

FY 20 After School Programs – Non-school District

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: What criteria is used to identify “low-income” for this grant?

Answer: To calculate the low-income count, elementary schools may use the number of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. For middle and high schools, the free and reduced-price count generated at the school or from the elementary schools that feed into the middle and/or high schools may be used to establish the low-income count at the receiving middle or high school.

Question 2: Can we select 100 or more students based on their status as low-income or must the entire organization serve 90% or more low -income students?

Answer: Students served with these funds must meet the 90% or more low-income eligibility criteria.

Question 3: Are there age requirements for student participants?

Answer: No. Students may be of any age.

Question 4: Can the funding supplement an existing program?

Answer: Yes, please reference page 5 of the RFP.

Question 5: Can funding be used to pay parents or student stipends?

Answer: Provided such a stipend meets the goals of the RFP, yes.

Question 6: What is the max amount a nonprofit organization can apply for?

Answer: There is no dollar amount limit for a request. However, ISBE staff must determine allocations as provided for in the RFP and ensure opportunities for as many students as possible.

Question 7: We currently have an active grant with ISBE (former Healthy Communities Investment grant) that will end in June 2020. Are we still eligible to apply for this grant since it only runs until August 31, 2020? Is there an extension of the period for this grant?

Answer: Yes, you are eligible, but funds must be kept separate and student served are non-duplicate.

Question 8: The project cannot begin until funding is secured. About how long will it take to review these applications and send the funds? Also, since it ends August 31, 2020, we are only talking about a few weeks of after school work occurring only in the spring semester of 2020. Is it the intent of this RFP to fund summer programming?

Answer: Please see RFP

Question 9: We are thinking of applying for after school programming at a school location- would this still be considered a proposal for non-school district?

Answer: This RFP is for non-school district entities only. However, we do encourage partnerships between school districts. Districts can take the lead role in the partnership, but the non-school district entity will be the fiscal agent for the grant.

Question 10: Is it 100 students per site or total?

Answer: 100 non-duplicate students total

Question 11: You indicated page 6 of the RFP will have additional funding information. Could you please identify exactly where that is on page 6?

Answer: You can find the funding information items on page 6 of the RFP.

Question 12: You also stated that funding is available at \$800 per student. I possibly missed that in the RFP. Could you please identify exactly where that is?

Answer: The available funding of \$800 per pupil is included in the FY20 approved board memo. Link to board memo: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/After-School-Programs.aspx>

Question 13: In the application it says there is a 90-day notification for awards. Does this apply? How does it affect the start date of the program?

Answer: There is a 90-day allowable notification time to award, however grantees are notified of awards as soon as possible.

Question 14: Hello I am registered 5013c here in Illinois; My question to you is do I qualify to apply for this grant opportunity and if so can I choose the three school districts in Illinois that I want to work with?

Answer: Eligible applicants are non-school entities that meet the criteria located on page 1 of the RFP.

Question 15: Page 9, Program plan- Within the same category, let's say I choose A, improved academic outcomes, can I place more than one project activity on this page?

Answer: Yes.

Question 16: Page 4A- This is page only to indicate how we will allocate grant funds, not our current budget?

Answer: Attachment 4A is to provide your budget regarding this grant.

Question 17: Why are July-August blacked out?

Answer: Please reference page 2 of the RFP.

Question 18: Will the totals calculate themselves? (row 29 and column 11)

Answer: Please note this is a paper application.

Question 19: Page 4B- Is there a sample budget filled out that we could see?

Answer: Do to the competitive nature of this grant ISBE cannot provide examples.

Question 20: Do we need to know the names of the schools that we would work with at the time of proposal submission? For example, with my organization we would partner with the school district to select schools, which could be done now or once funding is received?

Answer: Service to a minimum of 100 students and meeting the criteria must be relevant in the proposal.

Question 21: Is there a limit on the dollar amount each organization can request and if so, how much is the award limit?

Answer: There is no dollar amount limit for a request. However, ISBE staff must determine allocations as provided for in the RFP and ensure opportunities for as many students as possible.

Question 22: Can we get a copy of the PowerPoint?

Answer: The PowerPoint can be found at <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/After-School-Programs.aspx>

Question 23: If you are a new program can you apply for this grant?

Answer: Eligible applicants please reference page one of the RFP.

Question 24: Can you speak more to the academic outcomes requirement? My organization has led after-school programs for 15+ years and we have documented anecdotal evidence of improved academic outcomes, but this impact is not formally measured in our annual evaluations. Is this a requirement for funding? Would we need to introduce those formal measures if funding is awarded?

Answer: Please reference page one of the RFP for applicant criteria.

Question 25: Does an unrestricted program mean that the funds can be used for any purpose related to program needs (such as staff compensation?)

Answer: Staffing is an allowable expense.

Question 26: What are acceptable ways of demonstrating that the population we serve is 90% low income?

Answer: Students served with these funds must meet the 90% or more low-income eligibility criteria.

Question 27: What are acceptable ways of demonstrating that the population we serve is 90% low income?

Answer: Students served with these funds must meet the 90% or more low-income eligibility criteria.

Question 28: I am concerned about the timeline. The project cannot begin until funding is secured. About how long will it take to review these applications and send the funds? Also, since it ends August 31, 2020, we are only talking about a few weeks of after school work occurring only in the spring semester of 2020. Is it the intent of this RFP to fund summer programming?

Answer: Please reference grant period included on page 2 of the RFP.

Question 29: Some of the schools we serve do not report 90% low-income rates in their student populations. However, the students who attend our programs are almost exclusively from low-income families and as an organization, we meet the 90% low-income rate. Are we able to count only the students who attend our programs and not what a particular school reports as their low-income rate?

Answer: To calculate the low-income count, elementary schools may use the number of students eligible for free and reduced-price meals. For middle and high schools, the free and reduced-price count generated at the school or from the elementary schools that feed into the middle and/or high schools may be used to establish the low-income count at the receiving middle or high school. Community based organizations serving students from multiple schools or districts may use the above information to calculate low income, or may also demonstrate the use of their internal organizational method to determine low income. If this is used, please note that a description of how low income is measured, along with supporting documents is encouraged.

Question 30: Can a provider serve 100 youth at two different school sites or must it serve 100 youth at one site?

Answer: Per the RFP a minimum of 100 total students must be served.

Question 31: Do we need to obtain written prior approval from the State Superintendent of Education in order to submit a proposal for funding to this NOFO?

Answer: Partnerships that are budgeted as a subcontract are allowable. ISBE program will review and finalizes approval of all budgets following award of funds.