



# **Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>ST</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Request for Application 2021-22**

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## I. Overview and Background

The Vermont Agency of Education (VTAOE) invites schools, non-traditional educators, and community-based organizations to apply for the Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) partnership grants for the purpose of providing high-quality afterschool<sup>1</sup> and summer learning opportunities for students who attend schools where 40% or more of the students are from low-income families (free/reduced lunch assistance) and/or are eligible for Title 1 Schoolwide Program status, and where the need for improved student performance is well documented.

The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative is authorized under Title IV part B of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Competitive grants are awarded to school and community partnerships that show the greatest promise of supporting the following overarching goal adopted by the Vermont State Board of Education: *Ensure that Vermont's public education system operates within the framework of high expectations for every learner and ensure that there is equity in opportunity for all.*

Under ESSA, the law outlines the purpose of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC investments as follows {Section 4201}

- (a) Purpose --The purpose of this part is to provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities in community learning centers that—
- (1) provide opportunities for academic enrichment, including providing tutorial services to help students, particularly students who attend low-performing schools, to meet the challenging State academic standards;
  - (2) offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as youth development activities, service learning, nutrition and health education, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, arts, music, physical fitness and wellness programs, technology education programs, financial literacy programs, environmental literacy programs, mathematics, science, career and technical programs, internship or apprenticeship programs, and other ties to an in-demand industry sector or occupation for high school students that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students; and
  - (3) offer families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education, including opportunities for literacy and related educational development.

In addition, for several years the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC initiative has been designed to support attainment of the following overarching long-term goals:

By 2025, we expect 100% of Vermont Schools to have:

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<sup>1 1</sup> Throughout this grant application, the term “afterschool” program refers to learning opportunities (programs, classes, & activities) provided outside the regular school day and may include programs that take place before school, after school, evenings, weekends, summers, or during school vacation days.

- 1) Average scores in a proficient range for English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science.
- 2) Average scores in a “healthy zone” for physical education
- 3) A 100% 6-year graduation rate
- 4) A 100% of English Learners attain English Language Proficiency
- 5) 67.5% of students to be Career and College ready

As a result of the Covid pandemic, use of funds towards these objectives should be considered within Vermont’s Recovery Framework and planning in concert with other local strategies and aligned with these three recovery areas:

1. Social emotional functioning, mental health, and well-being
2. Student engagement, and reengagement
3. Academic achievement and success

Additionally, ARP-ESSER legislation identified several strategies that support recovery across the above domains, including high quality afterschool and summer programs and Community School models. As such, this key federal policy initiative is also consistent with Act 67, Vermont’s Community School legislation. Because afterschool and summer programs are a key strategy not only in recovery legislation but in developing a Community School model, a strong afterschool and summer program could be a first and/or aligned step in developing a full-service Community School model at the local level.

To implement strategies in service to the above framework and goals, 21st CCLC-funded programs are expected to support Vermont’s [Education Quality Standards \(EQS\)](#). These standards include Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs) -- locally-delineated content knowledge and skills that, when supplemented with any additional locally-developed requirements, have been determined to qualify a student for earning a high school diploma. Intentional 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC alignment with local PBGRs is expected where possible; particularly with secondary-age programming that targets core content while at the same time developing *transferrable skills*. Transferrable Skills describe a broad set of knowledge, skills, work habits, and dispositions that determined to be critically important to success in today’s world, particularly in collegiate programs and modern careers. Transferable skills include communication, collaboration, creativity, innovation, inquiry, problem solving and the use of technology.

## II. Eligible Grantees

Eligible applicants include local educational agencies (LEAs); community-based organizations (CBOs); and other public or private entities, including faith-based organizations, or a consortium of two or more agencies, organizations, or entities. Municipalities may also apply. Communities with schools with 40 percent of FRL assistance rates are eligible to apply (including those eligible for Title I Schoolwide Program status). FY ‘22 data, when released, may also be used. To see if a school community is eligible under all indicators go to the [quick eligibility tracker](#). In addition, you may consult the latest [20-21 free reduced lunch report](#) to view specifics of which schools are eligible to partner with community-based organizations or

other public or private entities in applying for funding under Title IV-B, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community using this indicator. Eligibility may also be determined through calculation of poverty based on the lunch assistance percentages of feeder schools.

### III. Award Amounts, Duration, and Options

An estimated annual amount of up to \$1,000,000 will be available for dispersal under this grant competition. The minimum annual 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant award allowed per federal statute is \$50,000 per year.

