

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)/Request for Proposals (RFP) indicates that “each grantee must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90% low-income.” How is this requirement met?

Answer: As stated in page 1 of the Fiscal Year 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, “This requirement is satisfied if the applicant proposes to serve only schools with a population of students that is at least 90% low-income. A population of low-income students is determined by a school’s [FY 2024 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data](#). Please review the FY 2024 school-level data on the [ISBE Child Nutrition Data Analytics and Mapping Tools webpage](#).

Alternatively, the applicant may propose to serve one or more schools with a population of low-income students that is less than 90%, but in this case must provide an assurance that the population of students it will serve from the school (or schools) will be at least 90% low-income and must explain how student eligibility will be determined without violating state or federal student privacy laws. Students who meet the income requirements of the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act [105 ILCS 125] or any other public benefit program based on income and homeless children and youth as defined in Section 11434a of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act [42 U.S.C. 11434a] shall be classified as low-income for the purpose of determining program eligibility. At no time shall a school or district disclose names of students eligible for free or reduced-priced meals.”

Question 2: We are not a school but a local nonprofit 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% low-income. A population of low-income students is determined by a school’s [FY 2024 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data](#). Alternatively, the applicant may propose to serve one or more schools with a population of low-income students that is less than 90% but, in this case must provide an assurance that the population of students it will serve from the school(s) will be at least 90% low-income and must explain how student eligibility will be determined without violating state or federal student privacy laws. At no time shall a school or district disclose names of students eligible for public benefit programs.

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 3: What are indirect costs?

Answer: Indirect costs are those not readily identifiable with the grant's activities but incurred for the joint benefit of those activities and other organization activities.

- Incurred for a common or joint purpose benefiting more than one cost objective, and
- Not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefited without effort disproportionate to the results achieved.

Typical examples of indirect costs may include procurement, payroll, personnel functions, maintenance and operations of space, data processing, accounting, auditing, budgeting, and communications (e.g., telephone, postage).

Please refer to [State and Federal Grant Administration Policy, Fiscal Requirements, and Procedures handbook](#) for additional information.

Question 4: 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% default rate described at 34 CFR 76.564?

Answer: Yes, please see page 7 of the NOFO/RFP. Programs eligible for an unrestricted indirect cost rate; not-for-profit entities; community-/faith-based organizations; and other non-LEA, non-university subgrantees utilize rates negotiated through the Governor's Office of Management and Budget centralized process in which they will have the option to select the 10% de minimis rate.

Question 5: The NOFO/RFP indicates administrative costs must be limited to no more than 5% of the spending request.

Answer: Yes, you can claim up to 5% for administrative costs. These costs are associated with the administration of the program and may include general management, oversight, and program coordination.

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Administration Costs: General administration costs (e.g., Function 2300), which are **direct** costs associated with the overall administration of the After School Programs – Non-School Districts grant, may be proposed. These costs, however, must be limited to not more than 5% of the total funding request. Applicants are advised to refer to the [State and Federal Grant Administration Policy, Fiscal Requirements, and Procedures handbook](#) for budget information.

Question 6: Would staff salary costs apply to the 5% of administrative costs?

Answer: This is determined by the entity and the staff's duties and job responsibilities. Please refer to [ISBE's Detailed Function Descriptors](#) form in the ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) system to determine the budget codes that apply.

Question 7: Must program sites/schools to be served be identified at the time of application submission?

Answer: As stated in page 1 of the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, "An application will not be scored for funding if the following are not identified – the school site to be served, street address, city, state, and ZIP code. A school's [FY 2024 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data](#) must be included."

Question 8: Will these grant funds be distributed on a reimbursement basis?

Answer: No, this grant's funding is distributed based on a payment schedule. Please see [State and Federal Grant Administration Policy, Fiscal Requirements, and Procedures handbook](#) for additional information.

Question 9: Who is eligible to apply for the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant?

Answer: As stated in page 1 of the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, "Entities that are not school districts or Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply. These entities include, but are not limited to, Regional Offices of Education (ROEs); Intermediate Service Centers (ISCs); community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations; or Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act)." School and school districts may not apply.

