

# FY 24 After School Programs – Non-school District

## Frequently Asked Questions

**CHANGE TO NOFO/RFP (09/19/23): Page 2.**

**Added:** Updated link to the Attachment Manager. The previous link stopped working.

**Question 1:** Does that statement mean that 90% of the students we will serve in the after-school program must be low income ? Or does it mean that 90% of our service area must be low-income? Or does it mean something else?

**Answer:** The intent is to work with students who attend a school or groups of schools that are 90% low income. Due to the privacy of students, ISBE does not have a procedure in place to collect low-income data from specific students.

**Question 2:** I had a provider ask about if this stipulation would identify eligibility of the applicant or if there is some flexibility—this provider serves a rural community with about 78% low-income students, would they still be eligible to apply for this grant?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as they propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income.

**Question 3:** We live in a tier 1 neighborhood with over 90% low-income families in the neighborhood. However, most of our families are immigrant families and very hesitant to share financial information so it is hard to prove the exact income of students attending the program. We are open to the public and any child. If we show the income of the neighborhood, will that suffice?

**Answer:** The intent is to work with students who attend a school or groups of schools that are 90% low income. Due to the privacy of students, ISBE does not have a procedure in place to collect low-income data from specific students.

**Question 4:** We were gathering information to attempt to submit an application for the after school programming grant but noticed that a qualification of the grant is to be servicing 90% of clientele below the poverty line. It may be a bit hard to determine that for our services and I'm wondering if it is possible to expand via email or setup a phone conversation on precisely what that qualification is asking for and how that is verified?

**Answer:** Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income". The low-income percentage can align with a school or groups of schools that average a total of 90% low-income. The schools can be public or non-public. ISBE does not have a procedure in place to collect low-income data from specific students. At the time of award, awarded grantees will be asked to submit the school or schools their students attend.

## FY 24 After School Programs – Non-school District Frequently Asked Questions

- Question 5:** We are not a school but a local non-profit organization that supports students from many schools in town. As such, is there an alternative manner we can determine such eligibility?
- Answer:** This grant opportunity is for non-school districts. Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income". The low-income percentage can align with a school or groups of schools that average a total of 90% low-income. The schools can be public or non-public.
- Question 6:** For recipients of the FY23 Non-School District Afterschool Programs Grant who have an extended grant year into FY24 but had to have the funds released by August 31, 2023 - can we still apply as long as the students and staff covered in our FY23 grant are not the same as FY24?
- Answer:** Yes, but funds must be kept separate, and students served non-duplicate.
- Question 7:** Our Teen Center has been working on expanding on-the-job learning opportunities for students. Is it allowable to include stipends for the businesses that would be interested in offering that?
- Answer:** As long as the budgeted items align with the criteria and objectives as listed within the RFP.
- Question 8:** Pertaining to the indirect cost rate -- we are a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Am I correct in believing that if we do not want to negotiate an indirect cost rate, we can/should use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate, and not the 8 percent default rate described at 34 CFR 76.564?
- Answer:** Correct, you can choose the 10% de minimis rate.
- Question 9:** On page 5 of the RFP, where it indicates "No more than 5 percent of grant funds may be used for general administrative expenses" -- does this mean we can include 5% of the total proposed budget amount for project oversight/administration, in addition to the 10% indirect cost rate? Or must this 5% be included in the indirect cost line? Should this be included as salary or indicated in another way?
- Answer:** Yes, you can claim up to 5% for salaried administration in addition to the indirect cost rate.
- Question 10:** Am I correct in assuming that the schools with which we would work in this project do not have to be identified prior to submitting the application for funding?

## FY 24 After School Programs – Non-school District Frequently Asked Questions

**Answer:** Yes, you will be asked to identify schools you are working with at the time of award.

**Question 11:** Will these grant funds be distributed on a reimbursement basis?

**Answer:** No, this grant's funding is distributed based on a payment schedule.

**Question 12:** In attachment 3 of the application, what is meant by "Anticipated Audience and Expected Growth?"

**Answer:** The students you intend to serve.

**Question 13:** What is the intended baseline for the growth in students served? Is it growth from the number of students we currently serve, or growth throughout the course of the project, or something else?