New Programs: The maximum upper range for a single site grant award is \$100,000-\$135,000. If multiple sites are included within a grant application, the maximum upper award range is \$85,000- \$110,000 per site. Grants will be for five years assuming annual program objectives are met, and all reporting and monitoring requirements are successfully fulfilled. For a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant, pending availability of federal funds and program performance, grant awards are funded up to 100% of the total budget for the first three years of funding. In year four, programs must show a sustainability base and the applicant will receive 75% of the initial grant award. In year five, the applicant will receive 65% of the initial grant award.

Existing 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs: grantees are eligible to apply if their existing grant award expires on July 1, 2022. Current grantees are expected to demonstrate a high level of performance and sustainability in order to receive additional funding under this competition. Pending availability of federal funds and program performance, for current 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs excluding new expansion components, new grant awards will be level-funded for five years at no more than 50% of the total program budget.

In 2021-22, the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC competition will offer a modified funding option that will be referenced throughout this document. The chart below provides a high-level summary of the differences between the two options. The competition approach is the same for both, with new applicants able to self-designate their preferred pathway based on local conditions and a growth plan that has the greatest chance of success.

	21C <i>standard</i> pathway	21C <i>modified</i> pathway
<b>Readiness/Capacity Level and Design Approach</b>	For higher levels of capacity and readiness	For alternative levels of capacity
<b>Size and Scope</b>	Supports full comprehensive centers from inception	Less than full comprehensive centers allowed in start-up years 1 and 2 with smaller budgets
<b>Eligibility</b>	Same for both	Same for both
<b>Priorities</b>	Same for both	Same for both

	21C <i>standard</i> pathway	21C <i>modified</i> pathway
<b>Quality Expectations</b>	Same for both	Same for both
<b>Partnerships between School/Community</b>	Required and documented	Required but commitments and explanations may vary
<b>Leadership Requirements</b>	Director 30 hours + on average required	Director 30 hours + on average required except in a smaller single site project where a 25-hour minimum is allowable in years 1 and 2
<b>Duration requirements</b>	150-200+ days including a minimum of 5 weeks summer by year 2	100 days in year one with substantial growth annually to the standard duration by the end of year 3, including a minimum of 5 weeks in summer by year 2
<b>Process and Due Dates</b>	Same for both	Same for both
<b>Funding amounts</b>	See above	See above
<b>Letter of Intent</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Grant Period</b>	5 years if performance is met annually	5 years if performance is met annually
<b>Applicants ending a current 21C award</b>	Required for returning projects and returning sites	Option for any new site or applicant
<b>Conditions for Funding if accepted</b>	Standard process	Increased iterative support pre- and post-award may be required
<b>Technical Assistance and Support</b>	Standard process	Additional targeted supports for this pathway are under development and will be open to all applicants
<b>Monitoring and Reporting</b>	Standard processes	Standard processes plus additional periodic check ins to understand needs, drive technical assistance and assure full comprehensive centers are on track to be built by year 3.

## Questions about Funding Options

### Why might I choose *the standard pathway* (also see readiness assessment)

1. We are a returning applicant.
2. We are confident of this path based on an analysis of our readiness assessment.
3. We are ready to build large full comprehensive centers at one or more sites for summer and afterschool.
4. We are ready to build an integrated school program with community partners and/or other partnerships.
5. We need full funding from inception.
6. We have seen or know 21C funded programs in other communities and want to take the same approach.

### Why might I choose *the modified pathway*?

1. We need an alternative path during the start-up year(s) building out from a smaller program up to a bigger one.
2. We are a single small school and/or community.
3. This route makes more sense to support quality and expansion due to our local context.
4. We think our chances of success may be greater using this option.
5. We may need more iterative assistance to be successful throughout the whole granting process and start-up years.
6. We applied for 21C and were not funded in the recent past and prefer this alternative pathway.
7. Our organization(s) has capacity but may need a modified timeline to implement the full 21C standard.

## IV. Program Requirements

*Absolute Priority:* The Agency of Education will make awards *only* to eligible entities that serve students who primarily attend schools that serve a high percentage of students from low-income families; and the families of students served by the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program.

*Competitive Priority:* The Agency of Education will provide three additional priority points to eligible entities that serve large numbers of youth in middle or high school sites that receive at least 85 points in this competition.

*Costs:* No costs related to the preparation of the application may be included as part of a proposal.

*Disabilities:* Programs must meet the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004. Student with disabilities may not be excluded from participation in, be

denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that receives or benefits from federal financial assistance. More information, including legal foundations and best practices, is available at the [inclusion-in-21st-cclc-environments](#) link.

*Entity Limits:* Each awarded entity may receive up to two 21st CCLC grant awards at any one time. Waivers to this rule may be considered. Every available effort should be made to unify all funded programs under one application.

