

21st Century Alaska Community Learning Center Frequently Asked Questions

Revised 2-3-2012

What is the purpose of the 21st CCLC grants?

The focus for these grants is primarily to provide *academic enrichment* opportunities for low-income students and their families. While additional activities beyond academics can be included in the grant – the focus is on raising academic achievement. All grant proposals must indicate how their proposed programs will ultimately result in higher student achievement levels.

Are existing 21st Century Community Learning Center grantees eligible under this competition?

Existing 21st CCLC grants whose funding cycles will end on June 30, 2012 are eligible to apply under this competition. Proposals will be also accepted to fund additional service sites or additional eligible students within a district or community if their funding under 21st CCLC continues beyond FY12.

How much funding is available, for how long, and what is reasonable to expect?

Dependent upon congressional appropriation, Alaska intends to offer approximately \$1.2 million in grant funds for FY13. We expect that applicants will propose programs of between \$50,000-\$500,000. This will allow EED to ensure funding of sufficient size and scope to support high-quality, effective programs that are consistent with legislative purpose. Applicants who are awarded funds for FY13 will receive continuation funding for a five-year period – pending continued congressional appropriation of funds and successful evaluation results.

If only a small number of grants will be awarded under this competition, how can rural or small areas compete for funds?

Small areas are encouraged to contact larger umbrella organizations that may cover a number of school districts and/or communities. Consortia of school districts or agencies/organizations could also put together a very competitive application for funding.

How do the priority points for this application work?

Applications that address the competitive priorities receive additional points over other applications of equivalent merit. EED will give competitive preference to applicants in the following areas:

Priority #1 - Eligible for 10 priority points:

Priority will be given to applications for projects that will serve children in schools designated as Title I; those that are in need of improvement under Title I (in Level 2 or higher of School Improvement); or who provide services to schools with 40% or greater poverty levels. To receive the priority points, applications must also demonstrate community partnerships.

Points will be awarded if the schools included in the application fall on the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development 2011-2012 Title I School List; the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development 2011-2012 Title I School Improvement Site list OR the applicant provided documentation of 2011-2012 School level poverty data of 40% or greater. To receive the priority points, applications must also demonstrate community partnerships to the extent they are available. To receive points, all the sites included in the application must meet these criteria.

Priority #2 - Eligible for 10 bonus points:

Priority points will be awarded to proposals that demonstrate they are directing credit recovery services to secondary students who are at risk for academic failure.

Points will be awarded for programs that outline in their application they are directing supplemental credit recovery services to at-risk students that meet the federal criteria for inclusion. (Please refer to the FAQ on receiving high school credits.)

Priority #3 - Eligible for 10 bonus points:

Priority points will be awarded to proposals that demonstrate they are meaningfully addressing physical activity and physical education programming with a minimum of two 45-minute blocks each week utilizing research-based curriculum materials and other proven practices.

Points will be awarded for programs that outline in their application and schedules the minimum time requirements (two 45-minute blocks per week), focus (physical education or physical activity) and the practice (e.g. identifying a specific research-based curriculum or materials package.)

How do the BONUS points work?

Bonus points are optional points available for proposals that identify specific practices. They are NOT REQUIRED to be addressed in the application. Information on the bonus point questions will be available through the technical assistance audio conferences offered by the department.

Is it possible for a community to submit a proposal to serve a specific group of high poverty students across a school district?

Yes. The application should clearly state where the community learning center site would be located and how students would get there. The application should also address staffing issues and relating coursework back to the school day if multiple schools are served through one community learning center.

If applicants are not ready to apply this year, when will the next competitive application for funds be released?

It is unknown at this time as to whether additional federal funding will be provided to support a competitive grant opportunity for FY14. Funding for this program continues to be up for discussion at the federal level.

How do I find out what grants are currently funded by the State of Alaska?

Go to the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development web site at:
<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/21cclc/index.htm>

to search for grants funded by EED in the state.

