WELCOME

- Nebraska Afterschool 2026 Grant Writing Webinar
  - 21st Century Community Learning Centers
  - Expanded Learning Opportunities
- Applicants for a First-Time/New Grant
- Scoring Rubric Available on our website

Agenda

- CCLC Overview
- ELO Overview
- Competition Details
  - Timeline
  - Funding
  - Eligibility & Task Force
  - Grant Application Components

21st CCLC Overview

- Federally Funded under ESEA and is funded at a portion of Title I
- Nebraska currently receives $6.5 Million
  - 93% of funds go out to state aid (districts)

Purpose:

to ensure that students (K-12th grade) in high-need schools have access to high-quality afterschool, before school, and summer learning programs that **extend academic support and enrich student learning** outside the traditional school day.

21st CCLC: 3 Overarching Goals

- Improving overall student academic success
- Increasing positive behavior and social interactions
- Increasing active and meaningful family and community engagement

Expanded Learning Opportunities Act

- The Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program Act was created by the Nebraska Legislature to promote academic achievement in high-need schools during out-of-school time afterschool and during summer break.
- Beginning July 1, 2016, one percent of the education proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery are transferred to this fund. Beginning July 1, 2024, 1.5 percent of the education proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery will be transferred to this fund.
- These grants require a partnership contributing a 1:1 match of the grant award.

2026 Grant Competition

- Application Open: 01/21/26 - 03/19/26
- $1.6 Million available for First-Time/New Grant awards
- Funded Projects Begin: July 1, 2026
- 4 Year Grant Award with Yearly Continuation

Timeline of the Grant Process

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- Feb 12, 2026: 11a-12p Office Hours Available
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- March 2, 2026 – 10-11am Office Hours Available
- March 19, 2026 – Application Due
- March - April 2026 –Review of applications
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- May 15, 2026 - Notification of Awardees Posted
- July 1, 2026 – Grant period begins

2026 Available Grants

- First-Time/New Grant
  - Available to eligible school building populations never previously awarded a 21st CCLC grant
  - Or past grantees who have been awarded a grant but are making notable programming changes

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program

- Funded:
  - Federal - Title IV, Part B of Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended
  - State - The Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program Act created by the Nebraska Legislature

- Applications that include matching grant funds and partner contributions may be considered for both federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) funding and State Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) funding.*

Eligibility – who can apply?

- Public and private organizations
  - Co-applicants & consortiums of two or more such agencies, organizations, or entities are also eligible.
- It is required that eligible organizations collaborate with schools when applying for funds.

Requirements for Nonpublic Schools Applying for Program

- Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) are required to accept children of all religions
- Funds cannot be used for religious activities
- Guidance includes laws to which FBOs must adhere

Eligibility – Demographics
(absolute & competitive priority #1)

- **School building must have 40%+ of the student population participate in free or reduced-cost meals**
- School buildings focusing on CSI, TSI or ATSI
- School building whose student mobility rate is higher than the state average (3.65%)
- Schools who English Learner (EL) student rate is higher than the state average (10.34%)

** These figures come from the '24-'25 NEP data. Which can be found: https://nep.education.ne.gov/#/

Eligible Applicants

- A school building can benefit from only one 21st CCLC First-Time grant

- Multiple applications from a district/organization is ok if no duplication of service

** Each application may include no more than 3 school buildings to receive services.

Develop Grant Task Force

- Get support from school leadership *(School Administration including school building principal(s) & School Board)*
  - Support beyond awareness of importance.
- Community Partners
  - local & statewide providers

Task Force First Steps

- Meet with target school building principal(s)
- Consult with eligible nonpublic representative(s)
- Clarify your shared vision and mission
- Investigate funding & programming

Task Force Decisions

- Identify lead agency representative
  - Board authorized representative for applicant organization/consortium
- Identify project director
  - Directly responsible for day-to-day operations
- Identify the fiscal agent

Statement of Need

(Competitive Priority #2)

A. Improving Literacy

OR

B. Reducing Chronic Absenteeism & Improving School Attendance

- Identify the Issue
- Provide Supporting Data
- Describe the Impact
- Connect the Need to Program Goals

Project Design
Core Design Elements

- Required to be open a minimum of 12 hours across 4+ days per week (waiver considered) outside of school operating hours
  - During program hours, schedule should include: academic support, healthy snack or meal, physical activity & enrichment clubs
  - Can be before school, afterschool or weekends
- Required to be open no less than 4 hours per day for full days on non-school weekdays, weekends, holidays or during summer break