*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 made its first identification for these supports in 2019. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC applications should highlight information around schools with an equity determination or schools eligible for comprehensive supports as part of the application’s need section.

*Governance:* Projects must have an active governance or advisory group composed of a broad group of stakeholders who assist with planning and decision-making. For many projects over time, Directors may become full participants on district leadership teams, which is a recommended best practice.

*Location of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Programs:* Typically, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs and activities are carried out at school sites. However, programs may be located at facilities other than a school if:

- The site is at least as available and accessible as it would be at the school site;
- The LEA, school district, and/or school(s) are in agreement on the modified site;
- A clearly defined plan of communication between the modified site and the school is in place; and
- Safe transportation between the school and the alternative site has been arranged (funding for transportation is an allowable grant expense).

*Private School Consultation:* Title IX (Uniform Provisions) of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Local Education Agencies are mandated to consult with private school administrators about their students’ needs and how they can be addressed via federal programs. This must occur in a timely and meaningful way during the design, development, and implementation of the program. Local Education Agencies must provide equitable services to private school students and their families if those students are part of the target population. The Agency strongly recommends that documentation of this process be maintained for auditing and annual reporting purposes.

*Leadership:* Projects must employ a Project Director. For both pathways, a minimum of 30 hours per week on average is required, except in the modified pathway a 25-hour minimum is allowable in years 1 and 2 for a smaller single site project. Salary and fringe benefits must be adequate to employ a highly skilled individual in this role. Full-time directors should be considered for all projects. Additionally, site-based coordination within multi-site projects is required. A minimum of 20 hours weekly generally is needed for this role for a site. Single site projects may merge director and site coordination duties.

*Duration:* See Appendix L for Full Comprehensive Center expectations for the standard option. Summer Learning programs must be developed for a minimum of five weeks by the start of the year-two for both options. Full-day summer programming aligned to or unified with other offerings in the school or community are expected. For the modified pathway, a minimum of 100 days of programming needs to occur in year 1 growing in year 3 to the standard duration expectation as described in Appendix L

## V. Vermont Agency of Education Expectations

The Vermont Agency of Education has identified multiple elements of high-quality afterschool and summertime programming. The following baseline expectations have been determined to be indispensable for quality.

Area	Successful Practice
Strong and Effective Program Leadership	Meaningful job structure, hours, hiring practices, and appropriate compensation at the project and site levels result in effective on-going leadership of the project
Linkages to the School: Buildings, Programs, and Staff	School buildings and their physical resources are fully used and leveraged for learning outside of the school day Projects compliment, align to, and/or are unified with other programs and plans in the school and/or community The project includes significant licensed teacher participation as staff
Effective Community Partnerships	The project includes multiple community partners and/or partnerships that will extend the breadth and depth of offerings
Safe and Appropriate Environments	21c safety standards are applied to all indoor and outdoor environments School-based emergency procedures are used or adapted
High-Interest Programming	Programs are diverse, engaging, relevant, fun, and rigorous. Multiple end-products, performances and celebrations result that demonstrate acquisition of content and <i>transferrable</i> skills
School Leadership Support	Principals (and other leaders) regularly provide support for the program as a key component of their educational vision
Attention to Serving Regular Attendees	Full comprehensive centers are built. See Appendix L

Area	Successful Practice
Strong Instructional Leadership	A designed system of program planning, (intentionality) and staff development exists Effective content rich components are integrated into the overall program design including literacy, and/or math, and science components
Flexible Structures and Student Choice	All programs are attended by choice Youth centered practices are evident and multi-faceted
Data and Evaluation	Projects adopt common evaluation metrics, use additional locally generated measure(s) using a SMART framework, and have effective technical data systems in place

**VI. Allowable Uses of Funds**

In preparing the application, applicants should be mindful of the federal requirements that define allowable uses of funds.

Local grantees are limited to providing activities within the following list:

- Academic enrichment learning programs, mentoring programs, remedial education activities, and tutoring services, that are aligned with the challenging State academic standards and any local academic standards; and local curricula that are designed to improves student academic achievement
- Well-rounded education activities, including such activities that enable students to be eligible for credit recovery or attainment
- Literacy education programs, including financial literacy programs and environmental literacy programs
- Programs that support a healthy and active lifestyle, including nutritional education and regular, structured physical activity program
- Services for individuals with disabilities
- Programs that provide after-school activities for students who are English learners that emphasize language skills and academic achievement
- Cultural programs
- Telecommunications and technology education programs
- Expanded library service hours
- Parenting skills programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy
- Programs that provide assistance to students who have been truant, suspended, or expelled to allow the students to improve their academic achievement
- Drug and violence prevention programs and counseling programs
- Programs that build skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this paragraph as ‘STEM’), including computer science, and that foster innovation in learning by supporting nontraditional STEM education teaching methods

- Programs that partner with in-demand fields of the local workforce or build career competencies and career readiness and ensure that local workforce and career readiness skills are aligned with the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.) and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)

The above uses of funds should be designed to link with and complement the regular academic program of participating students.

