

# 2024-2026 Two-Year Expanded Learning Opportunity Grants

Total Funding Requested for 2024-2026 ELO Competition: \$700,800



## Project Overview for Funded Sites

### **1. Bancroft-Rosalie \$32,500: 2 sites, (Bancroft-Rosalie Elementary & Junior High School)**

Overview: Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools will utilize our geothermal educational Greenhouse and adjacent outdoor gardening space to engage students in hands-on learning with a specific focus on Native American traditional plants. School gardens help students learn, strengthen ties between school and community, aid children in connecting with nature, and improving student nutrition.

### **2. Bayard Public Schools- \$25,000: 1 site, Bayard Elementary School in collaboration with the school district middle and high school.**

Overview: Students in the after-school program will gain hands-on experience in life skills of growing their own food, learning the value of wellness, having the opportunity to be exposed to new fresh vegetables, and learning how to cook. The students will learn pride to see their work in the greenhouse when fresh vegetables they grew are offered to all students on the salad bar. The students will learn about trades as they do the project as they will learn about plumbing, heating and cooling, energy conservation, etc. Targeting student wellness will have an immediate impact on this project, along with the skills they will gain from learning how to grow their own food and learn about business as they help market this product for the company.

### **3. Collective For Youth- \$200,00: 24 sites, (Bancroft, Belvedere, Castelar, Central Park, Druid Hill, Field Club, Florence, Franklin, Gilder, Gomez, Hartman, Highland, Howard Kennedy, Jackson, King, Liberty, Lothrop, Miller Park, Mount View, Sherman, Skinner, Spring Lake, and Wakonda.)**

Overview: years of research show that students with access to additional enrichment during out-of-school time can apply their learning and see where it goes. Students in the program then bring their experience from the enrichment activities back into the school day and influence the other students on what they have learned. The following programs will be included in the two-year project: STEM lessons, Future Fitness, Girl Scouts, and Arts project work to allow youth to experience a variety of programming.

### **4. School District of Columbus Foundation, Inc.- \$59,300: 5 Sites, (Columbus Middle School 5 - 8, Centennial K -4, Emerson K -4, Lost Creek K -4, North Park K -4, West Park K - 4)**

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## Project Overview for Sites Recommended for Funding



Overview: The grant will significantly enhance existing programs at all participating sites by focusing on health and nutrition, which are an increasing need in our community. Families struggle with poverty despite high employment and experience 'working poor' challenges. The district has identified that mental health concerns increase and more and more of our students are feeling hopeless and overwhelmed. Students are exhausted at the end of the day and need engaging, hands-on activities to keep them excited about staying in the program.

**5. Future Kids, Inc. - \$90,000: 12 sites, (Kearney- Bryant Elementary School, Central Elementary School, Emerson Elementary School, Northeast Elementary School, Sunrise Middle School; Lexington- Bryan Elementary School, Morton Elementary School, Pershing Elementary School, Sandoz Elementary School, Lexington Middle School; Nebraska City- Hayward Elementary School, Northside Elementary School, Nebraska City Middle School)**

Overview: Future Kids will create high-quality soccer programs at each CCLC site that the youth can participate in every week. Future Kids has delivered such programs in over 70 schools during the past four years. There is a lack of affordable soccer opportunities for youth in rural Nebraska; this proposal shall solve that issue for these CCLC sites. Our professional staff shall create learning opportunities through the sport of soccer as well as leadership skills, team building, respect, and integrity.

**6. Great Plains Gaming Project-\$10,000: 15 sites over two years, (Sites at Crete Public Schools, Lincoln Public Schools, and Kearney Public Schools)**

Overview: Board games enhance learning opportunities for students because supporting learning promotes connections, relationship building, and problem-solving. Much of the programming is tied to school day standards and can be aligned with the local curriculum. The programs center around Science, Math, ELA, or Social Studies. Additionally, sportsmanship, creativity, critical thinking, social and emotional growth, and etiquette are among the many skills students will be exposed to.

