

21st Century Community Learning Centers Cohort 17 Competitive Grant Program

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Purpose of the 21st CCLC Grant:

Authorized under Title IV, Part B, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. The purpose of the grant is to provide federal funds to establish or expand community learning centers that operate during out-of-school time (OST) hours with three specific purposes:

1. Provide opportunities during non-school hours for academic enrichment, including providing tutorial services to help students (particularly students in high poverty areas and those who attend low-performing schools) meet state and local student performance standards in core academic subjects such as reading and math.
2. Offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students.
3. Offer families of students served by 21st CCLCs opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education, including opportunities for literacy and related educational development.

Eligible Entities

- Local educational agencies;
- Community-based organizations;
- City or County government agencies;
- Faith-based organizations;
- Bureau of Indian Education schools
- Institutions of higher education; and
- For-profit corporations

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 to receive a 2024-2027 NCDPI Cohort 17 21st CCLC Competitive Grant award through this RFP.

To be in Good Standing, all applicants must:

- have resolved all program and/or fiscal monitoring review findings or questioned costs through July 2023;
- have resolved fiscal findings from the previous five (5) fiscal years by the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) at the time the application is due;

and, if applicable, organizations previously and/or currently receiving 21st CCLC funding for Cohort 14, 15, and/or 16 must have scored as 'low' or 'moderate' risk for at least two (2) of the three (3) years of the grant cycle on either the annual programmatic and/or fiscal 21st CCLC risk assessment.

Additionally, any previous or current 21st CCLC subgrantees that have been terminated by NCDPI are considered Not in Good Standing and are not eligible to reapply for two (2) consecutive 21st CCLC standard three (3) year cohort 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 review process, the application may be identified as "Not Recommended" for funding to the SBE.

PreK

PreK students who are at least 4 years old by on or before August 31st and **are enrolled in public PreK programs** (i.e., NC-PreK, Title I PreK, Exceptional Children, and/or Head Start) **administered by LEA/PSUs** are eligible to participate in 2024-2027 NCDPI Cohort 17 21st CCLC Grant Programs.

- Programs proposing to serve PreK students must take place at locations administered by the LEA/PSU acting as the fiscal agent.
- Privately funded childcare and daycare centers receiving Head Start and/or PreK funding are not eligible to apply for 21st CCLC funds at this time.

Required Academic Year Program

All proposed 2024-2027 NCDPI Cohort 17 21st CCLC Grant Programs must offer out-of-school time programming during the academic year for each year of the grant cycle.

Programs must:

- enroll a minimum of (50) students and
- operate for a minimum of (300) student contact hours during out-of-school time prior to the end of the academic year for each year of the grant cycle.
- be fully operational and serving students by October 15th each year during the three (3) year grant cycle.

Awarded programs who do not meet the October 15th deadline may be subject to funding reductions by NCDPI.

Performance Goals and Objectives Alignment Requirement

Beginning with the Cohort 17 Competitive Grant Program, all awarded applicants will be required to design their proposed academic year programs to align with the NCDPI 21st CCLC statewide goals. Additionally, awarded applicants will be required to collect and report outcome data as it relates to the statewide goals.

Performance Goal 1: Projected numbers of students are enrolled.

Performance Goal 2: Enrolled students attend program for 30 days (90 hours) or more.

Performance Goal 3: Programs will offer services in core academic areas, enrichment, and family engagement.

Performance Goal 4: Enrolled students attending the program (30 days [90 hours] or more) will demonstrate educational and social benefits and exhibit positive behavioral changes.

Performance Goal 5: NCDPI strengthens the quality of 21st CCLC programs by providing capacity-building initiatives for subgrantees.

