

# 2024-2027 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Competitive Grant Program



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **General Questions**

Where can I view the RFP webinar recordings and PowerPoints?

- Webinar recordings and PowerPoints related to the Cohort 17 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant RFP can be found on the [NCDPI 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC website](#).

Is this 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Cohort 17 grant a reimbursement grant?

- Yes. RFP page 23: 21st CCLC grant funding is made available on a reimbursement basis.

How long does it take to be reimbursed?

- From the time an awarded organization's initial budget is approved, it can take up to 15 days for funds from the funds requirement date (which typically falls on a Friday) to be available for organizations to submit requests for reimbursement.
- It is strongly encouraged that applicants have secured sufficient funding or a line of credit to operate the 21st CCLC program for AT LEAST three-month period prior to initial disbursement each year.

What is an LEA?

- According to G.S. 115C-5, "Local school administrative unit" means a subdivision of the public school system governed by a local board of education. It may be a city school administrative unit, a county school administrative unit, or a city-county school administrative unit.
- Charter schools are considered a part of Local Administrative Units.

Is the Intent to Apply form required in order to submit a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant application?

- Submission of the Intent to Apply Form is not a prerequisite for application of grants funds, nor does it obligate the organization to submit an application. Please note that the Intent to Apply form closed on March 1, 2024
- The information collected is used to determine staff needs for the Level I review process.

### **CCIP**

When completing the application in CCIP, does the data have to be entered in order or can I work in different sections and move around in the document?

- Applicants can enter information in CCIP in whichever order they choose. However, the information entered should be saved frequently.
- All applicants should allot time prior to the submission deadline to make sure all required fields have been completed and required documents have been uploaded.

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Do I have to complete the application in one session, or can I save my work and return at a later time?

- Applicants can work in multiple sessions but will be required to save their work prior to logging out of CCIP. Please note that any unsaved data will be lost.

Can I use charts for questions that require a narrative response?

- We recommend using narratives, when possible, as charts may impact character limit.

Who do I contact if I have issues logging into CCIP?

- If you are a school district or charter, please contact your local NCID Administrator. All other non-LEAs/community-based organizations please contact DIT at 919.754.6000 or toll-free at 1.800.722.3946 for assistance.

### **Eligibility to Apply**

Can my organization apply for more than one Cohort 17 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant if I propose to serve different feeder schools?

- No. RFP page 13: An organization and/or individual (i.e., Registered Agent) acting as a Fiscal Agent can only apply for **one** (1) 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant per competition and entities cannot apply on behalf of someone else.

Can my organization propose to serve feeder schools that do not qualify for Title 1, Part A school wide programs?

- Yes, as long as 51% or more of the feeder schools are Title 1 eligible schools.

If my organization does not enroll 50 students during the school year, are we eligible to apply?

- No. RFP page 8: All proposed academic year 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs must enroll a minimum of (50) students.

### **Eligibility for Current/Prior 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Subgrantees**

Can currently funded 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC subgrantees apply for the new 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Cohort 17 funds?

- Yes. Existing 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sub-grantees may apply for additional funds through Cohort 17 if they expand a current program by proposing to:
  - 1) Serve additional schools, and/or
  - 2) Expand services to serve new grades of students at current feeder schools and/or
  - 3) Continue a program no longer receiving federal funds (sunsetting cohort 15 programs).

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- Expansion of existing programs means that any currently funded 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grantee applying for new funding may not apply for duplicate funding for the same project/students and schools/sites.
- In addition, currently funded 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC organizations applying to expand existing programs must be considered in Good Standing to be eligible for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds in the 2024-2027 school year.

If we are a Cohort 15 program and our funding ends as of Sept 2024, may we apply to continue to serve our current population?

- Yes. Cohort 15 programs that are sunsetting, may apply for Cohort 17 funds to continue to serve the current target population. Applicants should include relevant and up to date data in their application that demonstrates the continued needs of the target population.

How do I determine Good Standing if my organization had multiple 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Grants (i.e., Cohort 14 and/or Cohort 15 and/or Cohort 16)?

- If a registered fiscal agent has been deemed 'Not in Good Standing' by NCDPI on any Cohort 14, 15, and/or 16 then the organization is not eligible for funding for Cohort 17.

