

Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers
Fiscal Year 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity/Request for Proposals
Frequently Asked Questions

Updates
07/02/2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The NOFO/RFP was amended to add “Intensive schools” to the Priority Points section for Comprehensive and Targeted schools. This change can be found on pages 2, 10, and 36.• Attachment 2A was amended to add “Intensive schools.”

1. Question: Since both of our grants were in Cohort 15, we were previously informed that we could not reapply since we have had 2 five-year funded cycles. However, in reviewing the NOFO/RFP, I am not seeing where FY15 Cohorts could not apply. Can you please clarify? (All of our sites were in the two FY15 grants so we currently do not have any sites receiving funding for FY25).

Answer: Prior 21st CCLC grant funding does not determine eligibility. All prior and current cohorts are eligible to apply. Please see page 3 of the NOFO/RFP “Applicant Status” for more information.

2. Question: As a FY15 grant cohort, we would not receive the 5 novice points provided to those FY14 or prior?

Answer: Correct. Cohorts 15, 19, 21, 22, and 23 are not eligible for the Novice Grantee priority points.

3. Question: I am only seeing that Cohort 21, 22, and 23 cannot apply. I am not seeing Cohort 15 on the unable to apply group. Is that correct?

Answer: Prior 21st CCLC grant funding does not determine eligibility. All prior and current cohorts are eligible to apply. Please see page 3 of the NOFO/RFP “Applicant Status” for more information.

4. Question: If allowed to apply, we are considering partnering with a local community center. Would we have them as a sub-contractor providing services and budget them as a purchase service?

Answer: Please see page 24 of the NOFO/RFP. Section 9 discusses subcontracting costs and requirements.

5. Question: For the 21st CCLC NOFO/RFP, can we apply for a school where we have the FY24 After School Programs – Non-School Districts grant? It's technically an FY24 grant, but some of the funds will be spent during FY25 because of the delay in the award.

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Answer: The After School Programs – Non-School District grant and the 21st CCLC grant are different grants. Please see page 25 of the NOFO/RFP “Supplanting” for more information.

- 6. Question:** I am trying to determine eligibility for applying for 21st CCLC funding and am seeking clarification on if I should use the low-income number from the Illinois Report Card, or should I be using the FY 2024 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data? I am wanting to be sure we are looking at the correct thing for priority areas. Please advise.

Answer: Per “Population to be Served” on page 2 of the NOFO/RFP, please use the low-income rate from the Illinois Report Card.

- 7. Question:** The NOFO/RFP indicates that priority is given to Comprehensive and Targeted schools. We have two Comprehensive, but others that are Intensive. Do schools designated as Intensive receive priority points?

Answer: The NOFO/RFP was amended to add Intensive schools for priority points. Please see pages 2, 10, or 36 of the NOFO/RFP for more information about Intensive schools.

- 8. Question:** I would like to inquire as to the process to request copies of the previously awarded Illinois 21st CCLC grant.

Answer: Please visit the [21st CCLC webpage](#) to find historical information about 21st CCLC grantees. The blue dropdown box labeled “Historical Information” contains information dating back to FY 2003. Any request for specific grant proposals will need to be made via a FOIA request.

- 9. Question:** The 21st CCLC NOFO/RFP states that "Annual grant awards will be a minimum of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$600,000, with individual awards not exceeding \$150,000 per site." Is this a \$600,000 maximum per agency or per grant? For example, could we write two different grants that total more than \$600,000?

Answer: The maximum per grant is \$600,000.

- 10. Question:** I was reviewing the NOFO/RFP for the 2025 Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and I wanted to confirm the following sentence: Applicants must give a 45-day prior notice to the community of their intent to submit an application for a 21st CCLC grant in an effort to generate community partnerships.” Does the 45-day period indicate that July 4, 2024, is the deadline for the letter of intent? Is this required for submission?

Answer: Per page 19 of the NOFO/RFP, letters of intent to the community are required and those letters of intent can be made concurrent with proposal submission.

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11. Question: We are planning to apply for the 21st CCLC grant. We will be partnering with a public school in our area that is not eligible to apply this year because it has received a grant previously. If we are the lead applicant, are we still eligible to apply for the grant if this school is a partner?

