

MEMORANDUM

To: CFGB Building Capacity Committee

From: Zhaundra Jones, Senior Program Officer

Date: April 5, 2022

Re: Summer Adventures in Learning (SAIL) Structure and Ongoing Funding

Background

In November 2021, the Building Capacity Committee of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham recommended \$35,000 in proactive funding toward summer learning initiatives as a part of CFGB's continued participation in the statewide funder's collaborative, Summer Adventures in Learning (SAIL). This funding was coupled with additional funding from the Grant Review Evaluation Committee (GREC), as part of a 50/50 cost share between proactive and competitive grant dollars.

During that November meeting, the question was raised whether funds should continue to be split 50/50 between competitive or proactive funds, or if they should be moved to one source or the other. In evaluating this question, staff looked at the proportion of funds expended against funds available, current requests/ demands for funds from each committee, and the evaluation/application process for SAIL funding. We found that because of the funding collaborative process and timing, SAIL funding fails to fit neatly into the current competitive process. Furthermore, while there are competitive elements within the SAIL application process, CFGB's involvement with SAIL began as a proactive initiative, where CFGB exerted philanthropic leadership as a funder and board member and continues to do so.

Recommendation

It is the recommendation of CFGB staff that, at this time, we should maintain the current 50/50 funding mechanism and process for forthcoming SAIL commitments. As will be discussed in the April meeting of the Building Capacity Committee, it is the aim of the Programs Team to partner with the committee over the coming months to further refine the purpose and impact of proactive funding and initiatives within CFGB's overall programmatic strategy. To that end, we believe once those goals have been accomplished, CFGB will be better able to determine the best means for investing in education within the region and the most appropriate avenues for CFGB funding.