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 10: Are we required to submit an application with an RCDT code? How is an RCDT code obtained?

Answer: As stated in page 2 of the FY 2025 After School Programs - -Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, “Applicants will need to use their Region-County-District-Type (RCDT) code when applying. Applicants may utilize the ISBE website to verify their RCDT code at [ISBE’s Region County District Type Schools \(RCDTS\) Lookup](#).

First-time applicants without an RCDT code must email afterschool@isbe.net for information on how to establish an RCDT code before applying. Please allow up to four weeks for the processing of such a request. Once the new RCDT code has been created, applicants will receive an email with their new code. If an applicant submits an application prior to obtaining an RCDT code, then the applicant is ineligible.

Question 11: If we received ISBE funding last year, are we eligible to receive funding through this year's application?

Answer: Funds may not be used to support programming that is currently being funded under FY 2024 grant funds. An applicant may propose to create a new program.

Question 12: Is there a minimum number of students to serve this year?

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

Question 13: 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: No. The state has not identified the school or districts to be served. It is the entity’s responsibility to determine the population it is serving.

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 14: Would this grant be available to a parochial school that already has an after-school care program?

Answer: LEAs (schools) or school districts are not eligible to apply for funding. Applications may only be submitted by an eligible applicant as indicated on page 1 of the NOFO/RFP. If an eligible applicant wishes to apply to serve a school, it may propose to apply for funding to create a new program to serve students not currently being served in an after-school program. Funding may not be used to support current programming.

Question 15: What is the reimbursement rate or cost per school/grant?

Answer: The FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP does not indicate a cost per school/grant. Applicants should consider specific needs and apply for funding based on those needs. ISBE reserves the right to determine the number and amount of awards based upon the total funds appropriated for this program. Grantees may not be awarded the full amount of requested funding.

Question 16: My organization is a recipient of the FY 2024 After School Programs grant. I noticed that there's overlap in the grant periods for the FY 2024 and FY 2025 grants. Are we eligible to apply for the FY 2025 grant?

Answer: Funds may not be used to support programming that is currently being funded by FY 2024 grants. An applicant may propose to create a new program.

Question 17: My organization received an award under the FY 2024 After School Programs grant; the grant period extended to June 30, 2024, to accommodate for a delay in processing. Are we eligible to receive an award in FY 2025 with a grant period end date of June 30, 2025, as well?

Answer: Funds may not be used to support programming that is currently being funded by FY 2024 grants. An applicant may propose to create a new program.

Question 18: What is the anticipated award amount for each applicant this fiscal year? It says in Program Background/History that it was between \$40,000-\$120,000 last year.

Answer: No anticipated award is indicated in the NOFO/RFP. Applicants should apply for funding based on need, as determined by the applicant and the results of the needs assessment. ISBE reserves the right to determine the number and amount of awards based upon the total funds appropriated for this program. Grantees may not be awarded the full amount of requested funding.

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 19: Is the afterschool@isbe.net email address where the completed grant application is submitted? I don't see anything on the grant application.

Answer: As stated in page 3 of the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, "Proposals must be saved in PDF format and submitted electronically through the ISBE Attachment Manager no later than 4 p.m. October 7, 2024. To submit to the Attachment Manager, scan the completed proposals into PDF with all supporting documents and required signatures. At the [ISBE Attachment Manager](#) webpage, choose Afterschool Grant Programs from the dropdown menu in Receiver Information. Submit the application using the button at the bottom of the page."

Question 20: The grant period is indicated as October 7, 2024-June 30, 2025. Is that correct?

Answer: Yes, this is correct. The grant period will begin **no sooner** than October 7, 2024, and will extend from the execution date of the grant until June 30, 2025.

Question 21: Is the state looking for agencies that provide after-school services to apply for this NON/RFP? For-profit agencies?

Answer: As stated in page 1 of the NOFO/RFP, "Entities that are **not** school districts or LEAs are eligible to apply. These entities include, but are **not** limited to, ROEs; ISCs; community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations; or Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act)."