Core Academic Areas

All proposed 21st CCLC centers must offer annual services during the academic year in at least two (2) of the following core academic areas per grade span (i.e., PreK, K-5, 6-8, 9-12):

PreK Centers:

- Early literacy programming aligned with NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development Language Development and Communication subdomains of Foundations of Reading and Foundations of Writing.
- Math programming aligned with NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development Cognitive Development subdomains of Construction of Knowledge: Thinking and Reasoning, and Mathematical Thinking and Expression.
- Science programming aligned with NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development Cognitive Development subdomains of Construction of Knowledge: Thinking and Reasoning and Scientific Exploration and Knowledge

K-12 Centers:

- Literacy programming aligned with feeder district(s)/school(s) annual literacy support plans;
- Math programming aligned with feeder district(s)/school(s) annual math support plans;
- Science programming aligned with NCDPI's 2023 K-12 Science Standards.

Enrichment

All proposed 21st CCLC centers must offer annual enrichment support activities during the academic year in at least two (2) of the following areas per grade span (i.e., PreK, K-5, 6-8, 9-12):

PreK Centers:

- Arts programming (i.e., dance, music, theatre, visual arts) aligned with NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development domains of Approaches to Play and Learning and Cognitive Development (with a focus on the subdomain of Creative Expression)
- Workforce Development programming utilizing age-appropriate implementation methods outlined in Table 1 (Appendix A).
- Physical Education programming aligned with NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development domains Approaches to Play and Learning and Health and Physical Development
- Health Education programming aligned with NC Foundations for Early Learning and Development domains Approaches to Play and Learning and Emotional and Social Development.

K-12 Centers:

- Arts programming (i.e., dance, music, theatre, visual arts) aligned with NCDPI's Arts Standard Course of Study
- Workforce Development programming utilizing age-appropriate implementation methods outlined in Table 1 (Appendix A) and aligned to the NCDPI CTE Essential Standards (Grades 5-12 only).
- Physical Education programming aligned with NCDPI K-12 Physical Education Essential Standards
- Health Education programming aligned with NCDPI K-12 Health Education Essential Standards
- STEM programming aligned with the NCDPI adopted Digital Learning (K-12)

Family Engagement

All proposed subgrantees must offer annual family engagement services during the academic year that meet the following requirements:

- Ensure the 21st CCLC family engagement plan is aligned with feeder district(s)/school(s) family engagement plans
- Host at least three (3) educational workshops annually for families of participating students focused on each of the following topics:

Educational Workshop 1: must focus on deepening participating families' understanding of the connection between consistent school-day attendance and future student success.

Educational Workshop 2: must focus on offering families training on age-appropriate strategies and resources for supporting students' positive academic behaviors and/or social-emotional well-being.

Educational Workshop 3: must focus on offering families' the opportunity to gain skills and knowledge for supporting students' academic needs including literacy and related educational development.

Optional Summer Learning Programs

Applicants can propose to operate a standard summer learning program and/or a summer intensive program.

- Proposed summer learning programs must meet the requirements for one or both of the implementation models.
- If an applicant proposes to run a summer learning program(s), the applicant is required to run the proposed summer programs **each year** of the three (3) year grant cycle.

Standard Summer Program

- Operate for at least five consecutive weeks for at least 4-days per week
- Offer at least 3-hours of core academic learning per day and
- Offer a variety of daily enrichment opportunities as outlined by the NCDPI 21st CCLC 2024-2027 Statewide Performance Goals and more specifically, Objectives 3.1 and 3.2.

Summer Intensive Program

NCDPI defines summer intensive programs as comprehensive, consecutive 2–3-week targeted interventions designed to eliminate skills gaps, accelerate learning, ease the social transition, and/or prepare participating students for success in the upcoming school year.

All proposed summer intensive programs must operate for at least 16 hours per week.

All proposed summer intensive programs must be designed to support students in one or more of the following focus areas:

- Kindergarten transition for rising kindergarteners (PreK students) (see notes section below).
- 5th grade to 6th grade transition for rising 6th grade students.
- 8th to 9th grade transition for rising 9th grade students.
- Intensive tutoring previewing upcoming school year learning standards and/or credit recovery programs.
- Comprehensive mental health supports (e.g., hiring certified, professional mental health staff to support students in developing social and emotional skills).