Project Design
Core Design Elements

- Pre-K Services: limited to enrolled kindergartners during summer preceding kindergarten
- Meals/snacks must be offered
  - Must participate in USDA Nutrition Program
- Attendance: A student may only be counted for evaluation components & attendance objectives if they are **present for 1+ hour of the day's programming**

Project Design: Core Design Elements

- **Nonpublic School Participation:** The public school and nonpublic school shall agree on equitable participation for any students who attend the nonpublic school
  - Nonpublic School Participation Form (NDE 34-034) must be filled out for EACH nonpublic school within the geographical area of the public school.
- **Licensure:** Must be licensed if serving four or more children and charging a fee
- **Safety:** Must meet at least minimum safety requirements in DHHS School-Age Only Licensing Requirements

Measures of Effectiveness

- Proposed projects must assure they meet the measures of effectiveness described in Title IV, Part B, Section 4205 of ESSA.
- Nebraska State Board of Education adopted a Position Statement to meet this need (adopted 10/06/17)

Quality Framework Position Statement

Quality Framework Position Statement Elements:

- Administration/sound management
- College/career awareness
- Community/school partnerships
- Diverse, prepared staff
- Engaged learning
- Family engagement

**These elements are characteristics of quality out-of-school time programs

Quality Framework Position Statement Elements:

- Intentional programming aligned with the school day
- Ongoing assessment and improvement
- Participation, access and support during transitions
- Safety, health, and wellness

**These elements are characteristics of quality out-of-school time programs

21st CCLC programs align with the 6 tenets of AQuESTT

1. Strong foundation of positive partnerships
2. Transitional support from year to year
3. Engagement in student-centered opportunities aligned to school day

21st CCLC programs align with the 6 tenets of AQuESTT

4. Meaningful connections with businesses, colleges and staff to develop interests
5. Sound data collection and management focused on continuous improvement
6. Ongoing staff professional development

Program Goals (5A)

Provide narrative for *each* of three required goals:

- Improving overall student academic success
- Increasing positive behavior and social interactions
- Increasing active and meaningful family and community engagement

Program Administration (5B) Required Components

- Summarize how risk factors will be remedied
- Describe membership of site-level shared decision-making management team & their meeting frequency.

This team will ensure:

- Aligning the afterschool program with the school day program
- Maintaining/recruiting high quality staff
- Providing relevant professional development
- Conducting continuous improvement evaluation practices
- Program and fiscal management of grant

continued

Program Administration Required Components

- Describe:
  - plan to assure school day demographics are reflected in afterschool program
  - plan for student recruitment, enrollment and retention
  - transportation plan
    - Ensuring children travel safely to and from club

Program Administration Schedule of Operation by Site

- SCHEDULE OF OPERATION BY SITE			
Building Site: _____			
	Afterschool	Full Days During School Year	Full Days During Summer Break
Number of students served			
Organization operating site			
Collaborating partners at site			
Months of year services provided			
Days of week services provided			
Daily hours of operation			
Meal provided			
Snack provided			

When entering these in GMS:
months of service, days of week & hours will be entered numeric. IE – for months: you will list 10 if program is provided August

Attendance

A student may be counted as in attendance if they are present for at least one hour of the day's programming.

- Attendance objective per site should be realistic and attainable.
  - # of days
  - # of students
- To assure continuation funding, attendance objective must be met per site at:
  - **70%** in year 1
  - **85%** in year 2
  - **100%** in years 3-4

Program Design:
Management Plan (5C) - Staffing

- This table is within GMS, however, if you need more staff listed any available; there is an upload option to use and add on to this table to list each position, name (if known), minimum qualifications, responsibilities, Student:Staff ratio and % of FTE or hours/week

-C – STAFFING SUMMARY					
Position	Name	Minimum Qualifications	Project Responsibilities	Student: Staff Ratio (if applicable)	Percentage of FTE/hours per week

Management Plan: Staffing

- Document percentage of grant funds spent on administration vs. direct services with students.
- Justify salaries of project director and site coordinator(s) (include responsibilities with students and FTE).
- Demonstrate budget includes sufficient hours for admin/planning.