Question 22: Would an Education for Employment system be eligible to apply for this grant and help out districts within our region? I know it says that school districts and LEAs aren't eligible to apply but wanted to see if my Career Development System office could apply.

Answer: As stated in page 1 of the NOFO/RFP, "Entities that are **not** school districts or LEAs are eligible to apply. These entities include, but are **not** limited to, ROEs; ISCs; community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations; or Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act)."

Question 23: Can a for-profit entity apply?

Answer: As stated in page 1 of the NOFO/RFP, "Entities that are **not** school districts or LEAs are eligible to apply. These entities include, but are **not** limited to, ROEs;

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

ISCs; community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations; or Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act).”

Question 24: I see this is for community-based programs. Can you clarify if we could count five days a week even on days that the schools do not have session? We work closely with our LEA to provide care for school-age children when they have half days and staff development days.

Answer: The grant is designed to support programs that provide academic enrichment and other activities outside of the regular school hours, including after school, weekends, and days when school is not in session, such as holidays and during breaks.

Question 25: I am a grant writer working with ABC Education Department, a network of private religious schools that has two schools operating in Illinois. ABC is interested in applying for the After School Programs -- Non-School Districts NOFO/RFP. Both schools have an RCDT number, but only ABC has SAM registration and completed the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) registration/prequalification process. Can each school apply under its own RCDT code, but use ABC's SAM registration and GATA profile to meet the eligibility requirements?

Answer: As stated in page 2 of the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, “Only one application per entity will be accepted. An entity will be determined by its Federal Employer Identification Number.” Schools may not apply for the grant.

Question 26: The NOFO/RFP states that "The grant period will begin no sooner than October 7, 2024, and will extend from the execution date of the grant until June 30, 2025." Our question is if the grant period will begin no sooner than October 7, why are we completing a budget for a year?

Answer: The budget submitted for FY 2025 must reflect the anticipated grant period through June 30, 2025.

Question 27: We are considering applying for the After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant. Currently, we have the 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) on the first floor of our building, but we would like to operate the After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant on our second floor, which is not currently used. Would that be acceptable?

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Answer: Funds may not be used to support programming that is currently being funded by FY 2024 grants. An applicant may propose to create a new program.

Question 28: Thank you so much for your quick reply. Makes sense! Our question was on the grant implementation timeline starting in January. We have a new nutrition, STEM/academic program we are launching in just a few weeks. We have data measurements that correlate to track the effectiveness and impact of this new program, and it aligns well to the grant requirements outlined in the NOFO/RFP. The program is not fully funded and is being rolled out in phases with small groups of students with the goal of 80% of our students completing it by December of 2025. Given that we are starting the rollout now, does that allow us to still be eligible to apply with this program in mind?

Answer: Funds may not be used to support programming that is currently being funded by FY 2024 grants. An applicant may propose to create a new program.

Question 29: We are interested in applying for the After School Program grant. However, I don't see an award amount we can apply for. Can you let me know the award ceiling and/or total amount we can apply for? We have a great program that includes art, theater, creative writing and storytelling, help with homework, music, dance and STEM. We have a variety of things for youth to do after school from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. and some later times depending on parents' schedules.

Answer: Applicants should apply for funding based on need, as determined by the applicant and the results of the needs assessment. ISBE reserves the right to determine the number, and the amount awards based upon the total funds appropriated for this program. Grantees may not be awarded the full amount of requested funding.

Question 30: I help run the theater department here at University High School. I was looking for a grant to help us fund a new floor for our stage. I wasn't sure if our after-school program fit in with the requirements for your grant since we are a lab school and not based in a specific district.

Answer: A lab school is considered a school or an LEA. As stated in page 1 of NOFO/RFP, "Entities that are **not** school districts or LEAs are eligible to apply. These entities include, but are not limited to, ROEs; ISCs; community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations; or Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act). The purpose of the grant is to provide opportunities outside of the school day to:

- Improve academic outcomes for students.

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

- Provide opportunities for enrichment activities in a safe and healthy environment.
- Provide opportunities to strengthen public, private, and philanthropic partnerships so that quality support services are more durable for students facing the greatest challenges.