Answer: Per page 12 of the NOFO/RFP, each non-Local Education Agency (LEA) applicant must actively collaborate with the LEAs and school(s) from which participating students attend to develop and implement the proposed program. Also, per page 3 of the NOFO/RFP, currently funded 21st CCLC grantees applying to serve additional schools must be considered in “good standing” to be eligible.

12. Question: I am wondering if you can confirm if we are eligible to apply for the FY25 21st CCLC grant. We are looking for financial support for after-school tutoring for middle and high school students.

Answer: Please see “Eligible Applicants” on page 1 and “Population to be Served” on page 2 of the NOFO/RFP to determine if you are eligible for the 21st CCLC grant. Also, see “Allowable Activities” on page 12 of the NOFO/RFP.

13. Question: An LEA that has never received a 21st CCLC grant is therefore considered “novice,” but the partnering community organization has received 21st CCLC funding. The lead agent of the application would be the LEA that has never received a 21st CCLC. Will the application be considered for priority points?

Answer: If the applicant, co-applicant, and sites are novice grantees, then the priority points will be applicable.

14. Question: I need assistance with the Letter of Intent template. Can you please provide me with the details on where to locate it?

Answer: Please see Appendix A on page 38 of the NOFO/RFP for the Letter of Intent template.

15. Question: I have a question from our 21st CCLC planning committee regarding Comprehensive or Targeted schools. When the 21st CCLC NOFO/RFP refers to Targeted schools, is it a school's annual summative designation that it received in October of 2023 or is it a school's summative designation status -- meaning in October 2023 it may have been Commendable but had received a designation prior to that, resulting in it still being in improvement status?

Answer: The school's designation is based on the 2022-2023 Illinois Report Card. Please see page 10 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

16. Question: Can you please confirm if charter schools are eligible to apply to this grant?

Answer: ISBE authorized charter schools must have an LEA as their co-applicant. Please see page 1 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

17. Question: The minimum amount is \$50,000 per site. What if you don't need that much per site? A smaller school may only need \$40,000 or \$45,000.

Answer: The minimum amount of funding per site is \$50,000. Please see pages 1 and 4 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

18. Question: Does Expanded Learning Time (ELT) occur only during the school day? I am assuming that it does not include after-school tutoring.

Answer: Per page 8 of the NOFO/RFP, ELT is the time that an LEA or school extends its normal school day, week, or year to provide additional instruction or educational programs for all students beyond the state-mandated requirements for the minimum hours in a school day, days in a school week, or days or weeks in a school year.

19. Question: If the district (LEA) applies, can our 10 schools qualify for the "public organizations"? Or does this mean at least one private school must participate as a nonpublic entity?

Answer: Schools do not fulfill the qualification for "public organizations." Please see page 19 of the NOFO/RFP for more information about Community Connections.

20. Question: Do we need a nonpublic school to participate? Are only Targeted and Comprehensive schools eligible?

Answer: Please see the page 16 subheading, "Equitable Participation of Private and Public School Students," of the NOFO/RFP for requirements pertaining to private school students.

21. Question: Can the middle school be included if we have other public schools eligible?

Answer: Yes, please see page 10 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

22. Question: For example, if we have six teachers providing three hours of instruction per week, can we say that is 18 hours? Or if we offer tutoring for four hours per week, must we say we are only offering four hours per week? Will we be disqualified if we do not provide 12 hours of tutoring? Or will we lose points?

Answer: Six teachers providing instruction for three hours a week would only count as three hours of instruction. Programs must operate for a minimum of 12 hours a week for a minimum of 28 weeks a year. For more information, please see Hours of Operation on page 15 of the NOFO/RFP.

23. Question: Will we lose points if we don't have a partnership with a community organization? Or can our 10 schools be considered community organizations?

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Answer: Schools do not fulfill the qualification for “public organizations.” Please see page 19 of the NOFO/RFP for more information about Community Connections. Additionally, applicants that do not have a joint application will not be eligible for priority points. Please see page 2 of the NOFO/RFP for more information about joint applications.