All proposed summer intensive programs must demonstrate how the program will align to evidence-based, best practices for the allowable focus area(s).

Priority for Awards

Absolute Priority

Under Section 4203 of the ESEA, the State must give priority to applications proposing to primarily serve students who attend schools eligible for Title I, Part A schoolwide programs. Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA) provides financial assistance to LEAs and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

Competitive Priorities

- **Joint Applicants-** submitted jointly between at least one LEA/PSU receiving funds under Title I, Part A and at least one public or private community organization (1 point)
- **CSI/TSI Feeder School Designation-** propose that all (100%) schools to be served are identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Schools (2 points); or Propose to serve a combination of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools (1 point)
- **Chronic Absenteeism-**at least 51% of an applicant's proposed feeder schools must demonstrate greater rates of chronic absenteeism when compared to the State of North Carolina in 2022-2023 school year (1point)

Competitive Priorities Continued

- **County Distress Rankings-** propose to serve a majority (at least 51%) of proposed feeder schools located in a distressed county (2 points for Tier 1, 1 point for Tier 2, 0 points for Tier 3) based on the NC Department of Commerce 2024 County Distress Rankings (Tiers).
- **Unserved Counties-** applicants proposing to run 2024-2027 NCDPI Cohort 17 21st CCLC Program site(s) in a county that has not hosted a 21st CCLC program site in the last 3 grant cycles (Cohort 14, Cohort 15, Cohort 16) (1 point)

Funding Levels

NCDPI utilized resources from the Wallace Foundation and Afterschool Alliance in an effort to align with nationwide average costs for regular attendees in out-of-school-time programs. Optional summer program funding ranges for were determined using funding ranges from recent SBE-approved NCDPI 21st CCLC summer program competitions.

- applicants will determine their required academic year out-of-school-time program funding request and, if applicable, their optional summer program funding request separately
- the total amount requested **cannot exceed \$500,000.**

Required Academic Year Out-of-School Time Program Funding Levels

50 Students:

- Elementary School only, Middle School only, or Elementary School/Middle School combination: \$50,000-\$180,000.99
- Elementary School and/or Middle School, and/or High School: \$50,000-\$225,000.99
- High School Only: \$50,000-\$255,000

51-75 Students:

- Elementary School only, Middle School only or Elementary School/Middle School combination: up to \$221,250.99
- Elementary School and/or Middle School, and/or High School: up to \$266,250.99
- High School Only: up to \$296,250.99

76-100 Students:

- Elementary School only, Middle School only or Elementary School/Middle School combination: up to \$262,500.99
- High School (only or in combination with elementary and/or middle): up to \$307,500.99
- High School Only: up to \$337,500.99

101+ Students:

- Elementary School only, Middle School only or Elementary School/Middle School combination: up to \$303,750
- Elementary School and/or Middle School, and/or High School: up to \$348,750.99
- High School Only: up to \$378,750.99

Optional Summer Learning Program(s) Funding Levels

Standard Summer

- 25-49 students: \$25,000 - \$84,000
- 50-75 students: up to \$125,000
- 76-100 students: up to \$200,000
- 101+ students: up to \$250,000

Summer Intensive Program Funding

- 25-49 students: \$25,000 - \$50,000
- 50-75 students: up to \$75,000
- 76-100 students: up to \$120,000
- 101+ students: up to \$150,000

Quality Review Scores

Applications must fall into quality band one of the following bands to be considered for funding:

- Excellent (123-145)
- Strong (100-122)
- Average (76-99)

Applications that fall into the quality band Weak (55-75) or Unacceptable (54 or below) will not be considered for funding regardless of the SBE Region.