Question 31: I am looking at the announcement for the Fiscal Year 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts program, and I had a question. Where it says, “Programs must be conducted in a safe and healthy school or site-based setting,” does that mean that this program can only take place at a school? I wanted to pass this information on to our local Boys and Girls Club, but I could not tell if this was only for programs that will be at the school sites. Will you clarify that for me when you get a moment?

Answer: The location of the program is not limited to the school setting. Programming may be held offsite from a school but must be held in a safe and healthy environment.

Question 32: Regarding the After School Programs grant for community organizations -- am I misunderstanding the timeline, or is it the case that the proposal deadline is the same date as the earliest grant period start date? A response may not be issued until January 2025 (90 days after deadline), the grant may not be entirely active to cover expenses until sometime after that (February/March?), and then the grant end date is a few months later in June 2025? Since best practices for a nonprofit would call for not incurring expenses until a grant is fully activated with a grant agreement in place, does ISBE anticipate that many of the funded programs would only occur during a few months of the grant period (like March through June)? Or is it anticipated that most funded programs will be occurring during the year regardless of whether they receive this grant, so this funding merely supplements what the community organization would be doing already?

Answer: It is anticipated that successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award via email approximately 90 days after the application deadline. The award letter is NOT an authorization to begin performance or expenditures. After the merit-based appeal timeframe has ended, awardees will receive additional information from the program area that includes the next steps for finalizing the grant. Monies spent prior to programmatic approval are done so at the applicant’s own risk.

Question 33: In reviewing the NOFO/RFP, I would like to ask for clarification on the age group intended for service. Would ISBE consider youth attending high school to be “school-age youth”?

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Answer: Yes, this grant is intended to serve students in pre-K through 12th grades. Special needs students may continue to participate in after- school programs until the age of 22.

Question 34: Will the site location designated in the application be the required location for the program? Is it possible to propose more than one location per applicant?

Answer: Yes, grantees may operate after-school programs at various locations/sites, provided they propose to serve a student population that meets the 90% low-income requirement.

Question 35: Can a nonprofit organization administer the program at an independent location and enroll students from various schools? Or must the program be located in a school?

Answer: Yes, grantees may operate after-school programs at various locations/sites, provided they propose to serve a student population that meets the 90% low-income requirement.

Question 36: Is a nonprofit private school eligible to apply?

Answer: LEAs (schools) or school districts are not eligible to apply for funding. Applications may only be submitted by an eligible applicant as indicated on page 1 of the NOFO/RFP: "Entities that are not school districts or LEAs are eligible to apply. These entities include, but are not limited to, ROEs; ISCs; community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations; or Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act)." School and school districts may not apply.

Question 37: Is an applicant required to formulate a group from students enrolled in public schools only or may eligible students attend that are enrolled in private schools?

Answer: This grant is intended to serve students in pre-K through 12th grade, provided they propose to serve a student population that meets the 90% low-income requirement.

Question 38: Do we need a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and also a SAM CAGE code?

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Answer: Yes, please refer to the [FY 2025 Prequalification](#) handout. ISBE will not accept an application for a state award unless the applicant has complied with all applicable requirements.

Question 39: Are entities outside of Illinois eligible to apply? I was wondering about that when filling out the RCDT code form. And now I'm trying to register in the GATA portal and we need an "Illinois Secretary of State File ID." How would we get that, and is this grant for Illinois entities only?

Answer: Yes, entities outside of Illinois are eligible, but only students in Illinois may participate under this grant opportunity. The After School Programs grant is state-funded grant. Please refer to the [Grantee Portal FAQ](#) webpage for more information on the Illinois Secretary of State File ID.

Question 40: Are special education cooperatives considered eligible to apply for the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant?

Answer: Special education cooperatives are eligible to apply. As stated in page 1 of the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, "Entities that are not school districts or LEAs are eligible to apply. These entities include, but are not limited to, ROEs; ISCs; community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations; or Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act)."

Question 41: Could you please clarify the timeline scope for the FY25 ISBE After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant opportunity?