24. Question: Where will mandatory training meetings be held? In order to include costs associated with these trainings, I need to know if it requires an overnight stay or just reimbursement for mileage?

Answer: ISBE-required trainings are online unless otherwise specified.

25. Question: How does ISBE define low-performing schools? Is that a requirement or just preferred?

Answer: Low-performing schools are defined as Comprehensive, Targeted, or Intensive schools. This is not a requirement to apply for the 21st CCLC grant.

26. Question: Do all after-school activities need to take place at the school sites? Or may they also take place at community-based sites?

Answer: Attachments 2A and 3 allow you to list the schools being served and at what location you are serving those students.

27. Question: Are only Comprehensive or Targeted schools eligible to receive funding?

Answer: Please see Eligible Applicants on page 1 of the NOFO/RFP for a complete list of eligible entities.

28. Question: It seems that there are two different 21st CCLC grants (one that is simply called 21st CCLC, and one called Nita M. Lowey 21st CCLC). What is the difference between the two?

Answer: These are the same grant. Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers is the full name; 21st CCLC is the abbreviated name.

29. Question: We are a nonprofit, non-LEA that is partnering with the local school district that previously received the grant. It cannot apply because it has received the grant previously but were considered in good standing. If we are the lead applicant, are we able to apply?

Answer: Yes, you are eligible to apply.

30. Question: If we are proposing three separate programs at three of our five schools, are we required to complete three separate applications? Or do we just add each program to one application?

Answer: You may submit three different applications or one application with all schools on it. Per page 5 of the NOFO/RFP, only the top three scoring applications will be eligible for funding.

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31. Question: Are state, local and federal funds required to be used?

Answer: Per pages 4 and 26 of the NOFO/RFP, 100 percent of 21st CCLC funds are derived from federal sources.

32. Question: Can I add a letter of future support from our Board of Education?

Answer: Letters of support are not allowed.

33. Question: Can I add a letter of future financial support from the Board of Education?

Answer: Letters of support are not allowed.

34. Question: Do you have examples of LEA and non-LEA partnerships?

Answer: Please visit the [ISBE 21st CCLC webpage](#) to find historical information about 21st CCLC grantees. The blue dropdown box at the bottom of the webpage labeled “Historical Information” contains information dating back to FY 2003.

35. Question: Is there a way to indicate if a community-based organization is applying and serves students from several different schools?

Answer: Yes, Attachments 2A and 3 allow you to list the schools being served and at what location you are serving those students.

36. Question: Does the program need to be offered at a school building?

Answer: Attachments 2A and 3 allow you to list the schools being served and at what location you are serving those students.

37. Question: Can notification to the community be on the school website and Facebook page or does it have to be in the local paper?

Answer: Notice to the community must be in a manner that is understandable and accessible, per page 19 of the NOFO/RFP.

38. Question: The tiered funding is based on number of students who attend 45 hours or more. Should the application reflect the number of students at each campus who attended 45 hours or more during the 2023-24 school year or the number of students anticipated being served 45 hours or more for 2024-25 program year?

Answer: Your application should reflect how many students you project to serve with the FY25 Cohort.

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39. Question: When we applied and were awarded as part of Cohort 15, we did not have pre-K at the time. During our last 10 years of programming, we could not add pre-K since they were not a part of our initial application. Since we were Cohort 15 and assuming we can apply, can we include pre-K in our application?

Answer: Prekindergarten students may be served. Please see pages 8, 11, and 16 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

40. Question: On Attachment 2A, the Program Summary, should we check the yes or no box if our current 21st CCLC grant is concluding on August 31, 2024, as we had requested an extended project end date due to summer programming?

Answer: Check the boxes that are applicable to your new proposed program.

41. Question: What year will be used for free and reduced-priced lunch numbers? We want to be able to use 2023-24, which is more accurate than 2022-23 when we underreported, if that is possible, for most accurate numbers?

Answer: Per page 2 of the NOFO/RFP, please use data from the FY 2024 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data.

42. Question: Is it allowed to develop a middle school option that serves students from multiple buildings if identified which school for a singular secondary program offering?