What kinds of reporting requirements are required and when will reports be due?

The department generally has an annual performance report due June 30 of each year unless otherwise specified. The 21st CCLC preliminary reports are generally due in mid-July each year – with a final report due in mid-November along with the local evaluation report. Grantees will also be expected to submit any additional information required for federal reporting, such as the annual PPICS data collection.

Is it necessary for grantees to propose funding outside evaluators for these grants?

All grants must contain an evaluation component and can include internal or external evaluators that are appropriate for the size and scope of their programs. All funded programs will participate in state and national evaluation efforts.

Are there any requirements for the hours of operation of a center or the number of students a local program must serve?

No. The statute does not mention specific hours of operation or maximum numbers of students a center must serve. The statute does however, specify that community learning centers must offer services during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session including before school, after school, evenings, weekends and during the summer. Each community should base its application on the needs of its students and their families. In general, successful Alaska applicants have proposed services for 8-15 hours per week.

May grantees use 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) funds to offer programs or activities for which participants may receive credit toward high school graduation requirements?

Yes. In some circumstances, grantees may be able to use 21st CCLC program funds to offer programs or activities for which participants may receive credit toward high school graduation.

The primary purpose of the 21st CCLC program is to offer students a broad array of services, programs, and activities before and after school that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students. In addition, section 4203(a)(9) of the ESEA requires states receiving funds under the 21st CCLC program to use such funds to supplement, and not supplant, other federal, state, and local public funds expended to provide programs and activities authorized under the 21st CCLC program and similar programs. 20 U.S.C. 7173(a)(9). Thus, 21st CCLC funds may not be used to pay for activities or programs that would have been provided from other public funds in the absence of the 21st CCLC program.

A grantee may, however, use 21st CCLC program funds for a before- or after- school program or activity for which participants may receive credit toward high school graduation requirements if: (1) such a program or activity is an expansion of the options for receiving high school credit in a particular area that would not have been provided without the 21st CCLC program, and (2) the program or activity does not replace or reduce the courses and programs normally provided by a local school district or private school (i.e., there is no reduction in the course offerings or costs in that particular academic area).

Note: This answer addresses the use of 21st CCLC funds by grantees for programs or activities that may result in participants' receiving high school credit. It is important to note, however, that it is the local school district or private school (i.e., not the 21st CCLC grantee, if it is a different entity) that decides whether to award credit for the program or activity. It is also important to note that 21st CLCC projects are not required to offer programs or activities for which participants may receive credit.

Can you clarify the issue of "supplement, not supplant?"

The authorizing statute may state that a grantee may use and allocate funds received under a particular grant only to supplement and not to supplant funds from non-federal sources. To the extent practical, the grantee must increase the level of funds that would, in the absence of federal funds, be made available from non-federal sources, and in no case may such funds be used to replace funds from non-federal sources. This means that:

- the grantee may not divert state and local funds for other uses simply because these particular grant funds are available;
- the grantee may not use these grant funds to pay for activities required by state law, State Board of Education rule, or local district policy; and/or
- the grantee may use these funds to expand existing programs and/or add new programs that would not otherwise be available from state and local sources.

Supplement not supplant is a requirement of all Federal funds, unless specifically noted in the legislation. In its simplest definition it means that Federal funds cannot be used in place of local, State or other Federal funds to support education. The auditor's question is: "In the absence of these Federal funds, would the district need to provide it?" If the answer is yes, then Federal funds cannot be used.

At the program level, it means that Federally funded services cannot be used in place of services that the district must provide. Supplement not supplant at the program level applies to Federal programs that serve students such as Title I, Migrant (Title I, Part C) and English Language Acquisition (Title III) programs. For example, the district has an obligation to provide services to enable non-English speakers to learn to speak English. Federal funds may then be used to provide services in addition to what the district provides.

What do you require in the letter of intent of apply?

Please refer to the form in that application packet on pg. 28.