Answer: As stated in page 3 of the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, "The grant period will begin no sooner than October 7, 2024, and will extend from the execution date of the grant until June 30, 2025. This is a one-year award and there is no availability of continued funding under this award." Applicants will be notified of tentative awards or non-awards in approximately 90 days from the application deadline.

Question 42: We were wondering if you could provide an example of activities that would satisfy the third objective: Provide opportunities to strengthen public, private, and philanthropic partnerships so that quality support services are more durable for students facing the greatest challenges.

Answer: Activities may include, but not limited to, connecting with universities for tutoring, mentoring, or enrichment opportunities; partnering with hospitals or health providers to offer health programs, such as mental health or fitness workshops; and working with local businesses to offer internships or career

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

related programs for students. These activities are contingent upon needs determined via an applicant's needs assessment.

Question 43: The Program Narrative in the NOFO/RFP mentions a needs assessment. Does a case for support satisfy this requirement or are applicants expected to conduct a formal needs assessment prior to applying?

Answer: ISBE has not designated or specified a form or format for a needs assessment. Applicants should use questions/prompts indicated on pages 11-12 of the NOFO/RFP to define their needs. The Program Narrative (Attachment 3) should summarize the information from the needs assessment.

Question 44: Can we apply for this grant without the UEI? Our program operates in a public elementary building; we rent the gym/cafeteria/playground space. Therefore, we do not have any utility bills that come with our legal name/address on them. How can we register in SAMS without having a bill or statement with the center legal name and address on it given this is not a stand-alone building? Can we utilize our Certificate of Insurance or any other document?

Answer: No, please refer to the [FY 2025 Prequalification](#) handout. ISBE will not accept an application for a state award unless the applicant has complied with all applicable requirements. Please visit the [SAM.gov](#) Help webpage if you have questions specific to obtaining an UEI number.

Question 45: I understand that we need to complete an organizational risk assessment via the IWAS system. Do we need to contact anybody and inform them we are going for this grant so that we can gain access to the system rather than being denied?

Answer: No, applicants must create a username and password within IWAS to comply with all the applicable requirements. Please refer to the [IWAS User Guide](#) for more information on how to set up an account.

Question 46: Can you please confirm the submission deadline as well as where to submit?

Answer: As stated in page 3 of the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, "Proposals must be saved in PDF format and submitted electronically through the ISBE Attachment Manager no later than 4 p.m. October 7, 2024. To submit to the Attachment Manager, scan the completed proposals into PDF with all supporting documents and required signatures. At the ISBE Attachment Manager webpage, choose Afterschool Grant Programs from the dropdown menu in Receiver Information. Submit the application using the button at the bottom of the page." All applicants are requested to submit

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

prior to October 7, 2024, to avoid any technical difficulties. No late applications will be reviewed/scored.

Question 47: On Attachment 2, where we list the schools served that are rated as 90%+ or more with low-income, does the school also have to be determined as “Comprehensive, Targeted, or Intensive school” to qualify for funding? Can schools be counted for funding if they are only 90%+ low-income without the school being considered a “Comprehensive, Targeted, or Intensive school”?

Answer: Non-school entities must propose to serve a student population that meets the 90% low-income requirement. Attachment 2 MUST still be completed. Failure to do so will result in an application not being scored.

Question 48: Could you please let me know when early childhood and family centers will be able to apply for After School Program funds? I saw in the ISBE update that nonpublic schools have the opportunity to apply for After School Program funds.

Answer: As stated in page 1 of the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, “Entities that are not school districts or Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply. These entities include, but are not limited to, Regional Offices of Education (ROEs); Intermediate Service Centers (ISCs); community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations; or Indian tribes or tribal organizations (as defined in the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act).” If an early childhood and family center is providing after-school programming, as well as programming outside of the normal school day for eligible students, it may apply for funding.

Question 49: I was wondering, if awards are delayed, will the programs contract term be extended past June 30, 2025?

Answer: This funding is for FY FY25 and will end on June 30, 2025.

Question 50: Our organization was awarded a grant during the 2024 grant cycle for this program. Should we reapply this year using this general process or is there a separate renewal process for previous grantees?

