
Issue Date: September 18, 2024

2024 AOE Afterschool and Summer Program Grant Opportunities Overview

The Vermont Agency of Education will be releasing three complementary afterschool and summer program grant competitions across two state and federal funding sources totaling an estimated 7 million dollars available, which will be released at varying times in the Fall of 2024. The State Afterschool Grant (Act 78) competitions have been designed in alignment with the long standing Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program. These state and federal investments are designed in the aggregate to provide multi-year grant options with flexibility in terms of size, scope, and effort required. These grants are aimed at supporting and expanding the ability of schools, community organizations, and private partners to provide high-quality afterschool and summer programming to Vermont's youth.

There are valuable opportunities to align these opportunities with education initiatives in Vermont including those that encourage partnerships between schools and community-based partners and organizations such as Act 67, Vermont's Community School legislation. Strong afterschool and summer programming is consistent with the policy strategy to create effective expanded and enriched learning opportunities that provide more time for learning. Afterschool and summer work may also be a first and/or aligned step in developing full-service Community Schools.

Considering which funding pathway is best matched to local context and capacity is an important decision point for interested applicants considering building or expanding afterschool and summer programs. Please refer to the table below for a high-level summary breakdown of the options. For ongoing and more specific information, visit the [Afterschool and Summer Programs](#) webpage and check the AOE's Weekly Field Memos regularly where grant announcements are released.



Comparative Summary of AOE Competitive Grants Available to Support Afterschool and Summer Programs in 2024

	Act 78 Program Grant Option	Act 78 Center Grant Option	21st Century Community Learning Centers
Readiness/ Capacity Level and Design Approach	For immediate implementation of new or expanded programs	For building capacity and readiness to start <i>one</i> comprehensive center within one year	For higher levels of capacity and readiness to start and sustain a comprehensive center or centers
Size and Scope	Supports evidence-based expansions and smaller pilot programs	Supports single-site, multi-program centers in the start-up phase	Supports evidence-based full comprehensive centers from inception
Eligibility	Public, private, and non-profit organizations	Public, private, and non-profit organizations	Public, private, and non-profit partners; only Title I/Schoolwide Plan eligible communities may apply
Priorities	Expansion of programming in underserved areas; expansion of programming to students from historically marginalized groups; (HMGs) to develop, expand, or improve existing programs	Expansion of programming in underserved areas; expansion of programming to HMGs; to develop a single-site comprehensive center or transition from single-site or single-program to comprehensive center	Supporting programming in high need communities and secondary programs; focus on initiation expansion, and support for high quality comprehensive programming including multi-site projects
Partnerships between School/ Community/ Partners	Recommended	Required	Required including an MOU

	Act 78 Program Grant Option	Act 78 Center Grant Option	21st Century Community Learning Centers
Leadership Requirements	Identified on-site leader demonstrated; leader can fulfil multiple roles	Director-level position required, 30+ hours/week on average; Responsibilities may be split between two people	Director-level position required, 30+ hours/week on average and Site-Based Coordinators
Duration requirements	Flexible; variable duration	100 days in year one with substantial growth annually	150-200+ days including a minimum of 5 weeks summer by year 2
Request For Proposals Release	Mid-October	Mid-October	September 18, 2024
Due Date	Early December	January	January 24, 2025
Planning and Application completion time (range in hours and RFA open period)	Up to 10 hours 1-2 months	Up to 20 hours 1-2 months	50+ hours 4 months
Letter of Intent	No	No	Yes - required to apply
Grant Period	3.5 years with annual performance reviews	3 years with annual performance reviews	5 years with annual performance reviews
Annual Grant Amounts	\$15,000- \$60,000 (annual)	\$50,000-\$150,000 (annual)	\$50,000-\$600,000+ (annual)
Technical Assistance and Support	Focus on annual applications and improvements	Additional targeted supports for this pathway; coordination with 21CCLC initiative in development	Structured application process with ongoing feedback. Regular professional development, leadership meetings, technical assistance, monitoring, assessment and evaluation and data support for grantees

	Act 78 Program Grant Option	Act 78 Center Grant Option	21st Century Community Learning Centers
Monitoring and Reporting	Yearly cycle of data collection and site visits	Yearly cycle of data collection and site visits	Yearly cycle of Federal and State data collection and peer review site visits
Sustainability	Transition to local budget, comprehensive afterschool center, 21CCLC, or other funding encouraged	Transition to Local, or 21C standard funding option may be available after year 3 if Title 1/SWP eligibility is met	Built-in processes – 5-year grants with sustainability structure built in; Transition to multiple sources