Answer: Yes, Attachments 2A and 3 allow you to list the schools being served and at what location you are serving those students.

43. Question: Do all attachments need to be submitted as one combined PDF or as separate PDFs to be uploaded into the application system?

Answer: Please submit all PDFs at once via the Attachment Manager.

44. Question: Is a letter of intent required? If not submitted, will application be voided?

Answer: Per page 6 of the NOFO/RFP, letters of intent are not required but are highly encouraged.

45. Question: Is one CBO allowed to submit multiple NOFO/RFP applications?

Answer: Applicants may submit any number of applications; however, only their three top scoring applications will be eligible for funding.

46. Question: If an LEA serves Grades K-8, will the application still qualify for the “Middle and High Schools and Joint Application” priority points?

Answer: No, K-8 would not qualify as a middle school. Please see page 10 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

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47. Question: Is this the NOFO/RFP for the \$50 million After School Programs Grant? ACT Now presented a webinar on state of Illinois after-school funding, and I'm a little confused if this is the same NOFO/RFP or if there will be a different one.

Answer: This NOFO/RFP is for the federally funded 21st CCLC grant program. If you are interested in any additional upcoming grants, please monitor ISBE's Funding Opportunities [page](#).

48. Question: I'm not able to find additional information on the website regarding instructions for serving District 299. To receive appropriate permission, would a letter with an original signature from a principal be considered adequate? Are there specific attachment forms that need to be completed associated with this permission?

Answer: Please see the "[CPS Protocols for Submitting a FY 2025 CCLC Application with CPS Schools](#)" document on our [Prospective Grantees webpage](#).

49. Question: Regarding the renewability of this grant, if we were awarded a grant for FY 2025 with continuation in FY 2026 and 2027, would we be able to apply for a competitive cycle in FY 2028?

Answer: There will be no renewability for the FY 2025 21st CCLC grant. Eligible applicants may apply for other competitive grant cycles.

50. Question: If the award notice does not happen for 90 days, how does that impact the start date of July 1, 2024?

Answer: Awarded proposals may backdate their expenditure reports to July 1, 2024. However, per page 5 of the NOFO/RFP, monies spent prior to programmatic approval are done so at the applicant's own risk.

51. Question: Knowing that the grant year is from July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025, but not knowing when grantees are notified of winning, will the grantee still go through the in-person ISBE monitoring process?

Answer: Yes, all monitoring will still be required.

52. Question: If we elect to budget for subcontractors who will deliver direct services to youth in our programs, do we need written approval by the state superintendent or designee prior to our application submission? Or can we seek written approval following a notice of grant award?

Answer: No subcontracting is allowed without prior approval. Approval must take place before the execution of services. Please see page 24 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

53. Question: We are considering partnering with a local community center. Would we have it as a subcontractor providing services and budget it as a purchase service?

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Answer: If you are partnering with a community center, it is not a subcontractor. Please see the [State and Federal Grant Administration Policy, Fiscal Requirements, and Procedures](#) handbook for more budgeting information.

54. Question: Could you please clarify the difference between subcontractors who deliver direct services during youth programming and instructional staff?

Answer: Program staff are hired by the 21st CCLC program. Subcontractors are typically hired by a partner of the 21st CCLC program to deliver services to the program.

55. Question: Are there lower levels of student involvement but still high allocations for special populations with special/severe needs?

Answer: At this time, the 21st CCLC program does not distinguish funding based on the status of the populations served as specified by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

56. Question: Where do I fill out the NOFO/RFP? Is it located in IWAS?

Answer: To respond to the NOFO/RFP, please fill out all requirements listed on pages 28-32 and 39-41 of the NOFO/RFP. Also, please utilize the FY 2025 21st CCLC Attachments, which can be found on the [ISBE 21st CCLC: Prospective Grantees webpage](#).

57. Question: What happens if you fall below the minimum number of students (25) per site?

Answer: Per page 4 of the NOFO/RFP, applicants are expected to serve a minimum of 25 students per fiscal year.

58. Question: Must there be a parent component? Will we be disqualified if we do not have a parent component, or will we merely lose points?

Answer: A parent component is expected as part of Objectives 4 and 5 on page 8 of the NOFO/RFP.