Answer: The After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant is not a continuation grant. This is a one-year award, and there is no availability of continued funding under this award. Any applicant seeking additional funding beyond the grant period as indicated in the NOFO/RFP, should monitor the [ISBE Funding Opportunities](#) webpage for available funding.

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Question 51: The school we identified is 100% eligible for free and reduced-price meals for FY 2024. As of July 1, 2024, it stopped operating as a school, but it is continuing its after-school program. Can we use the school's FY 2024 meal data for this application?

Answer: Since the students are no longer enrolled in the school that closed, please do not list it as a school or use its free and reduced-price meal data. The application should identify schools that are currently open. Please consider the location where the students are currently being served and use the FY 2024 data from the identified schools.

Question 52: When listing our program sites/schools we serve, we ran out of space to provide details on each one. How do we go about doing this, given the page limitations?

Answer: Program Sites/Schools to be Served (Attachment 2) may be duplicated to allow for the listing of additional schools to be served.

Question 53: I was wondering if receiving 21st CCLC funding disqualified an organization from receiving After School Program funding?

Answer: Receiving 21st CCLC funding does not disqualify an organization from receiving funding, but an applicant must keep in mind the After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant and the 21st CCLC grant have different funding sources and purposes. Programs and funds from these two grants must be kept separate and may not be combined. Each grant must be managed and the funds spent according to its specific guidelines and requirements.

Question 54: The organization received 2024 grant funds. When the guidance talks about creating a new program, are we able to serve students in the same locations as long as we are serving a different cohort of students? Or do we need to work with different partners for our proposal? In general, what qualifies a program as new?

Answer: A new program would serve a new group of students and would be separate and apart from the FY 2024 After School Program.

Question 55: We are planning to provide programming at both at schools and at some nonprofits. For the nonprofits, we are planning to determine what schools the students attend and provide the data based on those schools. Is that sufficient to meet the requirements?

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Answer: Yes, grantees must propose to serve a population of students that is at least 90% low-income. A population of low-income students is determined by a school's [FY 2024 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data](#).

Question 56: We are a small Christian school and we have never tried to get anything other than Title funding. We are very interested in offering our families more after-school programs. We have aftercare that our staff handles every afternoon until 5 p.m. The opportunity to increase what we offer would be a significant boost to our staff and families. We do not have a lunch program, so how would I determine if we have families that qualify? We do not ask for income information upon enrolling in our school, so I wouldn't know if they are low-income eligible.

Answer: As stated in page 1 of the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, "This requirement is satisfied if the applicant proposes to serve only schools with a population of students that is at least 90% low-income. A population of low-income students is determined by a school's FY 2024 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data. Please review the [FY 2024 school-level data on the ISBE Child Nutrition Data Analytics and Mapping Tools webpage](#).

"Alternatively, the applicant may propose to serve one or more schools with a population of low-income students that is less than 90%, but in this case must provide an assurance that the population of students it will serve from the school (or schools) will be at least 90% low-income and must explain how student eligibility will be determined without violating state or federal student privacy laws. Students who meet the income requirements of the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act [105 ILCS 125] *or any other public benefit program based on income and homeless children and youth as defined in Section 11434a of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act [42 U.S.C. 11434a]* shall be classified as low-income for the purpose of determining program eligibility. At no time shall a school or district disclose names of students eligible for free or reduced-priced meals."

Question 57: Would the purchase of vehicles/buses to transport students to enriching field trips that help special education students build life skills be an eligible cost under this grant?

Answer: Applicants may use program funds to cover *reasonable* transportation costs for program participants to benefit from after-school programs or out of school opportunities. Requests for transportation costs must be clearly and

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

appropriately related to After School Programs – Non-School Districts grant activities. Transportation expenses related to the after-school program, such as renting buses or fuel, could be allowable expenses under this grant, if directly tied to the after-school program. However, purchasing large assets like vehicles would not be considered reasonable is not allowed.

Question 58: We are considering a bid for the FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP. We see that the NOFO/RFP states on page 2, "Virtual and/or online programming will not be funded and should not be included in an applicant's proposal or budget." If the program is blended (virtual instruction with an onsite facilitator), is that acceptable?

