

Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports (ELISS) Competitive Grant Program

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Purpose of ELISS Grant

- The purpose of the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports (ELISS) Competitive Grant Program is to fund high-quality, independently validated extended learning and integrated student support service programs for at-risk students that raise standards for student academic outcomes.

Funding Source

- The General Assembly of North Carolina utilized Session Law 2023-134 House Bill 259 to appropriate seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) per year from the At-Risk Student Services Alternative School Allotment for the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports (ELISS) Competitive Grant Program for the 2023-2025.
- Funds are to be utilized over the next two years (2023-2024 and 2024-2025).
- \$200,000 is earmarked per year for administration and evaluation of the grant
- Grant participants are eligible to receive grants for up to two years in an amount of up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) each year.

Eligibility

- Nonprofit corporations and nonprofit corporations working in collaboration with local school administrative units are eligible to apply for the ELISS grant to implement new or existing eligible programs for at-risk students.
- This restricts stand-alone applications from local school administrative units, charter schools, lab schools, or other governmental or educational agencies.

In Good Standing

- Organizations previously and/or currently receiving competitive grants administered through the NCDPI Office of Federal Programs must be in Good Standing with NCDPI in order to receive a 2023-2025 ELISS grant award.
- To be in Good Standing, all applicants must:
 - 1) have resolved all program and/or fiscal monitoring review open findings or questioned costs through July 2023.;
 - 2) have resolved fiscal findings by the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) from the previous five (5) fiscal years at the time the application is due;
 - 3) and, if applicable, organizations previously and/or currently receiving ELISS funding must:
 - have submitted for the last performance period funded a completed ELISS final evaluation report on time; and
 - consistently met at least 70% of their most recent SBE-approved ELISS program enrollment goal during Year 2 (2021-2023 ELISS Cohort only).

- Additionally, any subgrantees that have received NCDPI Competitive Grants from the Office of Federal Programs that have been terminated by NCDPI are considered Not in Good Standing and are not eligible to reapply for two (2) consecutive ELISS grant competitions from the effective date of termination.
- If the applicant organization is deemed Not in Good Standing by the NCDPI Office of Federal Programs at any point during the Level II or Level III reviews, the application may be identified as “Not Recommended” for funding to the State Board of Education.

Grant Parameters

- Programs must focus on serving students in one or more of the following at-risk categories:
 - 1) at-risk students not performing at grade level as demonstrated by statewide assessments or not on track to meet year-end expectations, as demonstrated by existing indicators, including teacher identification, and/or
 - 2) students at-risk of dropout, and/or
 - 3) students at-risk of school displacement due to suspension or expulsion as a result of anti-social behaviors

- During the academic year, all applicants must propose to operate an integrated student supports (ISS) program that provides supplemental support (often called Tier II) and/or intensive support (often called Tier III) services during school-day hours.
- In addition to supplemental and intensive services, applicants can also choose to implement core support (often called Tier I) services.
- Applicants may also propose to operate an extended learning (EL) program in addition to required school-day ISS programming. Allowable EL programs include afterschool and summer learning programs.
- **For the 2023-2025 grant cycle, applicants cannot propose to use ELISS funds to only run extended learning programs.**

- In addition to providing services to students during the school day, all proposed ELISS programs must include a family engagement component, as family engagement is a key factor for effectively reducing chronic absences among students.
- For the purposes of the 2023-2025 ELISS Competitive Grant Program, all applicants must propose to host at least two (2) educational workshops for families of participating students over the course of the grant cycle.
- One workshop must focus on deepening participating families' understanding of the connection between consistent school-day attendance and future student success.
- The other workshop(s) must focus on offering families training on age-appropriate home-based strategies for supporting students' social-emotional well-being, and/or providing access to community resources supporting student and family mental health.
- The implementation of all family educational workshops must be concurrent with the proposed ELISS program's implementation timeline.

Priority Consideration

- Priority consideration shall be given to applications demonstrating models that focus services and programs in schools that are identified as State low-performing (that is, at a minimum, 51% of schools served must be low-performing). Refer to the State low-performing schools 2022-23 list.
- NCDPI is also directed to give priority to an applicant that is a nonprofit corporation working in partnership with a local school administrative unit resulting in a match utilizing federal funds under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and other federal funds to supplement the ELISS program.

Additional Priority Points

- A priority point shall be given to applicants proposing to serve students from at least one (1) Alternative Learning Program and/or Schools (ALPS).
- A priority point shall be given to applicants proposing to run an afterschool and/or summer learning program in addition to the required integrated student supports program during Year 2 of the ELISS Competitive Grant Program.

Important Note

- There will not be priority consideration based on the region served by the ELISS program as two (2) ELISS grants will be awarded per each State Board of Education (SBE) region of the state pending submission of quality applications by at least two eligible organizations in the SBE Region and following Level I and Level II reviews.
- After regional awardees are identified, additional organizations may be recommended for the award based on total application score and ranking, without regional consideration.

Competition Timeline

Date	Event
December 8, 2023	Request for Proposals Announcement – Sent via mailing lists.
December 12, 2023	CCIP New user Training Webinar - Training offered ONLY for organizations that have not been trained previously. The link for the training is New CCIP User Training
December 13-14, 2023	Technical Assistance Webinars – Webinars conducted for all potential applicants. December 13, 2023 RFP TA Day 1 Link December 14, 2023 RFP TA Day 2 Link
January 17, 2024	Application Due – Application must be submitted through CCIP, and time stamped by 12:00 Noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST).
January 18, 2024 –January, 2024	Application Reviews – Three-level review process.
March 6-7, 2024	State Board of Education Meeting – Recommendations for SBE review and approval as Action on First Reading.
March 8, 2024	Notifications to Approved/Not Approved Applicants – Applicants notified of approval or non-approval and provided with comments for improvement.

Questions?



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