Who should I contact if I have questions about my organization's Good Standing status?

- Please contact Susan Brigman at Susan.Brigman@dpi.nc.gov

My organization's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant was terminated. Am I eligible to apply for Cohort 17?

- RFP page 14: Any previous or current 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC subgrantees that have been terminated by NCDPI are considered Not in Good Standing and are not eligible to reapply for two (2) consecutive 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC standard three (3) year cohort grant competitions from the effective date of termination.

## **Completing the 'Good Standing' Form**

If I am a previous 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Summer Mini Grant recipient, what do I select for the question in Section 2: "Did you receive a Cohort 14, 15, and/or 16 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant administered through NCDPI?"

- Organizations that have only received Summer Mini Grant funds in the past, should select No and skip to section 3 of the Good Standing Form.
- Any organization that has previously received a Summer Mini Grant in addition to a Cohort 14, 15, and/or 16 grant should complete all of section 2 and provide relevant information based on their most recent Cohort 14, 15, or 16 grant.

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I received 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funding for multiple cohorts, for which cohort should I provide attendance information in Section 2?

- When completing section 2, applicants should provide attendance information for their **most recent** program year of their most recent cohort. For example, applicants that received a Cohort 14 and a Cohort 15 grant, would provide attendance information for the most recent year of the Cohort 15 grant.
- For Cohort 15 and/or Cohort 16 applicants that were funded for summer programming, please provide Summer 2023 ADA for Section 2, Question 2C “What was the ADA of the most recent Summer?”

## **Basic Grant Parameters**

Is this Cohort 17 grant only to be used for after-school services?

- RFP page 7: The purpose of the grant is to provide federal funds to establish or expand community learning centers that operate during out-of-school time (OST) hours.
- RFP page 8: All proposed 2024-2027 NCDPI Cohort 17 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Grant Programs must offer out-of-school time programming during the academic year for each year of the grant cycle. NCDPI defines academic year out-of-school time hours as before the start of the school day, after the school day ends, and/or weekends based on proposed feeder school(s) approved academic year calendar(s). Additionally, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs may offer services to students during normal school hours on days when school is not in session, e.g., school holidays or teacher professional development days.
- In addition to the required academic year out of school time programming, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs also have the opportunity to provide summer programming. Please note that while academic year programming is a requirement of this grant, summer programming is optional.

Does lunch hour and/or elective time during the school day count for out-of-school time since it is not during instructional periods?

- No. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programming can only be offered during out-of-school time, outside of regular school hours. Any services offered to students during normal school hours cannot be funded with 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds.

What happens if my 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program is not fully operational and serving students by October 15<sup>th</sup>?

- RFP page 10: Awarded programs who do not meet the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline may be subject to funding reductions by NCDPI.

Must the program always have 50 students enrolled each year of the three (3) year grant? Students do drop out of programing.

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- Yes. 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 can enroll additional students in order to continue meeting the minimum requirement of 50 students.

When entering the number of students, I propose to serve in my application, do I enter the range (i.e., 76-100), or do I need to enter an exact number?

- Applicants will need to enter the exact number of students they propose to serve. The ranges are there to assist organizations in determining the funding that they are eligible to apply for.

## Dosage Requirements

Where does the new 300 student contact hours requirement come from?

- [Research](#) demonstrates the most successful out-of-school-time programs operate 15 hours or more each week during the school year. To determine the 300-student contact hour total, NCDPI considered this weekly range in addition to the average number of weeks during the academic school year that out of school time programs operate.
- NCDPI recognizes that there is a need for greater flexibility in weekly program operations, thus identified 300 student contact hours across the academic school year programming versus a required set number of hours of operation per week.
- Applicants should describe how they plan to reach 300 student contact hours during the academic school year in their application. This includes the proposed days and number of hours that the program will operate each week, as well as any plans to provide full day programming during teacher workdays or weekends.

What do you consider student contact hours?

- Student contact hours are hours that the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program is open and is providing students direct academic or enrichment instruction. This does not include transportation time.

Can field trips during the regular school year (on teacher workdays) count toward the required 300 student contact hours?

