2027-2030 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Cohort 19 Competitive Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

NOTE: This document may be updated periodically as additional questions are posed to program staff.

***Revised 10/30/2026*

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Where are the recordings and training materials from the RFP webinars located?

- The webinar recordings, presentation slides, and all other resources for Cohort 19 are located in the 21st CCLC webpage. Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers | NC DPI

When will office hours be provided?

- Office hours took place on October 28, 2026, from 10:00 am -12:00 noon.

**NEW How can I find the application once I have logged into CCIP?

- Applicants must navigate to the "funding applications" tab in CCIP, and select "2028" as the application year to access the appropriate application.
  - **FP-21st CCLC New**- For applicants offering Academic Year programming with the option to also offer summer programming
  - **FP- 21st CCLC Summer Only New**- For applicants proposing summer programming only
- *Applicants needing help accessing CCIP may refer to the CCIP section of this FAQ document.*

Can organizations submit an application in CCIP for both "Cohort 19 New" and "Cohort 19 Summer Only New?"

- No. Organizations can only submit one application in CCIP.

Can I exceed the character count limits for any narratives if needed?

- No. Applicants cannot exceed the character count limits outlined in each application question. CCIP will not allow applicants to enter any additional

information beyond the character limits. Character count limits are inclusive of spaces, hidden characters, charts, and images.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to review and ensure that their narrative responses do not exceed the character count limits.

** NEW May tables, charts, or other visual elements be included in narrative responses?

- Yes. Applicants may include charts, tables, or other visual elements. However, all content, including visuals and any text contained within them will count towards the applicable character limit.
- Please note that reviewers will only evaluate the information provided directly within the narrative response fields in CCIP. Information provided through hyperlinks, external websites, or other linked resources will not be reviewed or considered as part of the application.

Who do potential applicants contact with additional questions?

- Please direct your questions to the Office of Federal Program RFP Committee Wendy.Buck@dpi.nc.gov, Areli.Perez@dpi.nc.gov, or Monica.Pask@dpi.nc.gov

How do I best stand out in this competition?

- One of the best ways to stand out is to submit an application that is both high quality and technically sound. Use the reviewer rubric as a roadmap for developing your application. For each rubric criterion, make sure you have answered the question completely and provided the specific evidence or documentation needed to support your response.
- At the same time, protect the quality of your application by paying close attention to the technical requirements. Before submission, conduct a separate compliance review using the RFP requirements and technical-deduction criteria. Check required forms and attachments, page or formatting requirements where applicable, signatures, budget information, and any other submission requirements identified in the RFP.

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CCIP

What is the process for obtaining access to CCIP?

- Applicants who don't already have access to CCIP must complete a CCIP Access Request Form after securing an NCID.
- To find the CCIP Access Request Form, navigate to CCIP's "NCDPI Resources" tab, click 21st CCLC General Information (Templates, Resources), and download the file labeled "Non-LEA21 CCLC CCIP Access Request Form rev 9.12.25"
- Send completed CCIP Access Request Forms to Talbot.Troy@dpi.nc.gov. If adding multiple users, only one form is to be completed per organization.

If my organization already has an account in CCIP, how can I determine what roles are currently assigned for my organization?

- Navigate to the CCIP home page and click on the "Address Book" tab on the left. All roles assigned will be viewable.

How long does it typically take for a new CCIP access request to be processed and approved?

- Typically, within 24-48 hours of receipt.

When will the application be available in CCIP?

- The Cohort 19 21st CCLC grant application opened in CCIP on Friday, October 9, 2026.
- The application will close in CCIP on the grant due date: November 18, 2026, at 12 pm NOON.

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ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY

*NEW Can a private school apply to be a 21st CCLC grant recipient?

- Yes, however the school would still be responsible for meeting all grant requirements including but not limited to at least 51% of the schools proposed to be served under the grant must be eligible Title I Schoolwide schools. Therefore, the applicant would propose to serve public schools with this designation and cannot serve only their private school students.

*NEW The school district we intend to serve recently announced that they will no longer be in charge of NC PreK Programs and will shift responsibility to Smart Start. Is there a way to get around the RFP requirements for working with the LEA to serve PreK students?

- No. RFP pg. 21 states that PreK students served must be enrolled in a public PreK program administered by the LEA/PSU.

Can a public housing authority apply and serve as fiscal agent for a 21st CCLC grant?

- Yes. A public housing authority is eligible to apply as it falls under "other public or private entities" category.

Since subgranting is not allowed, can an applying organization contract with a local nonprofit to deliver services such as case management, family engagement, and mental health supports?