**7. Kearney Public Schools- \$20,000:2 Sites, (Two Elementary Sites)**

Overview: KCLC students have had little exposure to farm or ranch life. Many farms/ranches use horses for herd work and as a source of pleasure. As well, students will learn proper riding technique and safety so they can gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of how important horses are to farm/ranch work and the responsibilities for care/maintaining horses. These activities and knowledge will help students develop responsibility and confidence skills in riding and caring for horses.

The immediate impact of this opportunity includes KCLC students developing a deeper appreciation of horses and animal care, gaining new horse-riding skills and confidence, working with another student as a team, and establishing a connection with a horse.

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## Project Overview & Sites Recommended for Funding



### **8. Spring Creek Audobon Center- \$26,000: 4 sites, (Dawes Middle School, Culler Middle School, Arnold Elementary, Elliot Elementary)**

Overview: The project will utilize its Wildlife Explorers curriculum to create Wildlife Explorers Clubs at four CLCs. WILDLIFE EXPLORERS introduces students to five conservation careers and community roles: Ornithologist, Entomologist, Botanist, Soil Scientist, and Aquatic Scientist. The curriculum, filled with activities, introduces real-world problems and has the students help lead in researching and creating solutions. Students will also have the opportunity to spend three days at the culmination of the club at SCPAC to do hands-on, STEM-based field explorations

### **9. Lincoln Community Foundation- \$158,000: 29 sites, (Arnold, Belmont, Brownell, Calvert, Campbell, Clinton Elementary Schools, Culler Middle School, Dawes Elliott Elementary, Everett, Goodrich Middle School, Hartley, Holmes, Huntington, Lakeview, Lefler Middle School, Lincoln High School, McPhee Elementary, Mickle Middle School, Northeast High School, North Star High School, Norwood Park Elementary, Park Middle School, Pershing Elementary, Prescott Elementary, Randolph Elementary, Riley Elementary, Saratoga Elementary, and West Lincoln Elementary)**

Overview: The Nebraska Youth Risk Behavior Survey data shows a reduction in the percentage of youth that reported being physically active for at least 60 minutes per day in the past 7 days—from 76.6% in 2017 to 60.3% in 2019. These sharp declines in youth fitness have a direct correlation to poor physical health outcomes during childhood and throughout life, even resulting in shorter life expectancy. Exercise also improves brain function, reducing potential for depression or anxiety and increasing their potential for learning.

By creating free opportunities for youth to participate in high quality, 21st CCLC sponsored athletics at a younger age, youth will be more likely to continue in a sport and to find opportunities beyond these programs in already established leagues and clubs.

Promoting the Arts is a secondary emphasis of the ELO grants across CCLC's collaborations with Lincoln Public Schools. The arts play a vital role in fostering academic success. Research has shown that engaging in arts education enhances students' writing abilities, with improvements of up to 27% in standardized writing tests for English language learners. It cultivates empathy, emotional intelligence, and cognitive skills essential for effective learning. The arts promote school engagement, reducing disciplinary infractions by over 20% and increasing attendance. They provide avenues for self-expression, boosting confidence and motivation, particularly among underprivileged students.

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Sites Recommended for Funding



**10. Partnership for Healthy Lincoln (PHL)- \$80,000: 11 sites, (Brownell Elementary School, Calvert Elementary School, Campbell Elementary School, Everett Elementary School, Holmes Elementary School, Huntington Elementary School, McPhee Elementary School, Riley Elementary School, Saratoga Elementary School, Culler Middle School, & Park Middle School)**

Overview- Using the science of positive deviance, PHL works to identify successful efforts at local schools/after-school programs and work to replicate those efforts across other programs. All of Health Partners Initiative dba Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln ELO Grant Narrative the following curriculums being utilized to promote improved nutrition and physical activity are evidence-based or research-driven: Sports, Play, and Active Recreation (SPARK) After School (physical activity/nutrition); WeCook (cooking/nutrition); Tower Garden (nutrition/agriculture); Harvest of the Month (nutrition/agriculture); Whole Kids Foundation Garden Manual (cooking/nutrition); and Learn, Grow, Eat & Go! (nutrition/agriculture). New programming will include a new cooking curriculum called Food Smarts (trauma-informed engagement program focused on nutrition and cooking).

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