59. Question: What will happen if a student or students do not attend at least 46 hours?

Answer: Per page 15 of the NOFO/RFP, ISBE expects 80 percent or more of students to be regular attendees. ISBE has protocols in place to assist grantees with achieving this goal.

60. Question: Since there will not be a granted amount of funding at the time of submission, what should be put in the Letters of Agreement/Attachment 2A?

Answer: Please list the amount of funding being sought.

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61. Question: Do you have to be affiliated with a particular school or specific schools or can you be just an after-school program in the neighborhood of several eligible schools to send an NOFO/RFP?

Answer: Per page 12 of the NOFO/RFP, each non-LEA applicant must actively collaborate with the LEAs and school(s) from which participating students attend to develop and implement the proposed program.

62. Question: State-authorized charter schools are allowed to apply without a joint applicant, correct? Is collaboration with an LEA still required through a memorandum of understanding (MOU)?

Answer: Per page 1 of the NOFO/RFP, ISBE-authorized charter schools may apply without a joint applicant. ISBE-authorized charter schools are LEAs.

63. Question: Must the after-school program be specifically focused on academics?

Answer: Per the Program Purpose on page 7 of the NOFO/RFP, programs must be academically focused.

64. Question: Would it be possible to have more time to submit signed principal letters to Autumn Berg at Chicago Public Schools (CPS)? Due to the recent holiday and the summer season, it has been a challenge for us to be in touch with principals regarding this opportunity in time for the deadline that is listed in the 2025 CPS 21CCLC Protocol document.

Answer: Please reach out to Autumn Berg, who is coordinator of the Community Initiative Program for CPS, about this request.

65. Question: When establishing partnerships, is there a distance requirement that must be met between partner entities? (Example ... less than XXX miles)

Answer: There is no distance requirement, but both partners are equally responsible for the implementation of the program. Please see pages 2 and 26 of the NOFO/RFP and Attachment 2 for more information.

66. Question: Please clarify whether an applicant can submit more than one proposal to serve the same eligible schools. Applicant Status on page 3 indicates that "Applicants may submit multiple proposals in response to this NOFO/RFP." Is it acceptable for two joint applications to be submitted by the same LEA and public organization wherein each proposal serves the same school sites but with varying program specifications, such as a difference in program design and needs assessment?

Answer: An applicant cannot propose to serve any school or other entity that will be receiving services during FY 2025 under a 21st CCLC grant. As such, applications that propose services to

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schools that are already being served by another 21st CCLC grant during FY 2025 will not be funded. Please see page 3 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

67. Question: In talking with some clubs interested in the new 21st CCLC grant, one had a question about pass-through funding. They are currently receiving pass-through funding through the high school in their area. Does that effect their eligibility to apply for their own funding through 21st CCLC and, if so, what can we do to get them funding?

Answer: An applicant cannot propose to serve any school or other entity that will be receiving services during FY 2025 under a 21st CCLC grant. As such, applications that propose services to schools that are already being served by another 21st CCLC grant during FY 2025 will not be funded. Please see page 3 of the NOFO/RFP for more information. Please also see pages 22, 24, and 25 of the NOFO/RFP about supplanting.

68. Question: Will there be an extension to the due date of August 16, 2024?

Answer: No extensions will be granted. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on August 16, 2024.

69. Question: Page 25 says we are permitted to consolidate funds but not supplant. Can we use these funds for summer school/STEAM Camp if we previously used Title I? Meaning combine the two sources? I don't have enough Title I funding alone.

Answer: Per page 25 of the NOFO/RFP, Title I Part A funds and Title IV Part B funds may be consolidated. Please refer to the Flexibility of Funding section on page 25 of the NOFO/RFP for specific requirements.

70. Question: Are there specific partners we should be using? Or, if we already have established partners, do we get an MOU from them? Do we become the fiscal agent and then pay them 3000/300 function/object code?

Answer: ISBE does not indorse any specific organization to partner with for the 21st CCLC program. If a partnership is formed, there must be an MOU in place. Please refer to pages 12, 19, and 20 of the NOFO/RFP for more information about partnerships.

