Afterschool and Summer Learning Opportunities Grants

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FUNDING AND CARRYOVER

Q: If we purchase a turnkey program from vendor, who has a price-per-student cost, what level of detailed accounting is required?

A: This is not determined by the grant. Any grant expense needs to be detailed by cost, justification and rationale for purchase.

Q: When do we have to use all the funds?

A: The funds are for immediate/emergency use programming, so your proposal must include how you plan to spend dollars, with implementation across the life of the funds. All grant dollars must be spent by September 30, 2024.

Q: How much funding is available for the program?

A: Up to $89 million is available across four grant award types. Please refer to the Request for Proposals for award type amounts and years.

Q: Are there any carryover funds for this grant?

A: Yes. This must be determined and established via the CCIP.

NOTE: Funds must be used to provide program services. The budget and program narratives must align.

Regardless of the size of the grant, proposed costs must be reasonable, necessary and allocable to carry out the program's purpose and objectives.

Q: Can we supplant?

A: Yes. There is no supplement, not supplant requirement in the CARES, CRRSA or ARP ESSER statutes. All uses should be to prevent, prepare for, or respond to COVID-19.

Q: Can you combine funds currently used with an existing the 21ˢᵗ CCLC grant?

A: No braiding, blending or co-mingling of funds is allowable. Additional information can be found at: U.S. Department of Education frequently asked questions (page 19 addresses the use of multiple funding sources).

Q: How must grant funds be tracked?

A: FUND 507; CFDA 84.425U and Separate Cost Centers for tracking grant funds.

Q: Are computers purchased for student use an allowable expense?

A: Yes, you can purchase computers and/or wi-fi access if they are barriers to access and participation and are necessary for the evidence-based programming you are delivering. Computers are coded as capital outlay. You also may purchase computer software directly related to your program activities.

Q: Can grant funds be used to buy a building or construct a building?

A: No. Capital expenses, such as land or building acquisition and construction, are not allowable expenditures. Rent **could be** an allowable expenditure, if necessary, for program activities.

Q: Are report writers or grant writer fees an allowable expense?

A: No. Grant writer fees are not permitted under this grant. Other program contributions or local funds support the program may pay a grant writer.

Q: Are gift cards an allowable expense?

A: Yes, student and staff incentives may include gift cards, when they are reasonable, necessary and allocable to carry out the program's purpose and objectives.

Q: Is food an allowable expense?

A: Yes, food is an allowable expense, when they are reasonable, necessary and allocable to carry out the program's purpose and objectives.

Q: Are supplies for fundraisers an allowable expense?

A: No, supplies or costs associated with fundraising cannot be paid for with these grant funds. Any profits made from the grant must be returned to the grant.

Q: Can we buy a van or bus to provide transportation?

A: No. You may not use grant funds to purchase a vehicle, even if needed to operate the program. You may charter/rent a vehicle, hire a driver, cover insurance and gasoline expenses with grant funds.

Q: What about maintenance fee for the bus or van?

A: Yes, if a vehicle is being used for the program, you may include maintenance fees in this grant. If the vehicle is used for multiple programs or shared with another program(s), maintenance must be a shared expense across multiple funding sources.

General

Q: How is this different from 21st Century Community Learning Centers?

A: The Summer Learning and Afterschool Opportunities grant is specific to a pandemic-related response. 21st CCLC grants provide pre-pandemic identified needs in communities that existed before and will continue after the global pandemic. Current 21st CCLC grantees should be thinking about expanding their programming, if there is a pandemic-related response that is needed in their current programs.

Q: Is this replacing the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant?

A: No, these are one-time emergency funds that are separate and different from 21st Century Community Learning Center grants.

Q: Can schools with a 21st CCLC grant also apply for this grant?

A: No, they can partner with an applicant, but schools/districts are not eligible to apply for these grants.

Q: Do you know if this will be a one-year or multi-year grant?

A: This is a multi-year grant, please refer to the [Request for Proposals](#) for additional details.

Q: Can family daycare can apply for this grant?

A: Yes, if a family childcare fits into one of the eligible entities listed in the [Request for Proposals](#).

Q: Is the applicant the school/district?