Describe

- Administrative competency/expertise of management team

Describe

- How parents and other volunteers will contribute to program

Describe

- Plans for initial & ongoing professional development of staff & volunteers; PD is a required budget expense

Management Plan:
Collaboration & Partnerships

- Identify partners, describe *each* partner's contributions, document collaboration with other entities – list all partners above $1K of in-kind

- Identify how program can partner/collaborate with other local, state & federal programs
  - I.e. - Title 1, Child Nutrition, Title IC: Migrant, Beyond School Bells, etc

Management Plan:
Collaboration & Partnerships

- Describe each principal's involvement in:
  - regular meetings with shared decision-making body
  - hiring afterschool program staff
  - recruiting students to the program
  - aligning afterschool program content with school day content

Management Plan:
Equitable Access & Site Location

Priority of 21st CCLC to serve students of high need:

- Free & reduced students
- High Mobility
- Special Education
- English Language Learners

Describe a plan for equitable access and participation for these students.

Management Plan:
Equitable Access & Site Location

If fees will be charged-

- Describe purpose and justification for fees and clear plan of how fees will be spent.
- Describe policies to assure all eligible students may participate, regardless of ability to pay.
- **Program can not charge fees to students on the Free/Reduced Meal Program**

Management Plan:
Equitable Access & Site Location

- Document that the site is either a school building or an equally safe and accessible location
- Describe the location and space within the building that will be used
  - Must provide letter of commitment from *each* building principal or CBO director that *each* site will provide access to needed space and resources

Management Plan:
Non-school Sites

For non-school sites, provide:

- Evidence that site is as available & accessible as the school site(s)
- Evidence that school district and co-applicants are in agreement on alternate site
- Evidence that transportation costs of a school versus non-school-based program were considered and justified

Management Plan:
Non-school Sites

Communication plan between alternate site(s) and school(s) including:

- Alignment of academic component with state/local standards & curriculum
- Access to student academic records
- Monitor school day attendance
- Share info on student progress

Management Plan:
Sustainability & Fiscal Management

- Provide evidence of partner/local fiscal support to ensure quality programming for the original number of students
- Describe the sustainability plan
- Document the investments that each partner will make after the grant funding ends

Management Plan:

Sustainability & Fiscal Management

- Fiscal agent must (see page A-17):
  - Annually register in SAM.gov
  - Have a DUNS number
  - Be approved by NDE
- Criteria for approval:
  - Previous experience
  - Proven fiduciary responsibility
  - Linkage with school district/sites

Evaluation (Part 6) - Federal Requirements

5 Performance Period Outcomes: For students participating in 21st CCLC programming:

1. Percentage of students in grades 4-8th who demonstrated growth in reading, language arts and mathematics.
2. Percentage of students in grades 7-8 & 10-12 with a prior-year unweighted GPA of less than 3.0 who demonstrated an improved GPA
3. Percentage of students in grades 1-12 whose school day attendance rate was at/or below 90% in the prior school year and saw improved attendance rate in current year
4. Percentage of students in grades 1-12 who experienced a decrease in in-school suspensions compared to the previous school year
5. Percentage of students in grades 1-5 who demonstrated improvement in teacher-reported engagement in learning.

- Student, site & program level data

Evaluation (Part 6)

- State Requirements
  - Utilize online database: AfterSchool21
    - Cost of AfterSchool21 is covered by NDE
  - Complete Continuous Improvement Plan
  - Participate in all state level evaluation efforts.

Evaluation (Part 6)

Applicants must agree to contract with an external CIP facilitator (required in year 1 of grant)

- External to program--not employed by grantee or any agency providing services to students

External CIP facilitator will:

- Facilitate self-assessment & continuous improvement plan, mid-year meeting, help identify & write program highlight,
- Meet state and federal evaluation requirements

Adequacy of Resources (7A)

- Describe how existing site resources will be used
- Summarize each partner's contributions
- Describe collaboration with other agencies and use of other federal, state, local programs or funds to achieve project outcomes

Adequacy of Resources (7A) Waiver Requests

- Discuss the cost per student based on the services offered
- Outline plan if collecting program income (subsidy/parent fees/etc.)
  - CEP schools and students on free/reduced meals program = free
- If requesting a waiver, must be described in this section
  - Community Partner and/or Service Hours

Budget (7B)

- Amount Request by Applicant based on number of students they are serving and the cost to serve them
  - Resource to help identify cost: https://wallacefoundation.org/cost-calculator