- Yes. Pre-approved field trips can count toward the required 300 student contact hours if it is part of the organization's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCC programming and is built into their program's schedule.

Does one-on-one advising count toward the required 300 student contact hours?

- One-on-one services can count toward the 300 student contact hours as long as all students have access to the same services during 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programming.

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- RFP page 15: Each enrolled student must be given the opportunity to attend all scheduled activities offered during 21st CCLC program hours when a center is open (e.g., cannot serve only third graders on Monday and Wednesday and only fifth graders on Tuesday and Thursday).

Do family engagement events that students attend count toward the required 300 student contact hours?

- No. Family engagement events are a separate requirement and do not count toward the 300 student contact hours.

If student arrivals are at different times within a 30-minute period, does our start time begin when the first students arrive?

- Programming start time should officially begin when the majority of students are scheduled to arrive at the site. Program start time may vary by site to accommodate the different arrival times.

If the time to reach the 300 student contact hours is the end of the school year, why is the third installment requirement due earlier?

- Programs are required to provide academic and enrichment activities for 300 hours with the option for all students to attend during the academic year. However, 75% of the proposed number of students will need to attend a minimum of 90 hours in order for the program to be eligible for third installment.

Will the number of hours required for each student to attend change?

- No. For the duration of the three-year grant, 75% of the proposed number of students served must attend the program for a minimum of 90 hours in order for the program to be eligible for the third installment.

What happens if I do not meet the NCDPI-determined attendance thresholds at some point during the three-year grant cycle?

- Information concerning regular attendance requirements can be found on pages 21-24 of the RFP. Please read these pages thoroughly concerning student attendance and possible repercussions if student attendance thresholds in the SBE approved application are not met.

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## **Program Design**

Is there a template I can use to help me with the program/curriculum design narrative section of the CCIP application? How much detail is required in the application?

- Applicants should view the Cohort 17 RFP Day 2 Webinar recording, located in the [21<sup>st</sup> CCLC website](#), for a detailed overview of each application question.
- Additionally, applicants should use the scoring rubric to help frame their proposal narrative.

Does my program have to align with the 2024-2027 NCDPI 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC statewide performance goals?

- NCDPI has established a set of performance goals and indicators as a part of the statewide evaluation of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Programs. Beginning with the 2024-2027 NCDPI Cohort 17 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Competitive Grant Program, all awarded applicants will be required to design their proposed academic year programs to align with the NCDPI 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC statewide goals.
- Conducting a needs assessment with these goals in mind will help to inform the program design and evaluation sections of the grant application.

Where can I find a detailed version of the 2024-2027 NCDPI 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC statewide performance goals?

- The 2024-2027 NCDPI Cohort 17 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Competitive Grant Program Performance Goals and Objectives can be found in Appendix A of the RFP.

Can I offer other types of core academic, and enrichment opportunities not listed in the 2024-2027 NCDPI 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC statewide performance goals?

- Yes. Applicants can offer other types of academic and enrichment opportunities as long as the program meets the minimum requirements described in the RFP. All proposed 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC centers must offer annual services during the academic year in **at least two (2)** of the core academic areas and **at least two (2)** of the enrichment areas per grade span (i.e., PreK, K-5, 6-8, 9-12) described in the RFP Performance Goals and Objectives Alignment Requirement section.

Does NCDPI have an academic curriculum that they could share with organizations?

- Applicants can find curriculum resources in the RFP under Appendix A, Appendix D, and Appendix E. Please note that the links provided are resources and are not required for program implementation. Programs may use their own curriculum resources as long as they align with state academic standards.

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### Family Engagement

Can I offer more than the required family engagement opportunities listed in the 2024-2027 NCDPI 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC statewide performance goals?

- Yes. If awarded, organizations can offer more than the required family engagement opportunities as long as the minimum requirements described in the RFP are met.

If I offer a family engagement workshop during my summer program, does that count as one of the three (3) required family engagement events per year?

- No. Parent engagement events offered during summer programming do not count as one (1) of the three (3) required family engagement activities.

Are the three (3) required parent engagement events per feeder school or three (3) total overall?

- All students and their families must have access to all three (3) workshops each year.

### Optional Summer Programs

Am I required to run a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC summer program?