- An awarded organization could potentially engage a local nonprofit as a contracted service provider to deliver case management, family engagement, and mental health supports, provided the relationship is structured as a procurement of specific services rather than the transfer of responsibility for implementing a portion of the 21st CCLC grant program.
- The awarded organization would retain responsibility for fiscal management, program oversight, compliance, and ensuring that all expenditures are allowable and properly documented. The procurement would also need to comply with

applicable federal and state requirements, including competition, contractor responsibility, and conflict-of-interest standards.
- A nonprofit serving as a contractor would not automatically be subject to the same SAM.gov registration and federal audit requirements that apply to a subrecipient. However, applicable exclusion checks, contract-specific requirements, and other relevant requirements would still need to be addressed.

For applicants proposing to serve multiple schools, must at least 51% of the schools served be eligible Title I Schoolwide schools, and is this requirement determined across all schools proposed to be served under the grant or separately for the academic year and summer program components?

- To be eligible, at least 51% of the schools proposed to be served under the grant must be eligible Title I Schoolwide schools. Additionally, organizations must meet the 51% eligibility criteria for both the academic year and summer program independently.

Can a school district submit multiple Cohort 19 applications if different departments are interested in applying?

- No. A school district serving as the fiscal agent may submit only one Cohort 19 application. RFP. Pg. 18.
- While multiple departments within a district may be interested in the funding opportunity, the district must coordinate internally and submit a single application. A single application may include services designed to address the needs of multiple student populations (e.g., EL, Migrant Education, McKinney-Vento, academic recovery, college and career readiness).
- Remember, 21st CCLC funds must be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, local, or non-public funds that would otherwise be used to provide allowable programs and activities.
- If applying for summer, organizations can propose to offer multiple summer program models under one grant. RFP pg. 7.

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Can the 21st CCLC grant funds be applied to other federal programs?

- No. 21st CCLC grant funds must be used solely for activities and services consistent with the approved 21st CCLC application and allowable under the 21st CCLC program.
- 21st CCLC funds must be used to supplement, and not supplant, other Federal, State, local, or non-public funds that would otherwise be used to provide allowable programs and activities. RFP pg. 7.
- Applicants may coordinate and collaborate with other federal, state, and local funded initiatives to supplement programming.

Can nonprofits apply as the grant administrator for a school/LEA?

- This is determined by organizations entering into a joint application. See RFP pg. 22 for requirements to submit as Joint Applicants.

Can someone be a Fiscal Agent for two (2) organizations applying for a 21st Century Grant in Cohort 19?

- No. RFP page 18 states: "An organization or individual serving as a Fiscal Agent is limited to submitting one application per 21st CCLC grant competition."

We currently have a grant in Cohort 18. Can we apply for this cohort?

- Yes. RFP page 19 states:

  To be considered for a Cohort 19 grant award, current grant recipients must propose to implement programming that:

  - serves different grade levels, and/or
  - serves different feeder schools, and/or
  - was not included in the Cohort 18 grant (e.g., standard summer program, summer intensive program).

If an organization has a Cohort 18 award, can it apply for the Cohort 19 grant for the same program type to continue the current program? If so, can you share any

considerations the organization should know about attendance requirements and operating both cohorts simultaneously?

- An organization can only apply for the same program type if they are expanding services to a new group of students. Funding the same group of students with two grants is not allowed.
- If awarded, organizations must be able to meet all required attendance requirements for each of the cohorts.

As a current subgrantee, we received a "Non-Compliance" letter regarding attendance during the 25-26 school year. During a subsequent Technical Assistance visit, we explained that extenuating circumstances impacted our attendance as well as school day attendance. Where is the best place in the application for us to discuss the attendance numbers from last year and contributing factors?

COMPETITIVE PRIORITIES

**NEW Where can applicants find the information/links to determine eligibility for priority points?

- Information used to determine eligibility for priority points can be found in the links provided within the RFP and the Proposed Feeder School Poverty & Performance Status document.
- Applicants should ONLY rely on the information and links contained in these two documents, as they reflect the data that was reviewed and approved by the State Board of Education for this grant competition.

**NEW How do applicants determine the Short-Term Out-of-School Suspensions rate for a proposed feeder school?
As indicated in the RFP,

> "To qualify for the Short-Term Out-of-School Suspensions or In-School Suspensions
> priority point, a majority (at least 51%) of an applicant's proposed feeder schools must demonstrate greater rates of short-term out-of-school

suspension rates or in-school suspension rates when compared to the State of North Carolina."