A: No, schools/districts cannot be the applicant. However, every applicant must partner with at least one school/district that their programs' participants attend school.

Q: Is there help available once we receive the award?

A: Yes, regularly scheduled meetings will be held monthly or more often if needed to support the awardees. This will kick off immediately after awards are announced at the mandatory grantee webinar on April 6, 2022.

Q: Are we allowed to include parochial schools in the [Request for Proposal](#)?

A: No, these funds are for Community-Based Organizations partnering with at least one public schools/district.

Q: We want to fund a Camp Invention or Lego STEM program. Is this the type of programming evidenced based criteria references?

A: If unsure about your proposed programing, explore the [Ohio Department of Education's Clearinghouse](#). Read and [understand levels from the U.S. Department of Education](#). All program proposals will be considered as long as the program is evidence based.

Q: I work at a small rural library and we would like to partner with our local school that is part of the district in which we are located. There are other school districts in close proximity. Are we able to open a Summer Learning Opportunity to students from other schools without formally partnering with their school?

A: Yes, as long as the applicant has established one partnership with a public school/district, you can add partners through the grant timeframe.

Q: Is virtual programming allowed and/or preferred versus in-person?

A: This should be discussed and agreed upon with the partner school/district. All local and state requirements and guidelines should be followed regarding this topic.

Q: Due to staff turnover, we are unable to renew our SAM which was under a previous employee. Currently, we are working to update our entity administrator, so that she can renew our SAM once she has access. Will our current status with SAM impact our pending proposal for this funding opportunity.?

A: None of these numbers are required to apply. The requirements will be handled after the grant is awarded and will not impede your application.

Q: If a non-profit CBO intends to operate summer learning programs at different locations with multiple school partnerships, would the non-profit CBO be limited to the $300,000 each year for a 3 year cap or would each location the non-profit CBO operates be eligible for the $300,000 per year for 3 year cap? How many applications would need to be submitted in this scenario?

A: Each application is specific to each award type you are applying for. Sites that will service students in the proposed programming must be listed as part of the application. Each application is limited to the "up to" amount for that grant award type. The grant award type is not per site, but per grant across as many sites as you include.

Q: I am confused about the evidence-based criteria. Does the evidence need to come from the [ESSA Clearinghouse](#) or can it come from any of the Evidence Based Clearinghouses (Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development, Crime Solutions, Evidence for ESSA, Top Tier Evidence, WWC)?

A: If unsure about your proposed programming, explore the [Department's Clearinghouse](#) and read and understand [levels from the U.S. Department of Education](#). As long as the criteria from the U.S. Department of Education is followed, an applicant may access information about their programming from any evidence-based clearinghouse.

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Q: For existing programs that are not modeled after a program reviewed on Ohio's Evidence Based Clearinghouse, would they need to implement a reviewed program to be eligible for the grant or could then make program modifications that mirror a reviewed program found on the Evidence Based Clearinghouse.

A: If unsure about your proposed programing, explore the Department's Clearinghouse and read and understand levels from the U.S. Department of Education. Each proposed program must fit into one of the four levels of evidence-based programming. It is up to the applicant to determine where their proposed programming fits, using the linked guidance from the U.S. Department of Education above.

Q: Would an educational consulting LLC that provides tutoring in public or non-public charter schools be eligible to apply? We already work with districts to provide some during-school tutoring but would like to expand to add summer school programs and after-school programs.

A: Eligible applicants are as follows: Community Based Organizations (e.g., the organization hosts or participates in events or programs that benefit the general public or public spaces, the organization provides educational materials or mentorship opportunities, the organization provides support to economically disadvantaged populations, etc.), which includes: o A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, o A faith-based organization, o A for-profit company that otherwise meets the definition of CBO, or o A city, county, regional or state governmental entity • Institutions of higher education.

Q: Can a community school apply by itself?

A: No, a school cannot be the applicant.

Q: What is a local school? Does a local school include non-public?

A: Requirement #3, regarding partnership, requires a partnership with a ***public*** school/district.

Q: May a faith-based private school apply?

A: No, a school cannot be the applicant.

Q: Would a for profit daycare count as long as we team up with a school district in our area?