- No, there is no requirement to run a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC summer program. However, if awarded funds for an optional summer program, the applicant is required to run the proposed summer program each year of the three (3) year grant cycle.

How do you propose to run a summer program?

- Organizations interested in applying for one or both of the optional summer programs will be able to select the desired program in the application. Additionally, applicants will need to include summer program implementation plans in the application narratives.

Can I propose to run a summer program for just one year of the three-year grant cycle?

- No. If an applicant proposes to run a summer learning program, the applicant is required to run the proposed summer program **each year** of the three (3) year grant cycle.

Can I apply to offer only summer programming?

- No. Academic year programming is required, and all summer programming is optional.

Does the optional summer program have a required number of weeks that the program must operate for?

- Yes. Each optional summer program has its own set of requirements. Applicants should refer to page 11 of the RFP for details regarding each of the summer program requirements prior to completing the application to ensure the minimum requirements can be met.



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Are there student contact hour requirements for the summer program?

- Each of the optional summer programs has their own requirements. If awarded summer funding, organizations are required to meet their proposed enrollment goal each summer of the three (3) year grant.

Does my standard summer program need to align with the 2024-2027 NCDPI 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC statewide performance goals?

- Yes. Standard summer programs must align with NCDPI 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Statewide Performance Goals and Objectives 3.1 and 3.2
- RFP page 11: All proposed standard summer learning programs must offer at least 3-hours of core academic learning per day and a variety of daily enrichment opportunities as outlined by the NCDPI 21st CCLC 2024-2027 Statewide Performance Goals and Objectives 3.1 and 3.2.

Can I run both a standard summer learning program and a summer intensive program?

- Yes. Applicants can propose to operate a standard summer learning program and/or a summer intensive program. Proposed summer learning programs must meet the requirements for one or both implementation models described on pages 13-14 of the RFP.
- Organizations applying for both summer program options should keep in mind that the total amount requested cannot exceed \$500,000.

Does a school counselor or school social worker count as a mental health professional for the summer intensive program?

- Yes. A certified school counselor or social worker is qualified to provide mental health services for the summer intensive program.

Can I run a summer intensive program that has a focus area other than what is listed in the Cohort 17 RFP?

- No. The summer intensive program must address one or more of the focus areas listed in the RFP under section Optional Summer Learning Programs.

If I am awarded a Cohort 17 grant, can I begin summer programming this summer 2024?

- No. If awarded, organizations will be able to implement summer programming starting summer 2025.

If awarded funds to implement summer programming, how do you spend all summer funds by April 1st?

- If awarded, organizations will have all summer to request reimbursement for summer programming. Access to summer funds will not be available prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> each year of the three (3) year grant.

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### **PreK**

Can I apply to serve Pre-K students?

- Only LEA/PSUs are eligible to apply for funding to implement 2024-2027 NCDPI Cohort 17 21st CCLC Grant Programs intended to serve PreK students.
- Privately funded childcare and daycare centers receiving Head Start and/or NC PreK funding are not eligible to apply for 21st CCLC funds at this time.
- Nonprofit/community-based organizations operating in a public-school site are NOT eligible to apply for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds at this time. Only public PreK programs administered by the LEA/PSU are eligible to apply to serve PreK students.
- For additional information please refer to the Student Participant Eligibility section on page 14 of the RFP and slide 7 of the Cohort 17 RFP TA Webinar for Day 2.

If an LEA/PSU applies to serves PreK students, do they need to meet daycare licensing requirements?

- 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Cohort 17 funding is intended for already established Public PreK programs currently administered by the LEA/PSU. These programs are already meeting/implementing federal/state PreK requirements and should continue meeting those as they use 21st CCLC funds to supplement their out-of-school time programming.

If I am a non-PSU applying jointly with a PSU, can I propose to serve PreK students in my 21st CCLC Program?

- RFP page 15: All proposed 2024-2027 NC Cohort 17 21st CCLC Grant Programs proposing to serve PreK students must take place at locations administered by the PSU acting as the fiscal agent.
- Only LEA/PSUs are eligible to apply for funding to implement 2024-2027 NCDPI Cohort 17 21st CCLC Grant Programs intended to serve PreK students.
- Nonprofit/community-based organizations operating in a public-school site are NOT eligible to apply for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds at this time. Only public PreK programs administered by the LEA/PSU are eligible to apply to serve PreK students.