Step 1:
It is suggested to first check to see if your proposed feeder school has a short-term suspensions rate that is higher than the state average.
Note: The RFP narrative asks applicants to use the following data source:
Table S-C1: Short Term Suspension Stats for Schools 2025 to complete column P

--Record each of your proposed feeder school's short-term suspensions rates in
Column P of the FY28 21stCCLC Proposed Feeder Schools Status worksheet.
--Note: Please disregard the threshold currently listed on the feeder school worksheet. **For purposes of this priority point, the applicable threshold is greater than the state average, or greater than 145.11 short-term suspensions per 1,000 students.**

Step 2:
While short-term suspension is the preferred data, subgrantees may still be eligible for a priority point if a majority of proposed schools have in-school suspension rates higher than the state average. The in-school suspensions data are available via the NC School Report Cards at the following link: https://ncfvapublicprod.ondemand.sas.com/src/
The report card source indicates that the in-school suspensions rate is 156.53 per 1,000 students.
Despite the header only referring to short-term suspension data, if you do not have short-term out-of-school suspensions beyond the state rate, record each of your applicable proposed feeder school's in-school suspensions rates in Column P of the FY28 21stCCLC Proposed Feeder Schools Status worksheet.

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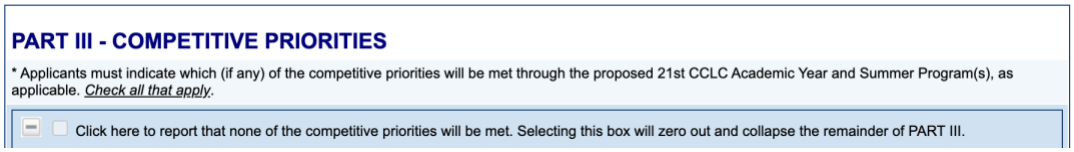
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Can applicants utilize historical performance data from the schools that previously served those students to establish eligibility and qualify for applicable competitive priority points?

- No. Applicants should use the most recent data available to determine eligibility for any competitive priority points.

Do applicants indicate within the application which priority point criteria they're applying for?

- Yes, to receive priority points applicants **must**:
  - Select all applicable priority points in CCIP's Grant Details Part III.



  - Complete all columns of the 21st CCLC Proposed Feeder School(s) with School Poverty & Performance Status related document.
  - Meet **all requirements** for the priority point(s) applying for, which may include uploading one or more relevant MOU(s), and any associated required documents with valid signatures. See RFP pgs. 21-26 for the specific requirements.

Can the MOU for the Workforce Readiness Priority Consideration be in partnership with the Executive Director of Student Services for the District, the Director of Integrated Academic & Behavior Systems, and/or the Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services

- No. RFP page 25 states that The MOU must be with "at least one of the following: Career Technical Education (CTE) Director, Instructional Management Coordinator (IMC) Career Development Coordinator (CDC), Special Populations Coordinator (SPC), and/or school counselor."

If there is a new school in our area that does not have data listed but a potential applicant plans to serve that school with this application, how would the potential applicant answer the priority points question for that school?

- As a new school, some data may not be available through NC Schools Report Card Data website or the CSI/TSI spread sheet; thus for any new school where this is the case for CSI/TSI status, Chronic Absenteeism, or Short-Term Out-of-School Suspension or In-School Suspension related to priority points, or student performance, or poverty status, the applicant should note on *the 21st CCLC Proposed Feeder School(s) w/School Poverty & Performance Status* form that the school is new and the school year in which the school opened. (Note: There will be data if the school opened prior to the 2024-2025 school year). Keep in mind that when applying for priority points, a majority (at least 51% or more) must meet the criteria indicated for priority points. Other priority point opportunities (i.e., Joint Applicant, Rural Counties, and Workforce Readiness) are not contingent on providing prior year NC Schools Report Card Data.

Can a nonprofit organization and faith-based organization partner?

- They can partner, but they are not eligible for a joint applicant's priority point since one partner is not an LEA/PSU. RFP pg. 22.

*NEW In the *21st CCLC Proposed Feeder School(s) w/School Poverty & Performance Status* form, under the low performing school link, one of the schools is not listed as low performing. However, the school is listed on the "continuing low performing school" tab but no grade is listed. Can I still list the school in my application as low performing?

- No. Only schools listed in the "low-performing schools 25-26" tab with a school performance grade designation can be listed as low performing in the application.
- Applicants may still serve the school even if it is not currently listed as a low performing school.

To qualify for the CTE priority point, the RFP says the required MOU should come from the School District and/or feeder school. Would an MOU between the charter school and its own school counselor or Career Development Coordinator meet the requirements?

- Yes. An MOU with the person in the position of counselor or Career Development Coordinator (CDC) will be sufficient.

