

Fact Sheet
TEA 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Cycle 11
HCDE Information Session

DEADLINE: January 7, 2021

PURPOSE: To support the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools.

Programs help students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offer students a broad array of enrichment activities that complement regular academic programs; and offer literacy and other educational services to families of participating children.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: LEAs, community-based organizations; Indian/tribal organizations; other public or private entities; a consortium of two more eligible organizations.

ELIGIBLE CAMPUSES: Campuses eligible for schoolwide programs under Title 1, Part A, Section 1114

- Ineligible campuses – newly opened schools in 2020-2021; active centers or feeder campuses in Cycle 10

FUNDING: Total federal funding available - \$46,049,221

AWARDS: Approximately 40 grants awarded, ranging from \$50,000-\$1.7 million each year of 5-year project period. Applicants must submit an overall budget appropriate for the number of students and centers served. Applicants may propose to operate up to 10 centers.

Grantees are required to provide the same level of comprehensive services approved in the original application throughout all continuation award periods. TEA reserves the right to reduce funding when service targets are unreasonably low, cost per student is unreasonably high, projections in grant application are not achieved and other circumstances.

REQUIRED STAFFING: 1) Full-time project director; 2) full-time site coordinator per center; 3) family engagement specialist. Lead teachers or administrators in other capacities during the school day cannot satisfy the requirements of these full-time positions.

OPERATION CALENDAR: Each center schedule must meet these minimum requirements:

- 34 weeks per year across all terms, including summer
- 5 days per week for fall and spring terms
- 15 hours per week (but no more than 20 hours/week)
- Summer - 5 weeks, six hours/day, four days/week
- At least 45 consecutive minutes of activities; plan activities each hour center operates
- Adult to student ratio 1:15

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- K-8 grades – 45+days at 120 minutes per day during fall and spring, or 240 minutes during summer; and 12+ days at 240 minutes per day in summer
- 9-12 grades – 45+days or more during entire school year (fall, spring and summer); days with 90 minutes or more are counted

LIMITS ON CONTRACTED SERVICES: Applicants are not allowed to divest more than 20% of the total grant award to any single entity, and must maintain direct control of 51% of the total grant award during the entire grant cycle

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: Focus on growth/improvement in reading, math, GPA, school day attendance rate, in-school suspensions, engagement in learning

STANDARD REVIEW CRITERIA

Total possible points = 60

1. Identify/Address Needs (10 pts) – quantifiable needs have been identified and strategies to address those needs have been clearly described.
2. Measurable Goals and Progress (10 pts) – benchmarks and the summative Specific Measurable Achievable Relevant Timely (SMART) goal are clearly described and related to either student outcomes or are consistent with the purpose of the grant program.
3. Project Evaluation and Modification (5 pts) – applicant clearly describes how project evaluation data will be used to determine when and how to modify the project plan, including if quarterly progress or summative SMART goals do not show progress.
4. Statutory/Program Requirements (25 pts) – strategies and activities are of sufficient quality and depth to ensure accomplishment of the goals and objectives of the grant program outlined in the Program Guidelines.
5. Budget (10 pts) – costs reflected in the budget are appropriate for the results expected; the budget, including personnel, materials, and other identified expenses, supports the activities outlined in the grant application.

SPECIFIC REVIEW CRITERIA

Total possible points = 54

1. Program Alignment and Student Engagement (12 pts) – how program helps students meet state and local standards in core academic subjects; activities are of high quality and clearly aligned with school day curricula
2. Needs Assessment and Strategies (12 pts) – needs assessment process uses multiple sources of program, campus-level and stakeholder feedback; identifies student population most in need at each campus proposed and addresses needs of working families; appropriately addresses needs of target population
3. Statutory Requirements (10 pts) – plan for partnership (if proposed); transportation plan; information dissemination about program; plan to coordinate with federal, state and local programs; volunteers (if proposed)

4. Budget (8 pts) – costs reflected in budget are appropriate for results expected; overall budget is reasonable and necessary to accomplish program objectives; clearly aligns to program design and requirements; required positions are budgeted
5. Measurable Goals and Progress (6 pts) – clear and compelling description of how program is designed to impact measures of effectiveness; proposed strategies and activities are reasonably expected to increase student academic outcomes; benchmarks and summative SMART goals are clearly described and related to proposed program
6. Quality of Program Plan (6 pts) – program design reflects current research or evidenced-based practices and presents plan for sustaining program; cites relevant research; program design consists of high-quality center-level needs assessment, student recruitment plans, family engagement strategies, activities and operations plan overall; reasonable and clear plan for how center will continue after grant funding ends, including how this grant will help local sustainability efforts

PRIORITY POINTS

Total possible points = 9

Applicants that receive 70% of points available through the standard and specific review criteria can earn priority points:

- Statutory Priority 1 – Targeted Services (3 pts) – applicants that propose 65% or more of students served will attend schools that meet both: a) identified as a comprehensive or targeted support and improvement campus for 2020-2021; and b) has at-risk population greater than the state average as listed in the most recent TAPR
- Statutory Priority 2 – Joint Partnerships (3 pts) - priority points awarded to proposals submitted jointly by eligible entities not consisting less than one LEA receiving Title 1 Part A funds and another eligible entity; and demonstrating that proposed activities are, as of the date of submission, not accessible to students who would be served or expand accessibility to high-quality services available in the community (signed partnership agreement or contingent agreement required)
- Program Priority 1 – 21st CCLC Program Integration (3 pts) – priority points awarded to proposals that clearly describe the integration of the program with other TEA or local initiatives designed to increase academic student outcomes; must align with needs assessment results and present realistic short- and long-term goals for student achievement

IMPORTANT DATES

November 4 – pre-recorded applicant’s conference posted on TEA Grant Opportunities page

November 20 – FAQs posted on TEA Grant Opportunities page

January 7, 2021 – application deadline; email to competitivegrants@tea.texas.gov.

July 1 – grant start date; services begin no later than September 7, 2021