71. Question: On Attachment 2A, Program Summary, under F. Tier 1 or Tier 2 School Districts, it states, "District needs to currently not be served by a 21st CCLC grant from Cohorts 21, 22, or 23." We are proposing to serve different schools in the district than are served in our Cohort 23 grant. I know this is allowed according to the NOFO/RFP, so do we mark "Yes," the district is currently served by a 21st CCLC grant?

Answer: If the district is currently being served, please indicate yes on this question.

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72. Question: We were wondering if a program/activity designed to assist students who were suspended out of school would be eligible for funding under the 21st CCLC grant? Are they allowed to meet during the day at a non-school location to participate in this program? Or would it have to be after-school hours?

Answer: Please see pages 12-13 of the NOFO/RFP about serving suspended students. Additionally, page 11 of the NOFO/RFP states, “ESSA specifically indicates services are to be provided outside the regular school day ...”

73. Question: Are we able to use the FY 2024 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data to determine a non-rural school’s eligibility with 40% or more low-income as it says in FAQ answer No. 41? Or must we stick to the 2022-23 Illinois Report Card low-income school data for all other applications that do not include a rural school?

Answer: Please use the FY 2022-2023 Illinois Report Card to determine eligibility to apply for the 21st CCLC grant. Use the FY 2024 Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data to determine eligibility for the Rural Schools and Joint Applications Priority Points.

74. Question: Can this grant be used for any grade level?

Answer: Per page 8 of the NOFO/RFP, the program purpose to is "provide academic enrichment opportunities for children in grades prekindergarten through 12..." See page 16 of the NOFO/RFP for more information about prekindergarten services.

75. Question: On Attachment 3, what is meant by school site number? Is that referring to an RCDTS code?

Answer: This box is not referring to an RCDTS code. Programs may have more than one after-school site for each grant. This box is asking you to number the sites where programming will take place.

76. Question: Is ELT a requirement for this grant?

Answer: ELT is optional. See page 8 of the NOFO/RFP for more information about ELT.

77. Question: We aim to serve multiple schools within our region and are still working to confirm prospective school partners. With the letter of intent due on July 18, should we include each of the prospective schools at this point? Or is it acceptable to provide that information with the full application?

Answer: Per question 44 of this FAQ and page 6 of the NOFO/RFP, letters of intent are not required. You may submit a letter of intent noting schools and sites might change by the time your RFP is submitted to ISBE.

78. Question: Are there any specific considerations for Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) when applying for this grant?

Answer: There are no specific considerations for ROEs that apply for this grant.

79. Question: Is an MOU with school administrators needed to demonstrate equitable services to public schools? Or can the school principal write an acknowledgement of notification of available services?

Answer: MOUs are required with co-applicants and partners. See pages 12 and 20 of the NOFO/RFP for more information. See page 16 of the NOFO/RFP and Attachments 11A and 11B for more information about demonstrating equitable services.

80. Question: The NOFO/RFP states, "All applicants will be restricted to receiving a maximum of three funded grants in response to the proposals received for this NOFO/RFP." Does that mean a maximum of three funded program sites (in our case, three different partner schools offering our after-school services at the respective individual school sites) or a maximum of three separate applications, each of which might include multiple sites (again, different individual schools)?

Answer: Per page 3 of the NOFO/RFP, "All applicants will be restricted to receiving a maximum of three funded grants ..." Attachments 2A and 3 allow you to list the schools being served and at what location you are serving those students.

81. Question: Is there a list of approved consultants as we are looking to engage a person for the evaluation component?

Answer: ISBE does not endorse any person or company pertaining to evaluation requirements. Please see page 18 of the NOFO/RFP for more information about evaluations.

82. Question: On Attachment 2A, Program Summary, under F. Tier 1 or Tier 2 School Districts: It states, "District needs to currently not be served by a 21st CCLC grant from Cohorts 21, 22, or 23." We are proposing to serve different schools in the district than are served in our Cohort 23 grant. I know this is allowed according to the NOFO/RFP, so do we mark "Yes" (the district is currently served by a 21st CCLC grant)?

Answer: Please mark "Yes," even though the sites being served are different than the sites currently being served.