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GENERAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Do organizations get extra points or gain competitiveness if they propose to serve more than 101+ students?

- No. The number of students proposed to be served is not a competitive priority or scoring criterion. Applicants should propose a student enrollment target that is realistic, justifiable, and aligned with the needs assessment, program design, staffing plan, available resources, and budget.

How can organizations determine if the proposed science and math activities fall under core academic Science, core academic Math, or core enrichment STEM?

- Organizations should refer to the links located in the RFP on pages 11-13 to review the required activity alignments and determine which option best aligns with their proposed program.
- Activities that are aligned with NCDPI adopted Digital Learning Standards should be considered STEM under the core enrichment areas. While activities that are aligned with NCDPI K-12 Science and/or Math Standards should be considered Science and/or Math under the core academic areas.

What happens if enrollment falls below 50 students for a limited period of time?

- 21st CCLC programs are not considered drop-in programs. Awarded applicants are expected to provide continuous services to a minimum of 50 students each academic year of the three (3) year grant. If students drop out of the program, programs must enroll additional students in order to continue meeting the minimum requirement of 50 students.

Is there a specific requirement on where programming can occur? For example, can it take place in a physical school, or would it need to be offsite?

- Program locations can be at a school site, or another site as determined by the applicant if all safety measures are in place for programming.

Are Home School children allowed to be served under this grant?

- As long as the student participant eligibility priority is met, meaning at least 51% of students served come from schools eligible for Title I, Part-A school-wide programs.

  Student Participant Eligibility

  Under Section 4203 of the ESEA, the State must give priority to applications proposing to primarily serve students who attend schools eligible for Title I, Part A school-wide programs. Additionally, students served by the 2027-2030 NCDPI Cohort 19 21 st CCLC Grant Program must meet federal 21 st CCLC eligibility requirements. RFP pg. 21.

If this is a first-time application and the predicted/projected number of students to serve is on the lower end, can additional students be added in years 2 and 3?

- Yes. However, funding for 21st CCLC will not be increased.
- Applicants should also ensure the projected number of students meets the grant's minimum requirements: at least 50 students for academic year programming and at least 25 students for summer programming, as applicable to the program option selected. RFP pages 10 and 29.

Where is the needs assessment?

- There is not a single, standalone Needs Assessment section in the Cohort 19 application. Instead, Section 2. Core Program Purposes asks applicants to describe the three required purposes of the 21st CCLC program: **Academic Programming**, **Enrichment Programming**, and **Family Engagement**. In the application, each purpose is organized to help applicants explain the full planning cycle: the needs the program will address, the goals and objectives connected to those needs, the program design, the capacity and partnerships needed for implementation, and the evaluation/data-use plan. Applicants should use relevant local data and identified needs to inform responses across all sections.

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If numbers are over and above the projected numbers, can funds be collected?

- No. As per the RFP pg. 6, “The intent of the 21st CCLC program is to ensure equal access to all students and their families targeted for services; therefore, in North Carolina, fees cannot be collected for participation in the 21 st CCLC program.”

Can a specific population of students be targeted for service (i.e.: newcomer students, migrant students, homeless students, etc.)?

- Yes. Applicants must be sure to align the needs assessment and program narrative to the population to be served. Additionally, applicants must meet the minimum program requirements for each program selected, including total program hours and student enrollment.

Can an applicant serve one age group during the school year and a different age group during the summer component of the Cohort 19 21st CCLC program?

- Yes. Applicants may propose to serve different grade levels, student populations, or age groups during the school year and summer program. Applicants should clearly identify and describe the target populations for each program within the narrative responses, sample program schedules and Basic Information Sheet to ensure alignment across all sections of the application.

Grant Details question 4C: "Explain who provides each resource and what it supports". We receive a significant number of Foundation grants from different sources. Should we include the names of some of the more significant funders or are you looking for less detail than that?

- Applicants should provide sufficient detail to demonstrate organizational capacity, fiscal stability, and experience securing and managing external funding. Responses should be focused on information that is most relevant to demonstrating the organization's ability to successfully implement and sustain the proposed 21st CCLC program. An exhaustive list of all funding sources is not required.

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COMPLETING RELATED DOCUMENTS

**NEW The Basic Organization Information sheet only includes checkbox options for Cohort 17 and 18. How should applicants indicate that they are applying for Cohort 19?

- The Basic Organization Information sheet has been updated to reflect Cohort 19. Applicants are encouraged to use the updated version. However, if the previous version of the form has already been completed the form will be accepted.

**NEW I reviewed the state's private school directory and found no private schools within the attendance zone. What should I do?

