

## Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers

### A. Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers

1. Use of Funds (ESEA section 4203(a)(2)): Describe how the SEA will use funds received under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program, including funds reserved for State-level activities.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will use at least 93 percent of funds allocated for Title IV, Part B of ESSA to award competitive grants to establish or expand 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21CCLC) across the state. The program provides participants with additional learning time by extending the school day or offering out-of-school time programs. Funded 21CCLC programs will support the whole child and help students meet challenging state academic standards; offer students a broad array of enrichment activities that reinforce and complement their regular academic programs; and offer families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education.

Two percent of the funds will be used for state administration. This includes using funds to pay for administration and peer reviewers of the subgrant applications. These activities will be completed in consultation with the governor's office and other state agencies responsible for administering youth development programs and adult learning activities. These agencies include, but are not limited to, the Minnesota Departments of Employment and Economic Development, Health, Human Services, Public Safety and the Office of Higher Education.

Five percent of the funds will be used for state activities. The funds will be used to pay for the following as outlined in ESSA, Title IV, Part B, Section 4202 (c)(3):

- Monitoring and evaluating programs and activities.
- Providing capacity building, training, and technical assistance.
- Conducting a comprehensive evaluation (directly, or through a grant or contract) of the effectiveness of programs and activities assisted.
- Providing training and technical assistance to eligible entities that are applicants for or recipients of awards.
- Ensuring that any eligible entity that receives an award under this part from the state aligns the activities provided by the program with the challenging state academic standards.
- Ensuring that any such eligible entity identifies and partners with external organizations, if available, in the community.
- Working with teachers, principals, parents, the local workforce, the local community, and other stakeholders to review and improve state policies and practices to support the implementation of effective programs.

- Coordinating funds received with other federal and state funds to implement high-quality programs.
- Providing a list of prescreened external organizations, as described under section 4203(a)(11).

2. Awarding Subgrants (ESEA section 4203(a)(4)): Describe the procedures and criteria the SEA will use for reviewing applications and awarding 21st Century Community Learning Centers funds to eligible entities on a competitive basis, which shall include procedures and criteria that take into consideration the likelihood that a proposed community learning center will help participating students meet the challenging State academic standards and any local academic standards.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grants are awarded through a competitive application and rigorous peer review process that reflects the requirements of the authorizing statute. Eligible applicants include city or county governments, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, institutions of higher education, local educational agencies (LEAs) (districts, charters, intermediate districts, education cooperatives), nonprofit agencies and for-profit corporations, tribal agencies, and other public or private entities.

Priority for funding is given to applicants meeting the following criteria:

- Propose to primarily serve students attending schools that are eligible for Title I school-wide funding; are implementing comprehensive support and improvement activities or targeted support and improvement activities (as determined by MDE's accountability system); enroll students at risk for academic failure dropping out of school, involvement in criminal or delinquent activities, or who lack strong positive role models; and provide services to their families.
- Is submitted jointly by an LEA receiving Title I funds and another eligible entity.
- Demonstrate that the activities proposed in the application are, as of the date of the submission of the application, not accessible to students who would be served OR would expand accessibility to high-quality services that may be available in the community.

Additional competitive priorities are determined at the time of competitions to ensure alignment with state-level priorities and initiatives, as well as the advancement of student achievement in meeting state academic standards.

MDE recruits and trains a peer review team to recommend applications for funding. MDE staff review applications to ensure compliance with all grant requirements, including eligibility criteria. Grants are awarded for an initial three-year period. Continuation awards of up to two additional years may be offered to grantees in the final year of the initial award period. The continuation award is contingent upon progress made during the initial grant period, continued funding and priorities of the department, and it may be renewed for one additional two-year grant period.

MDE has established strategic partnerships with professional development and technical assistance providers as well as Minnesota's statewide afterschool alliance to provide capacity building, training, and technical assistance to grantees as well as those eligible to apply for a grant.