements of Division H, Title V, Section 505 of Public Law 113-76, $191,048 (32.33%) of the yearly programs costs are federally funded and $52,355 (8.86%), by non-government sources.*

**About Cornerstones**

With deep roots in the Dulles corridor, Cornerstones has worked for 50 years to disrupt the causes of homelessness, poverty, and inequality that affect our region’s most vulnerable neighbors in need. Thanks to the generous support of individual and corporate donors, volunteers, and advocates, we provide 16,000 families and individuals each year a hand-up to stability, empowerment, and hope for living healthier, more connect lives in our community. From affordable housing and early childhood education, to job training and financial assistance and education, we meet the urgent needs of our clients - wherever they are in their journey to ensuring a bright future for themselves and their family. For more information, please visit [www.cornerstonesva.org](http://www.cornerstonesva.org) or call 571.323.9555.