



219 North Main Street, Suite 402
Barre, VT 05641 (p) 802-479-1030 | (f) 802-479-1835

21st Century Community Learning Centers 2017 Competition Questions and Answers

Last update: 11/28/2017

What is the current funding picture for the 21st CCLC Initiative? (9/15/17)

The Trump Administration proposed eliminating the 21st CCLC program beginning in Federal Fiscal Year 2018, which for federal education dollars is the period October 1, 2018, through September 30, 2019. On September 7, 2017, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed a bill reinstating the program at the 1.2 billion dollar level. On September 13, 2017, the full House passed an amendment that would fund the program at 1.1 billion. The current allocation is approximately 1.2 billion. There are more steps to play out in the legislative process.

Which people would be part of an applicant team? (9/15/17)

Typically, the applicant team is flexibly designed to include input from a broad group of local stakeholders. These may include superintendents, executive directors, principals, other supervisory union or district level staff, partners, project directors, and other community leaders. The roles that team members play vary from application to application. There is more information on this topic in the application on page 35.

What are the current 21st CCLC sites? (10/30/17)

The list of [current centers](#) is posted on the AOE 21st CCLC website.

Can a 501c3 in partnership with a Supervisory Union apply for 21st CCLC funding in Vermont? (10/30/17)

Yes.

Is the “pre-screening process” necessary to be a partner? (10/30/17)

No. The pre-screening process is only for non-profit organizations as applicants/fiscal agent.

Can the applicant be the 501c3, partnering with schools in our SU, and name the Supervisory Union as our fiscal agent? (10/30/17)

The applicant and the fiscal agent must be the same entity.

When was the entity limit added to the 21C Application? (10/30/17)

The limit was formally added in this year’s competition in line with the expectations around the Every Student Succeeds Act. The rationale is that managing more than two 21c investments at one time is not in the best interests of youth and works against long-term sustainability. Further, it is our goal that students and SU/SDs have equitable access and opportunity throughout the state to access funds. By adding language in this year’s application the de facto policy and best practice has been codified.

Is the executive summary (referenced on page 10 of the application), the paragraph we need to submit in the letter of intent? (10/30/17)

The executive summary and the “brief description” in the letter of intent serve different purposes and therefore need not be the same. For the brief description, include a strategic overview of programming and any available details on major site based differences such as approach, expansion or costs.

With the expectations of partnerships in the various regard to Appendix I on page 30 of the application, for 2015-2016 it says no input is needed for certain boxes. Does that mean we are not putting any number in those boxes? (10/30/17)

Yes

Please explain the expectations of partnerships in the various areas of the application and the relationship to advisory board members including signatures. (10/30/17)

Narrative question 7: Include any partnership regardless of level or type. These may or may not include partners who are on your advisory board.

Appendix C: Include key partners who carry out activities related to the assurances. These may or may not include partners who are on your advisory board.

Memorandum of Understanding: Include any partner including those for whom you would like to formalize a partnership. The MOU could also include any type of partnership as desired as language to the template can be adapted to the project’s needs. These may or may not include partners who are on your advisory board. Be mindful to make sure there is not a conflict or perceived conflict of interest with funding and advisory board responsibilities. The MOU must have non-school partners. In addition, a school district or Supervisory Union and their representative(s) are a signing partner(s) as the law requires participation of the public education system.

I have heard that there are more applicants for this round of funding than other cycles. Is this true? (10/30/17)

Most likely. Actual numerical data will be shared after November 20, 2017 once the letters of intent are received.

What is the percentage of single site projects that are currently funded? (10/30/17)

35%

How is the community area defined? (10/30/17)

The community area(s) determination uses school based data sets based on “sending” towns’ data or federal determinations to area school or schools.

What if the eligibility criteria changes over the five year grant award period? (10/30/17)

Grants are awarded for five years and are continued year to year based on successful progress towards meeting objectives and on availability of federal funds. In other words, eligibility is determined once for five years as part of the application process.

Does the eligibility criteria include ESSA criteria of low performing schools? (10/30/17)

From the application page 6: *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA): Under Vermont's ESSA state plan, "ESSA requires Vermont to identify schools with 'consistently underperforming' groups of students §200.19(b) (1) and (c) §200.19(b) (2). Vermont will make its first identification for these supports in the fall of 2018 based on student performance on indicators collected during the 2017-18 school year.

Under authorized activities, "regular structured physical activity" was highlighted. Does this mean that free outdoor time would be allowable? (10/30/17)

Yes, free outdoor time would be allowable, but the program must in addition provide regular structured physical activity.

In general, how should programs link, or integrate with the school day? (10/30/17)

Programs should complement, but not duplicate school day services.

We are considering different strategic approaches to the competition. Is there any guidance on how to make decisions and choose the best approach? (10/30/17)

In a group, consider reviewing the different options, listing strengths, risks, and other considerations such as need for each option. Then, compare and contrast the options to pull out relevant information from all that might inform what to do and how to do it.

Does the supplement not supplant provision apply to the 21st CCLC program? (10/30/17)

Yes

Are fees part of a lot, some, or few of the programs in VT? (10/30/17)

For elementary programs, fees are often but not always used. In grade 7-12 programming, fees are rarely used. There is great variety in the rates, scales and fee/donation approach. There are also hybrid models where academic offerings are free and other programs include a fee or donation. In all programs, no one may be turned away for inability to pay. More specific data sets can be requested of AOE if desired.

Is it possible to only apply for a 21c grant that would cover summer programming only? (11/28/17)

No, the program would need to support a "full comprehensive center," which includes time outside of summer. See application: page 5, 6, and 34.

Can I add a column to the budget template that includes narrative detail? (11/28/17)

You have discretion to place the budget narrative within the budget template or elsewhere.

Can we use a survey given by the district last year as part of our local data? (11/28/17)

Absolutely. Be sure to include data that addresses student performance as well. See page three and twenty-four in the application.

What data can be shared about the applicant pool from the letters of intent? (11/28/17)

Estimated requested amount: 4.1 million

Total letters of intent submitted: 19

Returning applicants: 13

Number of schools/centers to be supported: 64

Number of new sites requested: 20

Number of applicants with new sites requested: 58%

How many projects are finishing a five year cycle in 2017-18? (11/28/17)

Fourteen