A: Eligible applicants are as follows: Community Based Organizations (e.g., the organization hosts or participates in events or programs that benefit the general public or public spaces, the organization provides educational materials or mentorship opportunities, the organization provides support to economically disadvantaged populations, etc.), which includes: o A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, o A faith-based organization, o A for-profit company that otherwise meets the definition of CBO, or o A city, county, regional or state governmental entity • Institutions of higher education.

Q: Can you apply for all grant types?

A: Yes, a single applicant may apply for each one of the four grant types. Each grant type must have its own submitted grant proposal.

Q: If we have a summer expand program to serve multiple districts, is each district capped at $200,000/year; OR total for all districts limited to $200,000.

A: The total is for the grant award type, not the number of districts to be served.

Q: Does the online survey provide a receipt/confirmation that you submitted the Intent to Apply.?

A: No. Some have been concerned as it didn't look like it "went through" and have asked for confirmation by emailing us at summerlearning@education.ohio.gov.

Q: Is there a limit on grants for a district? For example, our district has 3 primary buildings looking to expand summer school programming, can we only apply to fund 3 sites under one grant or can we submit one for each building?

A: In this scenario, the applicant would apply for one Summer Expand grant that serves multiple sites. School districts cannot be applicants, only partners.

Q: Can Partners apply separately for a grant and then apply together on projects they are working on together?

A: There is no limit on partnering or the same partner being part of multiple applications.

Q: Can a CTPD (career tech planning district) apply?

A: See list of eligible applicants. Schools/Districts are not eligible to apply.

Q: It appears that partnership MUST be with a PUBLIC school or public school district. Is that correct, or may a CBO partner with a private school?

A: That is correct. The applicant must partner with a public school or district.

Q: Can a nonpublic school that is a 501c3 nonprofit apply?

A: No, schools cannot be applicants.

Q: Can funds be used for multiple programs in the same agency? (For example, a chess club and an arts program that are both after school programs.)

A: Yes, the applicant would propose multiple uses of the funds or activities within one grant proposal.

Q: Can a company that is registered as a Community Benefit Corporation apply for the funds as long as we have a local education agency partner?

A: If the company meets the list of eligible entities in the Request for Proposals, they are eligible to apply.

Q: How much weight in the application process is going to be given to programs serving schools in the Priority and Focus Schools list? If you are not a priority school, can you still apply?

A: Schools are not eligible applicants. Additionally, serving schools on the focus or priority lists is not a requirement, but a funding priority. Therefore, if an applicant has a partnership to serve students on one of these schools, they will receive additional points toward their overall score. Weighting of proposal questions or funding priorities are not being provided to applicants.

Q: If we are applying as a partnership with another organization, do we each have to complete the Intent to Apply?

A: No, only one Intent to Apply is required from whomever will be the applicant organization.

Q: If an identified need is professional development to support both the afterschool/summer program staff and day school staff - is that an allowable cost?

A: Yes, professional development is an allowable expense.

Q: Who is tracking these receipts and expenditures, doing PCR's and FER's?

A: This is the grantee's responsibility.

Q: May each entity only apply for one of each type? Meaning-if ABC org wants to provide summer programming at multiple buildings it still would only be eligible for one grant in that category?

A: Yes, each applicant is limited to apply for one of each grant award type. There is no limit on the number of sites includes in each grant award type application.

Q: Do all of the activities have to be evidence based?

A: The collective program needs to be evidenced-based.

Q: As a non-profit non-public charter school, do we still have to prove partnership with another entity?

A: Schools are not eligible to apply.

Q: If a 21st century grant is done at the end of this year, would this afterschool school program be considered a create program as it would not exist in Fall 2022 as they are not renewing 21st century grant? or would be consider as expanded?

A: This would be considered a create award type application.

Q: Preschool programs are allowed correct?

A: Yes, as a partner to apply, but not as the applicant.

Q: Does the preschool have to be associated with a public or private school? How about preschools at YMCAs?

A: No, the preschool does not have to be in a school, but the applicant must have a partnership with at least one school/district where the children who are being served attend or will attend.