- If there are no private schools located within the attendance zone, upload a signed letter on your organization's letterhead stating that a review of the state's private school directory was conducted and that no private schools were identified within the attendance area to be served by the program.
- This letter should be signed by the fiscal agent chief administrator.

Which related documents are due at the time of grant submission?

- All documents listed in the Required Documents section of CCIP are due at the time of grant submission.
- RFP pg. 26 states: “Any required document(s) not completed or submitted in its entirety and/or is missing handwritten or official electronic signatures will be considered incomplete in its submission and will receive a point deduction(s) for each incomplete required document submitted.”

Are organizations required to meet with private schools prior to submitting the grant?

- Yes. Timely consultation prior to submitting the grant will help determine the demand for equitable services.
- RFP pg. 42-43 states: “Section 8501 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that timely and meaningful consultation occur between any entity receiving 21st CCLC funds and private school officials **prior to** any decision that affects the opportunities of eligible private school children, teachers, and other educational personnel to participate in programs under this act. Timely

consultation prior to submitting the grant will help determine the demand for equitable services."

If a joint application is completed, can other feeder schools be offered services in an LEA other than the one who is the joint applicant?

- If partnering with an LEA, then your feeder schools would be those schools that are agreed upon by both partners and can include feeder schools in more than one LEA.

What types of signatures are accepted on Related Documents?

- NCDPI will accept wet signatures in blue or black ink or valid electronic signatures (i.e., Adobe, DocuSign) only. Typed signatures will not be accepted.

For the Basic Organization sheet, how should the section labeled "non-service days" be completed if the school district intended to be served has not released the 2026-2027 calendar which lists all school breaks and teacher workdays?

- Applicants can estimate non-service days to the best of their ability. If awarded, organizations will have the opportunity to update the dates at a later time.

Other than the Program Schedule, can applicants use related documents submitted for Cohort 17 and Cohort 18 Continuation Applications or do we need to prepare new ones?

- No. Applicants cannot submit documents used for previous cohorts. Applicants must use the templates provided in the Cohort 19 CCIP Related Documents section.

Even if there is no collaboration, do applicants still have to submit the ESEA Affirmation (Private Schools Consultation) form?

- Yes. Federal equitable services requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) require applicants to address consultation with eligible private schools. Therefore, all applicants must submit the ESEA Affirmation (Private School Consultation) form, regardless of whether a private school participates in the proposed program.

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During the Cohort 19 RFP webinars, presenters referenced a form that verifies our relationship with our feeder schools and their support for our program. What form is that?

- Applicants awarded the Cohort 19 grant will be required to submit additional documents, to include 21st CCLC LEA/Feeder School District Collaboration Form(s). This form must be signed by the proposed feeder schools.
- Applicants are encouraged to engage with feeder schools during the application process to ensure the proposed program aligns with student and school needs and to make schools aware of the requirement to sign the form.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

**NEW For the Summer Intensive program, may different groups of students be served during each of the two required weeks? For example, could week one focus on rising kindergarten students and week two focus on rising 6th grade students?

- No. The summer intensive program should be designed to serve the same target student population across the required two-week period. The two weeks are intended to function as a single, cohesive program experience rather than separate programs for different groups of students.

**NEW If I am applying to offer a four-week standard summer program, and a two-week intensive summer program, can the two-week summer program count towards the four week summer program?

- No. The two weeks of summer intensive may not be counted toward the four-week standard summer program requirement.
- Applicants proposing to offer both a standard summer program and an intensive summer program must treat each program separately.

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**NEW If I am applying to offer multiple summer programs, may those programs operate at the same time?

- Yes. Applicants may offer multiple summer programs concurrently during the same calendar period. However, each program must be clearly identified as a separate program and must independently meet all applicable requirements.

What's the difference in Standard and Intensive Summer Programs?

- Standard Summer Learning Programs must operate for at least four consecutive weeks and offer at least one hour of daily varied enrichment and three hours of core academics, while Summer Intensive Programs focus on offering consecutive 2-3 week targeted interventions in a specific focus area. See RFP pgs. 14-17 for the detailed lists of requirements.

If applying for School Year and Summer programming (option 2), Can summer program begin prior to July 1?

- The Cohort 19 grant funding period begins on July 1st, 2027. Therefore, applicants proposing school year AND summer programming (option 2) may begin Year 1 summer programming immediately following the conclusion of the 2027-2028 school year, as the summer component will occur in Summer 2028, within the funding period. See RFP Page 9 for funding and program timelines.
- Note for Summer Only:
    - Applicants proposing Summer Only programming may begin Year 1 of summer programming on or after July 1, 2027, to ensure all grant funded activities occur within the approved funding year. Summer Only programs may not start prior to July 1, 2027.