Answer: As per page 1 and 2 of the NOFO/RFP, "Programs must be conducted in a safe and healthy school or site-based setting. Virtual and/or online programming will not be funded and should not be included in an applicant's proposal or budget." Blended or virtual options will **not** be considered or funded.

Question 59: We received FY 2024 ISBE After School Programs funding. If we are proposing a new program for FY 2025 funding, can our proposed program serve the same students or are we required to serve a unique group/number of students in FY 2025? Or could we have overlap in the existing and new students served?

Answer: Non-School Districts grant should be used for programs that expand additional after school opportunities for additional students, increasing the number of students being able to participate at any one time. Both/all programs must be administered with separate record keeping, **students served must be non-duplicate**, and no funds or programming may cross from one program to the other at any time.

Question 60: I am working with a nonprofit to prepare a proposal for the FY 2025 After School Programs—Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP. Just confirming: We need to provide RCDT codes for our partner schools (as opposed to for ourselves as applicants), correct?

Answer: As stated in page 2 of the FY 2025 After School Programs - -Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, "Applicants will need to use their Region-County-District-Type (RCDT) code when applying. Applicants may utilize the ISBE website to verify their RCDT code at [ISBE's Region County District Type Schools \(RCDTS\) Lookup](#)."

First-time applicants without an RCDT code must email afterschool@isbe.net for information on how to establish an RCDT code before applying. Please allow up to four weeks for the processing of such a request. Once the new RCDT code has

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

been created, applicants will receive an email with their new code. An applicant that submits an application prior to obtaining an RCDT code is ineligible.

In addition, applicants need to provide the required information for schools they propose to serve, see page 1 of the NOFO/RFP.

Question 61: Recognizing that improving academic outcomes is a key objective of this funding opportunity, are you defining “academic outcomes” as something specific (or will we be required to report on a specific outcome on the Microsoft form) or can applicants define it for themselves? Also, are you defining academic outcomes differently for community-based organizations that may not have access to specific academic or attendance records, etc.?

Answer: “Academic outcomes” is undefined. Grantees may determine what qualifies as improved academic outcomes. Examples may include, but are not limited to, increased standardized and/or classroom assessment scores, improvement in class grades, increase in homework completion rates, etc. Applicants are strongly encouraged to clearly identify how they propose to improve academic outcomes within their grant proposal. Community-based organizations will be subject to the same reporting requirements and should consider how they will be able to report on specific outcomes.

Question 62: I am working on meeting all of the prequalification requirements to submit my FY 2025 After School Programs -- Non-Schools District grant NOFO/RFP application, but I am unable to locate the Programmatic Risk Assessment and the Organizational Risk Assessment. Can someone assist me?

Answer: The [Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act \(GATA\) Web Portal](#) link lists the following requirements:

1. Authentication
2. Grantee Registration
3. Grantee Prequalification
4. Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment (ICQ)
5. Programmatic Risk Assessment

Pre-Award requirements 1-3 must be completed before submitting your proposal. Applicants that have not completed pre-award requirements 1-3 will be deemed ineligible.

Only successful grant applicants that have been tentatively approved for grant funds will be required to complete an FY 2025 Fiscal and Administrative Risk Assessment in the form of an Internal Controls Questionnaire (ICQ)

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

available through the GATA Web Portal, an FY 2025 Organizational Risk Assessment through the ISBE Web Application Security (IWAS) system, and the FY 2025 Programmatic Risk Assessment that is found within the electronic Grants Management System budget. Grant awards will not be executed until the FY 2025 ICQ, Organizational Risk Assessment, and Programmatic Risk Assessment are completed. Please refer to the [FY 2025 Prequalification handout](#).

Question 63: I am writing to inquire if there is a minimum or maximum amount for the FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP. I saw the range amount for FY 2024 awards, but wasn't clear if that is what we should base our budgeting on or not.

Answer: Applicants should apply for funding based on need, as determined by the applicant and the results of the needs assessment. As per page 3 of the NOFO/RFP, "ISBE reserves the right to determine the number and amount of awards based upon the total funds appropriated for this program. Grantees may not be awarded the full amount of requested funding."