Q: If a program funding cycle for a 21st century grant ends June 30, and we want to apply so that those students don't lose services which option would we choose?

A: Apply for a Create grant if and when you are creating something new that does not currently exist. If you are planning to do the exact same programming, but for a longer time period/different dates, then you apply for an Expand grant.

Q: May you change your award type after submitting the intent to apply?

A: No, because each Grant Award Type you intend on applying for must have a completed and submitted Intent to Apply.

Q: If a community service program (YMCA) that is already a primary partner in a 21st Century Grant for one district, is the organization supposed to apply for the $300,000 after school expansion even if the desire is to pull in additional county districts that don't have a 21st Century Grant.

A: The YMCA would apply for expand if the programming already exist for the for the one district; for the county districts you would apply for a create award.

Q: Will we discuss how we need to demonstrate how attendance was impacted by the pandemic? For example, is it enough to show "school x, whose students we will serve, saw a 15% decline in attendance in 2020 and 2021?"

A: Yes, any data you include in your application will be considered as part of the proposal.

Q: Can you describe the evaluation process/expectation?

A. Once awarded, grantees will be briefed and supported on evaluation and monitoring activities which will be required.

Q: Do all of the students participating in the program need to be defined as "most in need of services," or can others who were less impacted by the pandemic also participate?

> **A:** As a funding priority, proposals which will serve the most at need students will receive additional points in the scoring. This does not mean that applicants who propose serving a larger group will not be considered, so it is allowable to propose such a program reach.

Q: Since the reporting for fiscal cash requests, history revisions, and grant assurances doesn't flow through the CCIP, what is the vehicle for reporting that will be expected that is usually flowed through the CCIP?

> **A:** Once awarded, grantees will be informed of the fiscal, monitoring, and evaluation processes required by the grant and any systems the Department will use with grantees. This information sharing with start with the required grantee webinar on April 6, 2022.

Q: How is "most in need of service" defined? Is it quantitative, qualitative, up to us to describe?

> **A:** It is up to the applicant to make their argument for this in the submitted proposal. The Department encourages you to use any and all data available to you, while staying within the proposal narrative maximum of ten pages.

Q: If we are a youth development OST program, serving multiple school buildings and districts, can we apply for our program and list the partners or does this need to be just for one school/district per grant award?

> **A:** There is no limit on number of schools/district partners in any grant proposal.

Q: What is the Letter of Approval?

> **A:** The Letter of Approval is a signed document from an organization leader that lets the Department know that the grant proposal submission is supported by the applicant organization.

Q: What are the requirements for the tutors who would provide academic assistance in the grant programs? Would each one have to be an Ohio licensed teacher or could some on-site tutors be licensed Educational Aides? Would an Ohio licensed teacher need to be on-site/attending field trips 100% of the time or just a percentage of the time?

> **A:** It is up to the applicant to tell the Department in their grant proposal what minimum qualifications will be expected for any programming staff.

EXPENDITURES

Q: Where can I find a listing of allowable expenditures?

> **A:** Per [EDGAR 34 CFR, Part 76, subpart F](), Allowable Costs can be found at 76.530 – 76.534.

> 1. Any activity authorized by the ESEA of 1965, including the Native Hawaiian Education Act and the Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seQ:), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seQ:) ("IDEA"), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seQ:), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seQ:) ("the Perkins Act"), or subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seQ:).

> 2. Coordination of preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies with State, local, Tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve

coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

3. Providing principals and others school leaders with the resources necessary to address the needs of their individual schools.

4. Activities to address the unique needs of low-income children or students, children with disabilities, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities, students experiencing homelessness, and foster care youth, including how outreach and service delivery will meet the needs of each population.

5. Developing and implementing procedures and systems to improve the preparedness and response efforts of local educational agencies.

6. Training and professional development for staff of the local educational agency on sanitation and minimizing the spread of infectious diseases.

7. Purchasing supplies to sanitize and clean the facilities of a local educational agency, including buildings operated by such agency.

8. Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including for how to provide meals to eligible students, how to provide technology for online learning to all students, how to provide guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seQ:) and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.

9. Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.

10. Providing mental health services and supports.

11. Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.

12. Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff of the local educational agency.

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