

Issue Date: August 30, 2024

Overview

- Research such as Wallace supports “center development” (duration/intentionality/high quality staffing/many programs/”a small school”) The grant applications were designed/built on as “mini” or farm team models of 21C in intent and application design (focused to smaller scale)
- Need and support tracking to highest poverty. Comprehensive and equity schools; should follow 21C standard practice since 2004.
- Integrated grant design and braiding funds: 21C centers have grown to SU-level supports in many cases, ARP-ESSER state grants followed by Act 78 brought in 2 aligned “lower tiers” and amounts available:
 - Program grants for innovative/ expansion and/or small-scale start-ups, and
 - Center grant pathway funds one comprehensive center to spur, sustain, or focus investments and provide a three-year platform for later system growth.

Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1:** Application design features:
 - Break out program and center application timelines rolling in concert with 21C across the year. Benefit: more focus on center TA and program grants can start spending earlier. Ideal communication: 9/15 macro overview and deadlines released in WFM for all three programs concurrent with 21C RFP release.
 - Keep existing priorities and tracking as absolute priorities as in year one
 - Apply additional Competitive priority structure and associated application enhancements focused on highest need and highest quality programming
 - **Centers: extra (e.g. 3-5) points for highest poverty schools/communities** comprehensive and/or equity communities schools not funded by 21C (e.g. 55%+ equity/comprehensive; actual number under analysis –would be top quartile of need) EB has a draft map in development
 - **Programs: extra (e.g. 3-5) points for skill-based programming** with sustained adequate dosage (diverse approaches allowed could include youth leadership, tutoring, STEM and theater/artistic programs for at least 30 hrs./days: 21C uses the following, as outlined in the 21CCLC Statewide Evaluation Plan (2023):

2.2b Each 21C funded site serving grades (4-12) will offer at least 1 program offering 10(3 for sites in schools with more than 100 youth) that meets for at least 30 hours and systematically builds lasting physical artistic, academic, or other skill sets.



- Update scoring, questions, highlight exemplars/best practice and TA to these needs and goals
- **Recommendation 2:** Weight initial budget allocations towards center investment. Current proposal weights centers vs programs at 2:1 to support research and sustainability.
- **Recommendation 3:** Include annual option to use some Act 78 funds in 21C competitions if federal funds cannot fund all successful proposals [cohorts have had up to 500k (2.5 mil total) in a competition with this need] *White River Valley current example*. **Why:** Including 21C in the investment strategy supports systemic development and sustainability of the last 20 years of successful investing. Legislation is aligned in intent [except with 21C schools MUST be a partner]. This would be a leveraged diverse equitable aligned strategy to use over time which can build and sustain a state system over time.
- **Recommendation 4:** Enhance and incentivize a stronger partnership model: more points for school/community partnerships, and other methods TBD. Require some form of partnership (no more solo apps for operations only) for center applications.

Proposed Design

Type	Grants Applied Amount	Annual Amount	Annual Award #	Duration in years	Notes
Smaller Program Grants-ACT 78	2.2mil	~733K-	~10	3	Up to ~65k each 500k in FY25-same amount as a baseline
Bigger Single Center Grants-Act 78	2.3	~766k	~5	3	Up to ~150k , 750k annually in FY25 awarded
Biggest System Level Grants-Act 78 +21C	2.0 mil	~400k <u>option</u>	~3	5	50k- 600k range(these are 5 years declining) 3mil annually in FY25 from ~650k federal available in FY26 I
Totals	6.5 mil	2.5 mil			+800k for years 4/5 to make 2.5mil annual amount

Proposed Timeline

	21C	78-Programs	78-Centers	Notes
GMS+RFP Development +Guide work	Aug	Aug-SEP	Aug-Sept	Only tweaks needed for 78 programs
Draft RFP+ Guide complete	August 15	Sept 15	Sept 15	
Final RFP Feedback	Aug 15-30	Sept 15-Oct 1	Sept 15-Oct 1	
RFP release	Sept 11	Oct 15	Oct 15	Alignment makes sense....
Training	10/16-#1 11/22-#2	Between 21C trainings	Concurrent-near with 21C training #2	Need dates
TA-Support	Oct-Dec	Oct-Dec	Oct-Dec	Aligned
App Deadline	Jan 24 (third)	Dec 4 (first)	Jan 15 (second) Same as 21C?	Challenge of readers Contracts needed
Review Period	Feb-March	Dec-Jan	Feb-March	Pinch point!
Announcement	April 1	Jan 15	April 1	Allows for intersection with 21C
Awards Start	July 1, 2025	Feb 1	July 1	
TA	ongoing			Start UP Academy after 4/1 or in summer??
Annual Reporting	End of year	Sept 27/June 27	Oct 1/end of year	