Since PreK is being piloted this year, does this mean that programs applying for the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Cohort 17 grant are required to enroll PreK students?

- Eligible applicants seeking funding to serve PreK students do need to enroll PreK students during the grant period, if awarded.
- Applicants who are not applying for PreK funding should not serve PreK students.

### **Competitive Priorities**

If the schools I propose to serve are only TSI, can I still apply for the CSI/TSI feeder school priority point?

- No. CSI/TSI feeder school priority point(s) will only be awarded if:

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- 100% of proposed feeder schools are identified as CSI (2 priority points)
- Proposed feeder schools are a combination of CSI and TSI (1 priority point)

Is there an easy way to find CSI/TSI data?

- This is the link to the [CSI/TSI 2023-2024 list](#) (The link states 23-24, however this is 22-23 information within the list)
- This link can also be found in page 17 of the RFP and will also be embedded in the CCIP application.

The feeder schools I am proposing to serve are in two counties, how does that relate to our application when determining if I am eligible for the unserved counties priority point?

- Applicants should determine their eligibility based on the county in which the majority (51% or more) of the proposed feeder schools are located.

If I am not applying for the joint applicant priority point, do I still need to complete the information under "Jointly Submitted"?

- Applicants that are not seeking the joint applicant priority point, do not have to complete this section and may leave the fields blank.
- Applicants who are seeking a joint applicant priority point do need to complete this section.

### **Collaborating with Public Schools (Feeder School Collaboration)**

If I am a community-based organization, what proof of feeder school collaboration should I submit? The school, the district or both?

- Non-LEAs/community-based organizations have the option to provide evidence of collaboration with feeder schools from the individual feeder school, the district, and/or both.
- Depending on the school district, some principals are given the authority to sign collaborative agreements. Applicants should follow district policy when entering into collaborative agreements.

Can I submit a Memorandum of Understand (MOU) as evidence of collaboration even if I am not applying as a joint applicant?

- Yes. An MOU and/or other collaborative agreements can be provided as evidence of collaboration even if applicants are not submitting a joint application.

### **Private School Consultations**

Is it a requirement for organizations to consult with private schools as part of developing the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC proposal?

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- Yes. Federal regulations require consultation with private schools if they exist in the attendance area of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program site and the public feeder schools identified to be served.
- Additionally, if awarded, organizations must notify private schools operating within the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program area of availability, of the opportunity for private school student participation at no cost a minimum of three (3) unique times per program year.

What is the attendance area?

- The attendance area is determined as the geographic attendance boundary or school district boundary for each targeted feeder school.

When contacting private schools, are we required to consult with private schools that do not serve the grade levels our proposed program will be serving?

- No. Applicants are only required to consult with private schools that serve the same grade levels as the proposed 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program intends to serve.
- If there are no private schools within the program's attendance area that serve the same grade levels as the proposed 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program, applicants will need to upload a signed letter attesting to this. This letter will be accepted in place of the private school consultation form in this scenario.

If we have a private school that wants to participate but has a 6% poverty level, and we do not think are a great fit for our program, do we need to consult with them?

- Yes. Federal regulations require organizations provide private school students within the feeder school's attendance area the opportunity for participation at no cost.

What if the Private Schools will not or do not communicate with you?

- Private Schools can indicate their choice to decline 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC services by completing the required 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Private Schools Consultation form.
- Unfortunately, some private schools will not respond to communication attempts. In such cases, the organization must document communication efforts before concluding that the school is non-responsive. At least one of the invitations for consultation must be sent via a verifiable delivery service (e.g., certified US Mail, FedEx, UPS) and the receipt must be kept on file as evidence.
- Additionally, if the private school did not respond, applicants must complete section D of the Private School Consultation form.

## **Public Notice**

What information should the public notice include?

- The public notice should show the name of the organization, and its intent to apply for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Cohort 17 funding.

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- If an organization is submitting a joint application, the name of both organizations must be included in the notice.

Do you need to show proof where the public notice has been sent/posted to or just the actual notice?