**Answer:** This grant does not have a specific intended baseline set for this grant. It should align with the objectives listed within the RFP.

**Question 14:** Administrative Cost: Would the 5% apply to hiring program staff to support our program's expected increase of students/schools?

**Answer:** This is determined by the entity, and how you code this position within your budget. Please refer to ISBE's Detailed Descriptors that can be found on ISBE's webpage for guidance.

**Question 15:** Can I have a copy of the slides and the recording of this webinar after it's done?

**Answer:** The recorded webinar from September 7, 2023, has been posted to ISBE's After School Programs webpage.

**Question 16:** Eligibility: We partner with Chicago Public Schools to provide an existing program. We would use this funding to further expand and develop our work in high-need communities. From my understanding, this would be allowable under the guidelines. Are you able to advise as to whether or not I am correct in my understanding?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as the criteria is met as listed in the RFP.

**Question 17:** Can grant funds be used to provide stipends to participating students?

**Answer:** Yes, provided such stipends meet the criteria as listed in the RFP.

# FY 24 After School Programs – Non-school District

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Question 18:** Does funding have to be used for a new program? Or can it be applied to existing programs that meet the other criteria?

**Answer:** No, as long as the criteria is met as listed in the RFP.

**Question 19:** Are universities eligible to apply?

**Answer:** Yes, provided the criteria is met as listed in the RFP.

**Question 20:** Should we apply for just one school partnership or include more than one of our school sites in the application or submit separate proposal for each school site?

**Answer:** Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income. An entity can

**Question 21:** I do see that grant awards are for \$500,000. It would make sense for us to submit for three of our schools at that amount.

**Answer:** The maximum amount an eligible grantee can receive is \$500,000.

**Question 22:** Could you please elaborate on the definition of low-income, and is 90% mandatory?

**Answer:** Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income". The low-income percentage can be a school or groups of schools that average a total of 90% low-income. The school can be public or non-public.

**Question 23:** We have been serving middle schools in DuPage County for over 40 years, and almost none have 90% of low-income students (Generally, they serve 55-70% of low-income students, according to IllinoisReportCard.gov).

Does it mean we are not eligible to apply?

**Answer:** Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income". The low-income percentage can be a school or groups of schools that average a total of 90% low-income. The school can be public or non-public.

**Question 24:** How do you receive an RCDT code?

**Answer:** An RCDT code is only needed if you receive an award. If you receive notification that you will be receiving an award, then at that time you would establish an RCDT code.

## FY 24 After School Programs – Non-school District Frequently Asked Questions

**Question 25:** If we received ISBE funding last year, are we eligible to receive funding through this year's application?

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

**Question 26:** Must it be with a new school partnership or if we are already working in schools can we complement this funding with current 21st CCLC funding?

**Answer:** Yes, please refer to the criteria listed within the RFP. Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income.

**Question 27:** Will there be a separate process to work with CPS schools as there is with a 21st CCLC application?

**Answer:** For this grant there isn't a process in place regarding how to work with schools. As stated within the RFP, each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income.

**Question 28:** Would staff cost apply to the 5% of admin cost?

**Answer:** This is determined by the entity and what their staff's job responsibilities align with. Please refer to ISBE's Detailed Function Descriptors to determine your budget codes that apply.

**Question 29:** Who will review the proposals?

**Answer:** Proposals for this NOFO are read by three separate readers using the Merit Based Policy which can be found on ISBE's GATA webpage.

**Question 30:** Does funding have to be used for a new program? Or can it be applied to existing programs that meet the other criteria?

**Answer:** No, this funding can be used for new or to boost current programming. Please refer to page 3 of the RFP.

**Question 31:** If we have a 21st CCLC program that was not extended (as the FY19 cohort programs were not, would a proposal that matches (and sustains) those outcomes and deliverables be appropriate?

**Answer:** This grant opportunity is for the FY24 After School Programs – Non-School Districts grant. Please review the criteria regarding outcomes and deliverable listed within the RFP for this grant.