If looking at Summer Intensive Credit Recovery, how do we provide that Year One if we cannot begin until after July 1?

- During the first year of the grant, credit recovery programs can be offered to students after July 1st, as credit recovery is not restricted to a specific summer month. Applicants should consult and collaborate with the proposed feeder

school(s) to ensure the proposed credit recovery model aligns with local district policies and procedures related to credit recovery and awarding credit.

Can an organization apply to target a specific group of students through a summer intensive program and serve the same group of students each summer of the three-year grant cycle?

- Yes. Applicants may propose a program model that recruits and serves a specific group of students through the three years of the grant through an intensive summer program with a focus on "intensive tutoring" or "comprehensive mental health supports." See Pages 17-18 of the RFP.

Are organizations applying to implement summer programming allowed to close for a full week during the Fourth of July holiday?

- No. Organizations can choose to close on Friday, July 4th, 2025, to honor the holiday, but cannot take a full week off. Organizations must offer consecutive weeks of programming in alignment with the Standard Summer Learning program and/or the Intensive Summer program.
- Organizations can also schedule programming to end prior to the week of July 4th or start programming after July 4th. For example:
    - Offer 4 weeks of programming starting on June 2nd and ending on June 27th.
    - Offer 4 weeks of programming starting on July 7th and ending August 1st.

Family Engagement

Does time with parents/guardians at family engagement events count as a program activity time for students?

- Parent engagement activities do not count towards student program hours, program dosage requirements, or the 90+ hr. goal for 2nd installment unless there are interactive activities for both parents and students to participate in and the activity is logged into 21DC.

- Parent engagement activities do not count towards student program hours, program dosage requirements, or the 90+ hr. goal for 2nd installment unless there are interactive activities for both parents and students to participate in and the activity is logged into 21DC.

What are the requirements for parent/family engagement workshops?

- Programs proposing to offer Academic Year programming must offer a minimum of three (3) workshops on the required topics EACH academic year for a total of nine (9) workshops by the end of the three-year grant cycle.
- Programs proposing to offer summer programming must offer one of the required workshops each year of the grant cycle for a total of three workshops by the end of the three-year grant.
- Programs proposing to offer both academic year AND summer programming must meet both academic year and summer program family engagement requirements, which would mean a total of 12 workshops by the end of the three-year cycle.
- Refer to RFP page 13 and page 16 for the list of requirements.

Fiscal Questions

What must an applicant submit if no audited financial statements are available?

- Organizations not required to complete a Single Audit, need to upload the most recently filed federal tax return applicable to the organization's type. Nonprofits or tax-exempt organizations should upload an IRS Form 990, 990-EX, or 990-N.
- Organizations that are not required to file federal tax or are not required to complete an audit may upload a Statement of Income and Expenses.

Which fiscal year financial report is required?

- For this requirement, “fiscal year” refers to the applicant organization’s fiscal year, not the 21st CCLC grant year or program year. Applicants should submit a financial report covering their most recently completed fiscal year.

Are Written Fiscal Procedures required with this application?

- Written fiscal procedures or policies are not required to be uploaded during the competition. Only organizations awarded the grant will be required to provide documentation during monitoring.

Is the separate no-overdue-tax-debt statement mentioned in the assurances document required now or after an award?

- A no-overdue-tax-debt statement is only required for organizations that are awarded the grant.

Can 100% (40 hours per week) of any position be charged to the 21st CCLC grant?

- Compensation charged to the grant must be reasonable, necessary, and allocable to the 21st CCLC program. The position and associated costs must be justified by the size and scope of the program, including the number of students and sites served, the position's specific duties and responsibilities, and the proposed programming outlined in the approved SBE application.
- An individual may not be compensated for more than 40 hours per week using 21st CCLC grant funds, including when working across multiple positions or cohorts. All personnel costs must be supported by appropriate Time and Effort documentation reflecting actual work performed.
- Please note that inclusion of a position or salary in the proposed application budget does not constitute final approval, Applicants selected for funding will be required to submit a final budget for review and approval before expenditures are authorized.
- Please remember that costs for indirect student services may not exceed 20% of the total budget.
- See RFP Appendix B for the Budget Narrative and Alignment rubric.

Is there a maximum number of staff that can be paid with 21st CCLC grant funds?

- Costs must be reasonable and necessary for the proposed programming. The Budget Narrative and Alignment (along with the Total Cost Worksheet must

demonstrate how the hours/budget for staffing are warranted for the program. See RFP Appendix B for the Budget Narrative and Alignment rubric.
- Remember that costs for indirect student services may not exceed 20% of the total budget.

