



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: April 16, 2024

TO: Dr. Brian L. Maher
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Dr. Zainab Rida, Equity Officer and Administrator for the Office of Coordinated Students Support Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to approve funding recommendations for the federally-funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grant Program.

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Grant

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- **What:** The Nebraska 21st CCLC grant program currently provides afterschool programming at 143 sites serving K-12 students in 37 communities. These programs create an afterschool environment focused on three overarching goals: 1) improving overall student academic success, 2) increasing positive behavior and social interactions, and 3) increasing active and meaningful family and community engagement.
- **Why:** Each state's allocation of Title IV, Part B funds is determined by a formula based on total Title I funds received. Grants must be awarded through a competitive grant process.
- **Who:** To be eligible for a 21st CCLC grant, sites must serve building populations with a free/reduced lunch rate of 40% or greater.
- **How:** The Nebraska Department of Education 21st CCLC office has successfully administered this federal grant program for twenty-one years. Continuation grants are awarded to quality 21st CCLC programs which have successfully implemented 21st CCLC programming for five years. These grants are level funded for a five-year grant period, contingent upon the satisfactory attainment of continuation funding requirements.
- **When:** These five-year grants will have a grant period of July 1, 2024-September 30, 2029.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): May 2024

ESTIMATED COST: approximately \$1.8 million

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: Title IV, Part B of ESEA (21st Century Community Learning Centers)
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval:

FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:

- Indicate the method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for method of procurement: NA
- Rationale for contractor selection: NA

FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:

- Grant application materials, including the scoring rubric, were posted October 2023, a grant writing workshop was conducted November 6, 2023 and the deadline to apply was February 1, 2024. A team of external reviewers will independently score each proposal and then met in April to reach consensus on final scores and funding recommendations. The slate of recommended proposals will be presented to the State Board of Education for final approval at the May 3, 2024 meeting.

**Updated 08.15.2023*