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Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers FY 25 Initial Grant Announcement

This federal program authorized under Title IVB of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides funds to support full-service comprehensive afterschool and summer programming that offers diverse and engaging educational programming for more than 12,000 youth in approximately 90 centers for PreK-12 youth in Vermont's neediest communities. Schools in collaboration with over 300 hundred community program partners deliver services. There are annual or semi-annual grant competitions.

The FY25 21CCLC grant competition received 12 applications totaling a request for \$4,200,000 annually to fund up to 59 full comprehensive centers in Vermont's neediest communities, ([See 21C eligibility-page 4](#)) with approximately \$3,200,000 available to be dispersed annually for five years starting in July of 2024. This competition, like so many before, received high-quality proposals eligible for funding. Based on available federal funding, and if varying conditions are met, eight projects representing up to 45 sites can be funded. Fundable applications included 28 returning afterschool and summer sites and up to 18 proposed new afterschool and summer sites. The proposed new sites have an average free and reduced lunch (FRL) rate of approximately 70 percent and returning sites have an average (FRL) rate of approximately 65% percent.

Unfortunately, projects proposing 13 sites cannot be funded, due to the amount of available federal funds. For the four projects supporting the 13 sites that will not be funded, these services are usually the only comprehensive regular program option in these communities during non-school hours. Most have few to no alternatives for this high-quality afterschool programming outside of the schools who proposed managing these projects.

The total base points available for scoring each application was 100 points. A total of 11 experts participated in the review and scoring of applications. The average score for all applications was 84 points, with a final score range from a low of 77 to a high of 94.

The AOE will be working through the spring with local applicants to review outstanding grant conditions and to finalize awards. The final list of recipients and approved award amounts will be published in June on the [AOE After-School and Summer Programs webpage](#).