Question 64: As we are preparing our grant budget using a 10% de minimis indirect cost rate, we wanted to confirm: Will the increase in the federal de minimis indirect cost rate from 10% to 15% effective October 1, 2024, affect the indirect cost amount we are able to request for this grant?

Answer: Until further guidance is provided, applicants should submit their proposals using the current federal de minimis indirect cost rate, as applicable.

Question 65: I am working on the FY 2025 After School Programs grant application. We are currently using 2024 funds for this school year. I saw in the Q&A that we cannot support programming currently being funded under FY 2024 with FY 2025 grant funds and would need to start a new program. That would not be an option for us this school year. Will this FY 2025 funding be able to carry over to the 2024-25 school year since we're already funded for this school year?

Answer: The FY 2025 After School Programs grant funding will end on June 30, 2025.

Question 66: If we are working with multiple schools, do all of them need to meet the criteria for priority points categories in order to get the points?

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

Answer: No, not all partner schools need to meet the priority points criteria to receive points. If one school meets the criteria, points will be awarded.

Question 67: Is it allowable for the program to have a different site than the school? If so, do we list both in the first box on Attachment 2?

Answer: Yes, after-school services may be provided at locations other than school sites. Applicants are required to provide the name and address of the service site regardless of whether it is a school, as well as the school(s) from which students will be served. As stated in page 1 of the Fiscal Year 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, "This requirement is satisfied if the applicant proposes to serve only schools with a population of students that is at least 90% low-income. A population of low-income students is determined by a school's [FY 2024 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data](#). Please review the FY 2024 school-level data on the [ISBE Child Nutrition Data Analytics and Mapping Tools webpage](#).

"Alternatively, the applicant may propose to serve one or more schools with a population of low-income students that is less than 90%, but in this case must provide an assurance that the population of students it will serve from the school (or schools) will be at least 90% low-income and must explain how student eligibility will be determined without violating state or federal student privacy laws. Students who meet the income requirements of the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act [105 ILCS 125] or any other public benefit program based on income and homeless children and youth as defined in Section 11434a of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act [42 U.S.C. 11434a] shall be classified as low-income for the purpose of determining program eligibility. At no time shall a school or district disclose names of students eligible for free or reduced-priced meals."

Question 68: Do we need to supply Memorandums of Understanding with the program site if it is not the school? Or with the school?

Answer: Applicants are not required to establish formal agreements with partnering schools.

Question 69: There are two schools that we want to work with on this, but they do not appear on the Illinois School Report Card page because they are contract schools. According to the school partner, contract schools do not usually have Illinois Report Cards posted. These are high schools that serve a special purpose of serving at-risk students and those who have left high school without a diploma. Does this mean that we cannot work with them under this grant model? They

FY 2025 After School Programs – Non-School Districts

Frequently Asked Questions

have data that shows they are serving students of great need, with both schools having over 90% students of low-income families. We believe that these could be programs of great impact. Please advise.

Answer: As stated in page 1 of the Fiscal Year 2025 After School Programs -- Non-School Districts grant NOFO/RFP, "This requirement is satisfied if the applicant proposes to serve only schools with a population of students that is at least 90% low-income. A population of low-income students is determined by a school's [FY 2024 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data](#). Please review the FY 2024 school-level data on the [ISBE Child Nutrition Data Analytics and Mapping Tools webpage](#).

"Alternatively, the applicant may propose to serve one or more schools with a population of low-income students that is less than 90%, but in this case must provide an assurance that the population of students it will serve from the school (or schools) will be at least 90% low-income and must explain how student eligibility will be determined without violating state or federal student privacy laws. Students who meet the income requirements of the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act [105 ILCS 125] or any other public benefit program based on income and homeless children and youth as defined in Section 11434a of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act [42 U.S.C. 11434a] shall be classified as low-income for the purpose of determining program eligibility. At no time shall a school or district disclose names of students eligible for free or reduced-priced meals."

Last updated 9/30/2024