**Question 32:** Is there a minimum number of students to serve this year?

## FY 24 After School Programs – Non-school District Frequently Asked Questions

**Answer:** No, there is no minimum number of students served requirement for this competition.

**Question 33:** If a school has dipped below the 90% FRL number, what is the recommended method for confirming individual students served by the program qualify for free and reduced lunch?

**Answer:** Each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90 percent low-income. The low-income percentage can be a school or groups of schools that average a total of 90% low-income.

**Question 34:** Must services be provided in a school facility?

**Answer:** No.

**Question 35:** Are universities eligible to apply?

**Answer:** Yes, as long as the criteria within the RFP can be met.

**Question 36:** Has funding increased, decreased, or stayed the same as FY23?

**Answer:** This grant funding has Increased from \$8 million.

**Question 37:** What specifically does “unrestricted program” mean?

**Answer:** This is regarding indirect cost rates.

**Question 38:** Can school districts apply and include non-profit community-based partners as a provider??

**Answer:** No, this grant is for non-school districts. Please refer to the eligibility as listed within the RFP.

**Question 39:** The outcomes are listed as "and/or." To confirm, applicants do not have to show impact on all possible outcomes, but can instead identify which ones we anticipate we will have impact on?

**Answer:** Yes, one, two, three, or all three objectives can be offered.

**Question 40:** What is the process around applying for amendments to budgets? We know the standard deviation is 10%. But what is the amendment process for costs exceeding that 10%?

**Answer:** Amendments only apply to already awarded/funded applications.

## FY 24 After School Programs – Non-school District Frequently Asked Questions

**Question 41:** For the Pre-Award Programmatic Risk Assessment, the grant noted this occurs towards the end of the application process and will be sent by ISBE. Do you know when we can expect to see this info?

**Answer:** If you receive an award notice you will receive information on the steps to complete the programmatic risk assessment at the time of award.

**Question 42:** Is the total page limit 5 pages? If the program narrative has a maximum of 5 pages, then what is the page limit for the program plan?

**Answer:** There is a total number of pages as provided for each section. The narrative is 5 pages, and the program plan is 3 pages.

**Question 43:** The area to serve students is it Chicago only or suburban areas as well.

**Answer:** This grant funding is for students within the state of Illinois.

**Question 44:** What is the typical amount of grant award?

**Answer:** This grant does not have a typical amount funded. The total award per entity cannot exceed \$500,000.

**Question 45:** We have multiple school partners for after-school programs. Is it best to submit one application for multiple schools or one school location per application?

**Answer:** An entity is allowed to submit one application for this grant opportunity.

**Question 46:** Has the state identified specific schools or districts for Non-LEA awardees to serve? If not, what is the process for Non-LEAs to identify schools/districts in need in order to provide services?

**Answer:** It is the entity's responsibly to determine the population they are serving.

**Question 47:** With regards to budgeting, is there flexibility for budgeting based on the identified needs of the identified school/district (i.e., 3 hours of programming daily for 50 students)? Or would the state like to see a budget that includes a specific number of students, set number of schools, and total number of daily/weekly service hours?

**Answer:** This grant does not have a preference. Your application is scored based on the criteria listed within the RFP.

**Question 48:** Is the application in IWAS?

**Answer:** This is a paper application. Th application can be found on ISBE's After School Programs webpage under funding opportunities.

## **FY 24 After School Programs – Non-school District Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question 49:** Will ISBE assign schools to Providers or do Providers need to have schools identified to partner with in the proposal??

**Answer:** ISBE does not assign schools. You must proposal to serve a population of 90% low-income students as stated within the RFP.

**Question 50:** Is there a set number of students to serve, any instructions on this?

**Answer:** As stated on page 1 of the RFP. There is no minimum number of students served requirement for this competition.

**Question 51:** Is a Higher Education Institution if it is embedded in a community eligible to apply for the first two services for students.

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question 52:** Is a Higher Education Institution eligible to apply for the policy role of bringing together community organizations, funders, policy people, funders etc to institutionalize support for After School programs.

**Answer:** Yes, as long as the criteria listed within the RFP is met, and proposal to serve a population of 90% low-income students is met.