Is there a cap or rules around the hourly rate teachers or other 21st CCLC staff can be paid, using 21st CCLC grant funding during the academic year and/or summer programming?

- RFP Appendix B Budget Narrative and Alignment for this grant's requirements
- RFP Appendix B for the Budget Narrative and Alignment rubric.
- Grant Guidance Section 2.E:Compensation states: To assist subgrantees, NCDPI recommends reviewing resources including but not limited to the North Carolina Public School Salary Schedules, NC May 2023 OEWS State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates (bls.gov)(Sections 25-2012 through 25-3099, Sections 11-9031-11-9032), a full-cost analysis report by The Finance Project and Public/Private Ventures on The Cost of Quality Out-of-School-Time Programs, and the Wallace Foundation Cost Calculator which provides information on the overall price per student slot for OST programming.
- Remember that costs for indirect student services may not exceed 20% of the total budget.

What key staff are required to attend the onboarding for Cohort 19?

- The fiscal agent ***and*** program director or designee must attend the mandatory onboarding in July. See pg. 33 of the Cohort 19 21st CCLC RFP.

May one person fulfill both the fiscal agent and the program director roles for grant implementation?

- One person may fulfill both roles; however,

- there should be segregation of duties among job roles. Time and effort must be maintained, designating the hours in which the roles are performed.
- Even if one individual is fulfilling multiple roles, one person cannot be paid for more than 40 hours by 21st CCLC programming.
- For onboarding purposes, two people should attend to be able to be in both fiscal and programmatic sessions to receive imperative information for grant implementation. See pg. 33 of the Cohort 19 21st CCLC RFP.

Is the Director's salary a direct or indirect expense? Is a teacher's salary direct or indirect?

- The Director's salary is an indirect expense (*is included in the maximum of 20% charged to the grant*). *See page 39 of the Cohort 19 21st CCLC RFP*
- A teacher's salary is a direct expense (*is included in the 80% charged to the grant*).

I know that each 21CCLC program must conduct an evaluation. Do they do that internally, or do they hire an external evaluator?

- Subgrantees ***may choose*** to contract with an external evaluator to support evaluation activities.
- See Section 9.D.2 External Evaluators in the FY 27 Grant Guidance at: 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Guidance

How can an organization apply to be included on the NC 21CCLC Prescreened External Organizations list?

- "As the State Education Agency (SEA), NCDPI must provide a list of pre-screened external organizations to 21st CCLC subgrantees to aid in carrying out program activities (Section 4203(a)(11)). External organizations are nonprofit organizations with a record of success in running or working with before- and after-school programs and activities (or those that operate during school breaks); or, in the case of a community where there is no such organization, a nonprofit organization in the community that enters into a written agreement or partnership with an organization with a record of success to receive mentoring

and guidance in running or working with before- and after-school programs and activities (or those that operate during school breaks). (Section 4201(b)(4)).

Instruction for External Organizations: If your organization would like to appear on the pre-screened list, please complete and submit the following pre-screen and reference check form. NCDPI will verify the submitted information and determine whether your organization may appear on the pre-screened list. The pre-screened list will be made publicly available on NCDPI's 21st CCLC website. The list will contain the information from this form as directory information for your organization so that eligible entities may contact you regarding your OST programs, services, and activities.

- **Disclaimer**: This list does not comprehensively cover all external organizations in the state of North Carolina. The list is developed as organizations voluntarily complete this process. The details provided regarding external organizations are provided for information only. NCDPI does not endorse, represent, or warrant the accuracy or reliability of any of the information, content, services, or other materials provided by these educational service providers. Any reliance upon any information, content, materials, products, services, or vendors included on or found through this listing shall be at the user's sole risk.

Our audit is in process, and very likely won't be completed by the application deadline. How should we best handle this?

- You must include a copy of your most recent completed audit.

On the Total Cost Worksheet do we use annual figures based on 10/27-9/28 or 7/27-6/28?

- Applicants must complete the Total Cost Worksheet using NCDPI's award year beginning July 1st, 2027, through September 30th, 2028, and each award year of the three-year grant cycle.

2027-2030 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Cohort 19 Competitive Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**NEW: Can applicants use the 15% de minimis indirect cost rate, or must they have a negotiated rate? How does the indirect cost rate relate to the 20% limit on indirect student services?

- Neither the 15% de minimis rate nor an independently negotiated rate applies. NCDPI establishes the maximum allowable indirect cost rate for non-LEA subgrantees, which is 4.568% for FY27. LEAs must use their NCDPI-assigned indirect cost rate specific to their district. The non-LEA rate is based on the average of LEA rates and is updated annually. Any indirect costs included in the Budget 208 using the 4.568% under the designated Chart of Accounts (COA) code will count toward the 20% maximum allowed for indirect student services expenditures.