Academic Year Funding Installments

Required academic year program funds will be allotted as follows:

1. Initial installment equal to 34% of total required academic program year award will be issued after NCDPI approval of required documentation and final budget;
2. Second installment equal to 34% of the total required academic program year award if subgrantee has met at least 50% of its enrollment goal as stated in the SBE-approved application. Additionally, students must attend the program for **at least 45 hours** to be counted towards the second installment attendance goal.
3. Final installment equal to 32% of the total required academic program year award if subgrantee has met at least 75% of its enrollment goal as stated in the SBE-approved application. Additionally, students must attend the program for **at least 90 hours** to be counted towards the third installment attendance goal.

Summer Funding Installment

Upon approval of the awarded applicant's budget for each year of the grant award, optional summer program funds will be allotted as follows:

- One installment equal to 100% of total optional summer program award will be issued after NCDPI approval of required summer documentation and final summer budget.

Summer program award installments will not be issued prior to April 1st each year.

Funding Reductions

- Each year, if awarded subgrantees do not meet requirements for the second and/or third installment of the required academic program year award, the awarded subgrantee will be required to forfeit second and/or third installment or right size their program for the remainder of the grant year. In addition, the program will be required to right size their program for the remainder of the three (3) year grant cycle.
- If awarded subgrantees do not meet proposed enrollment goals for the optional summer program, the awarded subgrantee will be required to reduce summer program funds for the remainder of the three (3) year grant cycle.

Any funds recovered from reductions or forfeitures will be redistributed to those subgrantees that have successfully met the third (3) installment requirements.

Awarded Cohort 17 Grant Recipient Onboarding Requirements

Date	Required In-Person Event	Required Attendees
Tuesday, August 6, 2024	Cohort 17 On-Boarding	Program Director <u>and</u> Chief Fiscal Agent
Wednesday, August 7 – Thursday, August 8, 2024	21 st CCLC Program Foundations Conference	

Awarded organizations who do not attend the in-person onboarding training may be required to forfeit their entire 3-year Cohort 17 21st CCLC grant award.

Annual Continuation Application Requirements

The noncompetitive continuation grant process requires awarded subgrantees to conduct an annual needs assessment and use the results of the assessment, as well as NCDPI monitoring and evaluation reports (if available) and other relevant data (e.g., 21DC, End of Year Outcomes Report, etc.) to propose specific improvement strategies designed to sustain and/or increase student outcomes as outlined in the statewide performance goals.

Competition Timeline

TENTATIVE TIMELINE - (NOTE: Dates are subject to change.)

February 2, 2024	Cohort 17 Notice of Intent posted. Click here to complete.
March 1, 2024	Cohort 17 Notice of Intent Form closes and responses submitted to the NCDPI via Qualtrics link
February 28-29, 2024	<p><u>Technical Assistance (TA) Webinars</u> – February 28th – (10am-12 noon) RFP Cohort 17 Day 1 TA Webinar Link February 29th - Virtual TA Webinar (10am-12 noon) RFP Cohort 17 Day 2 TA Webinar Link</p>
Online for access at any time	<p><u>CCIP Virtual New Users Training</u> Password for Training kSZGyiv4 CCIP New Users Training Link</p>
April 23, 2024	<u>Applications Due</u> – Application submitted through CCIP and time stamped by 12:00 p.m. NOON Eastern Daylight Time. Applications must at least be at 'Draft Completed' to be considered for review and/or evaluation.
April-June	Level I, II, and III Reviews
July 11, 2024	<u>SBE Meeting</u> – Anticipated meeting for new grant recommendations for SBE review and approval as Action on First Reading.
July 15, 2024	<u>Notifications to Approved/Not Approved Applicants</u> – Applicants notified of approval or non-approval.
August 6, 2024	In person Onboarding at Foundations Conference Location 9am-4pm
August 13, 2024	CCIP opens for Related Documents and 208 Form Uploads at 8 a.m.
September 13, 2024	CCIP Related Documents and 208 Form Uploads due to be considered on time for NCDPI Programmatic Risk Assessment

Questions?



North Carolina Department of

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