

LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA GRANT –FY 2011
Questions and Answers from Webinar

We didn't get a grant earlier this year, but we have in the past. Can we apply for an expansion grant?

“Applicants that have received Learn and Serve America funds in prior years are eligible to reapply to implement, operate or expand service-learning initiatives, but justifications for another two years of funding must be included in the proposal. Such justifications may include plans to expand service-learning to additional classrooms or attendance centers, or evidence of severe financial constraints which limit an applicant’s ability to sustain a greater share of the costs of an existing program.” (RFP, pages 1-2)

What do you mean by “partnership information”? We are an ISC.

An implementation grant is a partnership grant. A partner is defined on page one of the RFP as a “qualified private nonprofit or public organization, other educational agencies or private, for-profit business that have demonstrated expertise in the provision of service to meet educational, public safety, human, or environmental needs; have been in existence for at least one year; and will make their organizations available for the participation of student service providers or help facilitate the participation of students in service in the broader community.”

Can funds be used for student out-of-state travel to service sites outside Illinois?

Funds may be used for out-of-state travel if it is a special event to which the students are traveling for a conference, meeting, demonstration, etc. However, the primary focus of the grant activities and expenditures should be on the needs of the community identified in your application.

I have printed off the RFP and the attachments. Are there any other documents (other than the power point) that I need?

No, these are the necessary documents.

Can grant funds be used to purchase student materials for a project?

Yes, this is an important part of the funding for most districts. “Supplies and Materials” are listed as Object 400s on the Budget Narrative and on the Budget Summary and Payment Schedule.

Does the project have to be part of the regular school day, or can it be part of an after-school program?

The grant is available for programs both during school and after school.

Are ROEs eligible to apply on behalf of a school or district?

It is feasible that an ROE may want to apply in partnership with two or more public school districts or private schools within its region; however, if only one district will be involved in the service-learning activities, it would probably make more sense for the district to apply on its own.

Can 21st Century funds be used as a match?

The only specific prohibitions are on the use of Title I, IDEA, or other CNCS funds to establish your local match. However, other federal funds, such as 21st Century funds may be used only with the permission of that funding source.

If we are a large district, can we apply by school, or must we apply as a district?

You must apply as a district, as stated on page one of the RFP. However, the project may be limited to a single attendance center or to only a few schools within your district.