**NEW: If an applicant owns the facility where the proposed Summer Only program will operate, can a portion of utilities, custodial services, and insurance costs be charged to the grant?

- These costs may be allowable if they are necessary for program operations, reasonable, and appropriately allocated to the 21st CCLC program. Applicants must demonstrate how the proposed costs directly relate to the program's use of the facility, considering factors such as the space utilized and duration of programming. General operating expenses unrelated to the grant are not allowable. Costs must also be appropriately classified in the budget and cannot be charged both directly and through indirect costs. All proposed expenditures are subject to NCDPI review and approval. In addition, any proposed rental or lease arrangements involving related parties are subject to additional federal cost restrictions and review.

**NEW: Can administrative and finance staff charge time spent on grant-related bookkeeping, payroll, and reimbursement requests to the 21st CCLC grant? Are these considered direct or indirect costs?

- Administrative and finance staff may charge time spent performing tasks specifically attributable and integral to the 21st CCLC grant, such as grant

bookkeeping, payroll processing, and reimbursement preparation, as direct expenses when the costs are reasonable, necessary, properly documented, and allocated based on actual time and effort. These costs must also be included in the approved budget or have prior written approval when required.

General administrative support provided as part of the organization's overall operations is typically treated as an indirect cost and recovered through the applicable NCDPI indirect cost rate (4.568% for FY27 for non-LEAs).

Costs cannot be charged both directly and through the indirect cost rate. All administrative and financial management expenditures, whether charged directly or through the indirect cost rate, count toward the 20% maximum for indirect student services.

**NEW: Are meals and snacks allowable expenses under the 21st CCLC grant, or must applicants use programs such as CACFP or the Summer Food Service Program?

- Applicants are expected to pursue other available funding sources for student meals and snacks, including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), school nutrition programs, and local food banks. If these resources are unavailable, 21st CCLC funds may be used for allowable nutritious snacks, subject to NCDPI's established limits and documentation requirements. Applicants must document their efforts to secure alternative funding.

  Meal costs may be allowable under limited circumstances, such as approved field trips or family engagement activities, subject to applicable restrictions. Costs already covered by another funding source cannot also be charged to the 21st CCLC grant.

  Please see NCDPI 21st CCLC Grant Guidance, Sections 4.J.3 and 4.K for additional information.

2027-2030 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Cohort 19 Competitive Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

**NEW: For Summer Only programs, are pre-award costs such as planning, staff training, and recruitment costs incurred in the spring before summer programming begins allowable for reimbursement?

- For Cohort 19 Summer Only programs, the Year 1 grant period begins July 1, 2027. Expenses incurred before the authorized grant period are considered pre-award costs and would not be reimbursable. Costs incurred after the grant period begins but before students begin attending may be allowable if included in the approved budget and otherwise meet applicable grant requirements.

**NEW: If enrollment or program costs change, can funds be moved between approved budget line items without prior approval?

- Changes in student enrollment may result in a reduction of the grant award, depending on the revised enrollment number and applicable funding levels established in the RFP. Subgrantees must notify NCDPI of anticipated enrollment changes to determine whether adjustments to their funding is necessary.

  Changes to the approved Budget 208 require submission and approval of a Budget Amendment (Form 209). There is no established dollar amount or percentage threshold that allows subgrantees to make budget adjustments without approval. Subgrantees should consult their assigned Fiscal Monitor before making changes to their approved budget.

**NEW: Can a for-profit organization include profit or administrative fees in its 21st CCLC grant budget, or is reimbursement limited to actual allowable costs?

- Reimbursement is limited to actual allowable costs incurred and paid in implementing the approved 21st CCLC program. For-profit subgrantees may not include a profit margin, markup, or additional management fee simply because they operate as a for-profit entity.

**NEW: Are costs associated with developing custom software to support student instruction and program tracking allowable under the 21st CCLC grant?

- Grant funds cannot be used to develop software for the organization's overall general operations. If the custom software is directly related to implementing the approved 21st CCLC program it may be considered if the costs are reasonable, and necessary, and there is a strong justification demonstrating the software's programmatic purpose, how it will benefit participating students, and why existing software solutions would not adequately meet the program's needs.

**NEW: If a district is the fiscal agent for an awarded grant and is also a partner with another organization, which organization provides and submits for reimbursement of expenses?

- The organization that is the fiscal agent will be required to provide the information for all 21st CCLC related reimbursement requests.