83. Question: Clarify the difference between the performance measures, targets, and performance standards, and how these will be used during the grant process.

Answer: A performance measure is a measurable objective, against which actual achievement can be compared. Targets are expected to be met during each quarter of the grant. Performance

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standards provide the minimum thresholds for acceptable performance and correlate to the performance measures. ISBE uses these to judge the overall effectiveness of programming.

84. Question: Could you also please confirm whether there will be an FY 2026 Cohort application next year?

Answer: Currently, ISBE does not have any information about a cohort for FY 2026. Once ISBE does have information, we will post it on the webpage.

85. Question: For new providers to the 21st CCLC grant, what guidance/resources could be provided to start the "local evaluation" process as needed for the application? Are there local agencies that can conduct the evaluations? Is there a list of agencies to conduct this that we can reach out to? Or when we get awarded, can we work with ISBE to implement the evaluation process? How could we state this on the application?

Answer: ISBE does not endorse any person or company pertaining to evaluation requirements. Please see pages 17-19 of the NOFO/RFP for information about evaluations. You also may find information about local evaluations on the [21st CCLC webpage](#).

86. Question: Will a 21st CCLC grant be released next year as well? Or does this grant opportunity only release every two or three years?

Answer: Cohort years are dependent upon funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

87. Question: One of our partners has the 21st CCLC grant for a few of our school sites, ending in August 2024. We have a few more schools that are eligible for renewal; this partner may reapply for two of our school sites. If we apply for the remaining eligible school site with a different after-school provider, would this still be eligible?

Answer: Yes, as long as the provider is eligible to apply. Please see page 1 of the NOFO/RFP regarding Eligible Applicants. Please also see page 19 of the NOFO/RFP regarding Community Partnerships.

88. Question: Could you kindly provide us with a list of schools that are currently recipients of 21st CCLC funding?

Answer: Please visit the [21st CCLC webpage](#), scrolling to the bottom of the page. Here you will find the 21st CCLC Grantees, Sites, and Allotments Dashboard. This dashboard is where you can find all past and present grantees.

89. Question: Do applicants have to associate with a school to receive funding? Some of the sites operate independently from the schools in their districts.

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Answer: Sites of programming may be different than the schools being served. Attachments 2A and 3 allow you to list the schools being served and at what location you are serving those students. Each non-LEA applicant must actively collaborate with the LEAs and school(s) from which participating students attend. Please see page 12 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

90. Question: Is there any data about the distance or time from the public to the private school that we should take into account? Is this distance or time by car or bus? Is there a maximum number of private schools we have to visit?

Answer: Per page 16 of the NOFO/RFP, "Private school grantees must provide equitable access to the program for **all** public school students and their families who reside in the geographic area of the private school, and vice versa."

91. Question: For equitable participation, do we have to give a portion of the funds to the private schools? Or can we agree to serve a portion of their students in our programming?

Answer: A public school or other public or private entity that is awarded a grant must provide equitable services to private and public school students and their families. See page 16 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

92. Question: If we do not offer summer programming during Year 1, could we introduce summer programming in Years 2 and/or 3?

Answer: Per page 5 of the NOFO/RFP, "... once a grantee chooses to implement summer programming, then programming must occur for the same interval every summer until the end of the grant cycle."

93. Question: A private parochial school has indicated and signed that it would like to participate via the equity requirement and has begun to plan with the organization on its application. When the organizations apply, do they count that school as one they are serving in all program components (such as site coordinator) and for which they will receive funds? Or will they develop a plan for the parents, teachers, and students to have opportunities to participate along with one of the public schools?

Answer: Please list all sites being served on Attachment 3 and at what location the students from those sites will be served. Per Attachment 11A, the prospective grantee "... must engage in timely and meaningful consultation with appropriate nonpublic school officials during the design and development of programs and continue the consultation throughout the implementation of these programs." Please see Attachment 11A for more information.

94. Question: Looking at the Chicago Data Portal's CPS elementary school attendance boundaries, there is NOT a private school located within the attendance boundaries/catchment area of this

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school. Do we have to contact private schools outside of the catchment area to satisfy the Equitable Participation of Public Schools requirement? Or are we allowed to forego Attachment 11A?