- Evidence that the public notice has been published and is available to the public must be uploaded into CCIP under the Related Documents section.
- Acceptable examples include a newspaper clipping of the public notice, a photo of the published newsletter with the announcement, a screenshot of the digital newsletter with the announcement, a screenshot of the announcement on your organization's website, and/or a screenshot of public notice posted on social media.

## **SAM**

If I am submitting a joint application, do all the involved organizations need to register for SAM?

- No. The SAM registration is only required for the organization that has been selected as the fiscal agent and will be responsible for the fiscal oversight of the program.

## **Funding Ranges**

Should I use the Wallace Out of School Time Calculator to determine my requested funding amount?

- No. For the Cohort 17 application, applicants should only use the funding levels on pages 19 and 20 of the RFP to determine how much funding to apply for based on the number of students proposed to serve.
- Applicants may only request funds ranging from \$50,000, not to exceed \$500,000 per year.

## **Budget/Other Fiscal Related Questions**

When I complete the Total Cost Worksheet, should I round up or use the exact amount I am requesting?

- Applicants will need to enter the exact amount of funding requested up to \$500,000. However, when calculating each individual line item, applicants may round up to the next full dollar amount if the exact amount is 50 cents or above (i.e., \$100,800.55 would be rounded to \$100,801).
- Although the Total Cost worksheet is not the final approved budget, and serves as tentative budget, thorough and calculated consideration should be used when building the worksheet.
- Awarded applicants will be required to submit a more detailed proposed budget 208 for fiscal review and approval prior to the release of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds.

Does the Total Cost Worksheet for school year and summer need to be isolated or can there be "bleed through" across the two (2) parts of the year if we are within the requested amount?

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- Applicants should isolate costs for the required academic school year program, and for each of the summer programs (if applicable). Please keep in mind that school year and summer funds will be available to programs through separate installments. Additionally, if awarded, programs will not have access to summer funds until after April 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

For the Financial Status Statement, can I submit a financial review in place of an audit?

- No. Applicants may only submit their most recent independent audit, most recent year ending balance sheet, or their most recent year ending income statement (Form 990).

## **Evaluation Expenses**

What is a best practice for determining evaluation expenses?

- The RFP does not indicate a limit on how much funding can be allocated for evaluation expenses; however, according to the Budget Narrative and Alignment rubric, an exemplary proposal “sufficiently demonstrates that costs are reasonable and necessary given the program design and size.” Thus, knowing how much to budget for evaluation efforts will depend on the scope and complexity of both the program to be evaluated and the evaluation itself. It is important to note that the grant application process does not require applicants to provide a budget specifically for evaluation efforts; however, when thinking about associated costs within your overall budget, consider the following:
  - Evaluator(s) time/labor – Estimate cost for staff time and/or external contract to manage/implement proposed evaluation plan
  - Travel – Estimate travel expenses to attend meetings and collect data
  - Other direct costs – Estimate cost of expenses such as supplies, equipment, software, etc.

Can 21st CCLC funds be used to hire an external evaluator?

- Although not required, external evaluators may be used to conduct an independent assessment of the 21st CCLC program.

Is there a maximum amount a Cohort 17 subgrantee cannot exceed when contracting with an external evaluator?

- If an external evaluator has agreed to serve as the evaluator for the program, according to the most recent NCDPI 21st CCLC Grant Guidance, the amount to be paid to the evaluator from grant funds cannot exceed 15% of the grant award amount. If the amount to be paid exceeds 15% of the grant award, the outstanding balance must come from other resources. In addition, all applicable federal, state, and local procurement procedures, including conflict of interest rules, must be followed when selecting an external contracted evaluator.

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## **Onboarding Requirements**

If I am awarded the grant, what happens if I do not attend the required in-person on-boarding session?

- Awarded Cohort 17 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC organizations who do not attend the in-person onboarding training may be required to forfeit their entire 3-year Cohort 17 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant award.

What travel cost will you pay to attend the Onboarding?

- You may request travel reimbursement to include lodging, mileage, and food to attend the foundations conference as long as your internal fiscal policies and procedures allow for travel reimbursement.

If the Program Director and/or Chief Fiscal Agent are unable to attend the required in person on boarding session and/or conference, can I send someone else to attend?

- Yes, with prior approval from NCDPI.