- General Budget
  - Entire 4-year budget
  - Detailed Year 1 budget
  - Grant Funds Only
  - Partner/Local Fiscal Support Funds Only

Attendance

A student may be counted as in attendance if they are present for at **least one hour of the day's programming.**

- Attendance objective per site should be realistic and attainable
  - # of days
  - # of students
- To assure continuation (yr-to-yr) funding, attendance objectives must be met per site at:
  - **70%** in year 1
  - **85%** in year 2
  - **100%** in years 3-4

Budget (7B):
Justification

- Annual Budget Justification (Yr. 1 only)
  - Grant Funds Only
  - Partner/Local Fiscal Support Only

- Justify why the expenses are necessary and how they relate to the project objectives and activities.

Budget (7B):
Mandatory Budget Items

Grant funds or partner/local fiscal support must be budgeted for…

- Student transportation (if necessary)
- Accommodations for special needs students (if necessary)

AND

Budget (7B):
Mandatory Budget Items

- Staff development
  - In addition to local trainings, annually budget for staff attendance at:
    - One NDE-sponsored statewide conference (Sept 2026 – Kearney NE)
    - Two NDE-sponsored regional workshops (at least 2 staff per site)
  - All out-of-state travel must be clearly linked to the local 21st CCLC program objectives, as well as be pre-approved by NDE

Budget (7B): Restricted Costs

Up to $500 on minor remodeling to facilities	Up to 2% on computer hardware (does not apply to software purchases)	Up to $1,500 on an External CIP Facilitator
Up to $15/hr or $120/day for teacher stipends	Up to $500 on consultation costs	Building rental costs are limited to the fair market value

Budget (7B): Non-Allowable Costs

Includes but is not limited to:

- Programs that operate during the school day*
- Capital construction
- Vehicle purchases
- Land acquisition
- Proposal development or planning costs
- Supplanting funds

** See page 21 of the grant application for more details

Appendix (Part 8)

Letters of commitment are required from:

- Entities providing $1,000 or more per year in services/resources
- Principal of *each* public and nonpublic student population to be served for each site
- These will be uploaded onto the Grants Management System (GMS) Application

Forms: Non-Public School Participation

The forms you find on our website are used for reference as you will enter the information into the Grants Management System (GMS), except those where a signature is needed.

- Statement of Assurances (A-2)
- Consortia Partners Signature Page (A-3)
- Nonpublic School Participation form (if applicable)

Required Signature Forms

- Statement of Assurances – Board authorized representative from lead agency

- Consortia Partners Signature Page – Board authorized representative from each co-applicant
  - Co-applicant – Any organization receiving services from, or providing $1,000 or more annually in services/resources to, the project
  - Building principal of every public and nonpublic student population to be served

Required Forms

- Every nonpublic school serving students of the same grade level geographically located within the public school building attendance area must be consulted about potential participation.

- A signed Nonpublic School Participation form attesting to this meaningful discussion is required by NDE. NDE 34-034

Application Sections & Point Values (220 Total Points)

Application Section	Point Values
Comp. Priority #1: Site Information	50
Comp. Priority #2: Statement of Need	50
Project Design	55
Evaluation	25
Resources/Budget	40

Other Grant Selection Factors

- Geographic diversity (all applications received)
  - Based on highest overall score
  - Applications must meet minimum score requirements

Submitting Application

- Electronic submission through the Grants Management System (GMS)
- Accessing GMS:
  - If your organization already has a GMS account but needs to add a new user (authorized representative); that request will take 48-60 hours.
  - If your organization does not have a GMS account, you will need to allow 2-3 weeks for this process.

Renewability Grant

- Upon satisfactory attainment of continuation funding requirements of initial First-Time/New Grant, awardee will be eligible for a Renewability Grant serving the same population for a 4-year award.
  - Satisfactory attainment requirements are found within the Nebraska renewability criteria form.

- To help build sustainability, during your renewability grant, funding will be reduced from your initial award.
  - Year 5 – 100%
  - Year 6 – 85%
  - Year 7 – 80%
  - Year 8 – 75%

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Grant Writing Technical Assistance

Office Hours Available:

- Jan 29, 2026: 2-3pm CST
  https://educationne.zoom.us/j/98898519956?from=addon
- 02/12/26 11am-12pm CST
  https://educationne.zoom.us/j/93078908494?from=addon
- 03/02/26 10:00-11:00am CST
  https://educationne.zoom.us/j/93695847038?from=addon

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