Answer: Per page 29 of the NOFO/RFP, "If not applicable, applicant must indicate as such and sign." Please refer to this page for more information.

95. Question: Is it better to put the partner school as function/object code 4000/300 and just send it its portion to manage or does it need to be paid by the lead school?

Answer: Per page 20 of the NOFO/RFP, "The MOU must outline the terms of the agreement, including ... all financial arrangements."

96. Question: If our school is going to be partnering with a program to provide after-school literacy, would it be better for the school to apply for the grant, or for the organization to apply?

Answer: ISBE does not deem one more valuable than the other. Please see page 1 of the NOFO/RFP to determine eligibility.

97. Question: The 21st CCLC site for a public school during the school year is the public school. Can we relocate the summer program for this school to a community center? If so, how do we indicate that in the proposal?

Answer: Programming is expected to take place at the site that has been approved/indicated in the original proposal. If any changes are needed, a written request must be submitted to ISBE in advance. Changes may not be made until/unless written approval is provided by ISBE.

98. Question: My organization is an education-focused nonprofit that serves 100% low-income students from throughout CPS and are recruited through informal (non-MOU) CPS partnerships. The program itself takes place at three different private school partner sites that donate physical space, but the program sites are not the home school of the students participating. If our physical sites are not eligible but our student population is entirely low-income and our programmatic content aligns with 21stCC, is our organization eligible to apply?

Answer: Please refer to page 1 of the NOFO/RFP to determine eligibility.

99. Question: Can you please tell me where to submit the 21st CCLC application? Is it created on a document? Or do I enter the information through a portal?

Answer: Proposals must be submitted electronically through the ISBE Attachment Manager. Please refer to page 5 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

100. Question: When filling out the MOU, can the LEA (district superintendent), school building principals, and non-LEA co-applicant all sign the same MOU or does there need to be a separate

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agreement between the district with the school principals and the district with the non-LEA (co-applicant)?

Answer: An MOU must be signed by all parties detailed within it.

101. Question: Do the Letters of Agreement need to be signed by building principals or are these signed by any community organization working with the program?

Answer: Letters of Agreement must be signed by whoever writes the letter.

102. Question: On the page of Equitable Participation of Public Schools (Attachment 11A): What is the "Name of Administrative Organization"?

Answer: The Name of Administrative Organization is the name of the potential grantee.

103. Question: We have a district that borders on Indiana. Would it be allowable for one or two service providers to be located in Indiana or do all need to be within Illinois?

Answer: You may partner with an entity that is over the state line, but the services must be provided within Illinois. A co-applicant must be within Illinois. ISBE will not entertain a request to move a site to a facility outside of Illinois.

104. Question: The letters of written agreement are from all the partners that are included in the grant with MOUs, correct?

Answer: Letters of agreement are for partnerships. MOUs are for co-applicants. Please see pages 19-20 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

105. Question: On Attachment 2A, letter E: Are we only to add our site schools?

Answer: "Please provide the following information about each school your application is proposing to serve," according to Attachment 2A, letter E.

106. Question: Is there a specific template to be used for the MOUs that will be included in the FY 2025 21st Century Community Learning Grant application?

Answer: There is no template. See page 20 of the NOFO/RFP for what must be included in the MOU.

107. Question: Do we need to have the principals at our site schools sign an MOU instead of a Letter of Agreement?

Answer: Yes, see page 20 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

108. Question: Do we need all the school building principals who are sending students to be served by the program (not site schools) sign Letters of Agreement?

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Answer: No, all principals should sign the MOU. See page 20 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

109. Question: Do our community partners (who come in and do activities with the students) need to sign Letters of Agreement?

Answer: No, "partnerships must be established in a written agreement or an MOU ..." See page 12 of the NOFO/RFP for more information.

110. Question: From what I'm seeing, non-LEAs could include 8% indirect costs in a 21st CCLC budget without providing cost allocation information on the indirect funds. Please confirm this.

Answer: This is correct. Grantees should keep records of spending (indirect costs included) in the event the program is audited.