

BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

DATE: AUGUST 16, 2021
TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: COLLEEN CARDENUTO, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM AND
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION

COMMENTS:

Type of Grant: Foundation
Title of Grant: PAYA – New America
Grant Preparer: Brian Stefanich – Bemidji Career Academies Director
Amount of Grant: \$5,000
District Responsibility: Serve as fiscal agent

Purpose: I was asked this past year to be a network partner by New America along with a host of PAYA Apprenticeship programs across the United States to collaborate and share solutions on closing the gap with our students of color, gender, transportation issues, etc. Through this network came an opportunity to receive a foundation grant of \$5,000 to create a Bemidji Career Academy working design team to include student ambassadors to accomplish the following SPRINT goals:

- Partner with community-based organizations to engage youth perspectives on the needs and interests of youth in career pathways.
- Support community-based organizations in identifying innovative practices for youth engagement by co-designing effective, equitable recruitment processes that reach diverse populations, particularly students of color and those who are most underrepresented in career pathway initiatives and strategies.

New America launched the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (“PAYA”), a multi-year initiative to support the expansion of high-quality apprenticeship opportunities for high school-age students in states and cities and across a broad range of industry sectors. To implement PAYA, New America is focused on helping states and cities develop a comprehensive strategy that leverages lessons learned from peer efforts. To support this objective, New America will fund Bemidji Career Academies to participate in and lead a working design team focused on engaging youth perspectives on the needs and interests of youth in career pathways, as well as identifying innovative practices for youth engagement by co-designing effective, equitable recruitment processes that reach diverse populations, particularly students of color and those who are most underrepresented in career pathway initiatives and strategies.