

SECTION G-B: STATE COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO LOCAL ENTITIES

B-1: What organizations are eligible to apply for 21st CCLC funds?

Any public or private organization is now eligible to apply for a 21st CCLC grant. Examples of agencies and organizations now eligible under the 21st CCLC program include, but are not limited to: non-profit agencies, city or county government agencies, faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, and for-profit corporations. The statute encourages eligible organizations to collaborate with LEAs when applying for funds.

B-2: Is a local applicant eligible to apply for a grant if it has no prior afterschool experience?

Organizations do not have to demonstrate prior experience in providing afterschool programs to be eligible to apply for a grant. However, in its application to the SEA, an organization that does not have such experience must demonstrate promise of success in providing educational and related activities that will complement and enhance the academic performance, achievement, and positive youth development of the students.

Experience & Practice #3: Positive Youth Development

Positive youth development refers to a philosophy and approach to working with young people that recognizes that:

- (1) multiple domains of young people's development- cognitive, social, emotional, physical and moral are interconnected;
- (2) all young people have strengths and prior knowledge that serve as a platform for subsequent development; and
- (3) young people are active agents of their own growth and development.

Experience & Practice #4: Link Between Data, Program Length and Sustainability

Each year, participating organizations should collect data that can help them analyze and refine their programs based on the impact of the activities. Programs with proven effectiveness are those that are most likely to be sustained after the Federal funding ends. Current practice and research strongly suggest that three years is not enough time for local communities to fully develop a program. Research finds that it takes a period of approximately five years of continual revision and improvement for a community to fully implement a successful program.

Experience & Practice #5: Collaboration

Effective partnerships within the community allow for more efficient use of local resources. Collaboration among diverse partners strengthens the variety of services the community can offer. For example, community-learning centers that partner with a county hospital, the local church, and a printing company in the community might more easily offer health care information, have church volunteers serving snacks for the program, and promote the program with free copying services.

B-3: May a community learning center be located or take place outside of a school?

Yes. The state may approve an application for a community learning center to be located in a facility other than an elementary or secondary school. However, the alternate facility must be at least as available and accessible to the participants as if the program were located in an elementary or secondary school. Each State will determine the evidence an applicant will need to demonstrate that the program will be available and accessible. (Note: "elementary school" and "secondary school" are defined in ESEA as any "nonprofit institutional day or residential school, including a public charter school.."). Whether the program takes place in a school building or other facility, the applicant must address how students will travel safely to and from the community learning center and home.

Experience & Practice #6: Hours of Operation

There are required minimum hours of operation depending on the services provided. See application page A-6 "Service options" for more information. Research suggests that more time spent in engaged and sustained learning activities yields greater benefits. To ensure that children have ample extended learning time, the USDOE believes that, based on an analysis of 21st CCLC and other afterschool program evaluation data, centers should be open three hours a day, at least four days a week and 100 days per year. To best serve the children of working families, centers should consider establishing consistent and dependable hours of operation.

B-4: Can states award local grants to schools that already receive State 21st CCLC program funds?

Yes. Communities that presently have a grant from the SEA are eligible to receive additional funds. However, new funds must be used in a manner consistent with all the grant requirements and must be used only to supplement, not supplant, any Federal, State or local dollars available to support activities allowable under the 21st CCLC program. Funds may be used to expand or enhance current activities, or to establish programs in non-participating schools within an LEA that has a 21st CCLC grant.

B-5: May 21st CCLC program funds support communities that are already implementing before and afterschool activities?

Yes. 21st CCLC funds may be used to expand and enhance current activities provided in existing afterschool programs, whether supported by public or private funds. For example, a grantee may use funds to align activities to help students meet local and State academic standards if those services are not part of the current afterschool program. Again, grantees

must bear in mind that 21st CCLC funds can be used only to supplement and not supplant any Federal or non-Federal funds used to support current programs.

B-6: May a state use 21st CCLC funds to award a planning grant to an organization that currently does not provide any out-of-school time activities?

No. Funds under this program must be used to provide services and cannot exclusively support planning. The legislation requires a local applicant to demonstrate prior experience or promise of success in providing educational or related activities. To assist communities in planning and implementing programs, the State is authorized to use up to 3 percent of the funds for State-level activities, including training and capacity building for both applicants and recipients of grants. Local applicants should plan for implementation prior to applying for the grant. However, grantees may use funds for ongoing planning throughout the grant period to strengthen the program based on evaluation results.

B-7: Are religious organizations, including entities such as religious private schools, eligible to receive 21st CCLC grants from the state?

Yes. Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) are eligible to apply for local grants provided they meet all statutory and regulatory requirements of this program. In order to ensure that a local grantee, including a FBO, meets the program's purposes and criteria, it should not discriminate against beneficiaries on the basis of religion. In matters of program eligibility, the state may not discriminate against grant applicants with regard to religion.

Funds shall be used solely for the purposes set forth in this grant program. No funds provided pursuant to this program shall be expended to support religious practices, such as religious instruction, worship, or prayer.

B-8: Are public charter schools eligible to participate in the 21st CCLC program?

Yes. Under State law, public charter schools are generally either local educational agencies or public schools within an LEA. As such, public charter schools are eligible to be considered for support on the same basis as other schools or LEAs in the State. If a charter school is designated as an LEA under State laws and meets the eligibility requirements outlined in question B-1, it may apply to the State for an award as an LEA. If a charter school is considered a school within an LEA, it may receive funding through an award to the LEA.

Whether or not a charter school applies for a grant, students who attend charter schools may participate in 21st CCLC programs established through an application submitted by other organizations.

B-9: Can Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) schools apply to the State and the BIA?

Yes. Schools within the BIA may apply to both the State and the BIA. However, the school may only accept one grant.

B-10: Are private school students eligible to participate in 21st CCLC activities carried out in public schools?

Yes. Students, teachers, and other educational personnel are eligible to participate in 21st CCLC programs on an equitable basis. A public school or other public or private organization that is awarded a grant must provide equitable services to private school students, and their families, if those students are part of the target population.

B-11: May several organizations form a consortium to apply for 21st CCLC funds?

Yes. Communities or organizations may apply together to share resources, so long as statutory requirements are met. States can determine what constitutes an eligible consortium so long as the State's determination is consistent with program requirements.

B-12: How does the legislative requirement for a minimum award of \$50,000 per grant apply to a consortium of organizations?

The minimum grant award is \$50,000 per year regardless of how many organizations take part in the consortium. However, one organization must be designated as the fiscal agent on behalf of all members of the consortium.

B-13: On what basis does a State make continuation awards?

Whether a grantee made substantial progress toward meeting the objectives set forth in its approved application. See page A-20 of the Application for Idaho requirements for continuation funding.