Additional federal regulations are articulated in OMB Circular A-87 (if the applicant is a school) or, in education agency regulations (34 CFR 76 & 80).

## VII. 21st CCLC Alignment with Student Centered Learning and Flexible Pathways

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds can be used to support systemic change by supporting whole school and community-based learning opportunities. Additional definitions of programming terms or approaches that are fundable during out of school time in line with *Section VI allowable uses of funds* can be found in Appendix K. Use these definitions to consider all options.

## VIII. Timeline

Grant application released	September 8, 2021
Applicant Training-Part 1 The Basics	Oct 13 repeated Oct 19
Applicant Training-Part 2 The Details	Oct 28
Office Hours for Applicants	November-January TBA
<a href="#">E-Intent to Apply</a> due date	November 24, 2021
Applicant Training-Part 3 Succeeding	December 2, 2021
Application due date	February 4, 2022 (4:30 PM)
Awards announced by	April 22, 2022
Awards begin	July 1, 2022

## IX. Remote Applicant Workshops and Individual Technical Assistance

Applicant trainings will be held virtually on the days listed above from 9:00 AM-11:30 AM. Key information will be presented. These sessions will be recorded. Individualized applicant assistance can be requested anytime for project specific questions.

Bringing a team to trainings is essential for success. Reserve your team members' attendance to receive an online meeting link by e-mailing names, affiliations and contact information to [Emanuel Betz](#) at least one week prior to the meeting.

For general questions about this grant application, submit them via email to [Emanuel Betz](#) by February 25th, 2022. All applicant questions, responses, and resources will be forwarded to potential applicants via a group email list on an on-going basis. To be included on this list, send a request to the email above.

It is strongly recommended to visit an existing 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funded program in Vermont. The state coordinator can assist in connecting existing programs to applicants.

In addition, prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to review the following websites when considering whether or not to pursue a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC centers investment.

### **Vermont Resources**

[Vermont Agency of Education 21st CCLC Webpage](#)  
[Vermont Afterschool Wiki](#)  
[Vermont Agency of Education Proficiency-Based Learning](#)  
[Vermont Agency of Education PBL Transferable Skills](#)  
[Vermont Agency of Education Flexible Pathways](#)  
[Vermont Afterschool Inc.](#)

### **National Resources**

[U.S. Department of Education 21st CCLC Program](#)  
[National Institute on Out-Of-School Time](#)  
[National Summer Learning Association](#)  
[Afterschool Alliance](#)

## **X. On-Line Grants Management System (GMS) and Due Date**

The application will be submitted as part of the Agency of Education's [Grants Management System](#). The completed and signed e-submission must be submitted no later than 4:30 PM on Feb 4, 2022.

## **XI. Narrative Guidelines for Applicants**

Submit information within the required tabs and instructions within the GMS system. The narrative section allows for up to 70,000 characters in the aggregate. An additional twenty pages of attachments are allowed inclusive of all required attachments and excluding the MOU. Never include letters of support. Failure to follow these directions could result in an application being rejected.

**Structure your answers by addressing the following:**

### **1. Planning and Process (5 points)**

Provide a brief summary of the planning process used to submit this application. Referencing numerical data, use or adapt the planning chart template Appendix B summarizing the planning meetings and writing sessions, personnel and time spent creating this application.

## **2. Program Need (10 Points)**

Provide an evaluation of the community needs and available resources for the center including the needs of students and their families. Describe how the proposed programs will address the needs of students and their families (including the needs of working families). Include how the established need will be addressed by the program. In addition, describe how the program will be based on the following measures of effectiveness:

- An assessment of objective data (see data sources listed in Appendix F of this application) regarding the need for before and after school and summer programs and activities in the schools or community
- An established set of performance measures aimed at ensuring the availability of high-quality academic enrichment opportunities
- Measures of student success that align with the regular academic program of the school and the academic needs of participating students

## **3. Programming (45 Points)**

### **A. Program Description. (30 points)**

In the site tab as part of this section, enter the required details of programs by site within each field. For the program schedule fields, include all program schedules from start to finish including time blocks with brief component descriptions. As part of the narrative section, expand on the schedule(s) and describe integral program procedures such as staffing ratios, type and qualifications. Include how food, physical activity, and other programming items will support quality. Describe the transportation plan for how students will travel safely to and from the program and home.

### **B. Program Design. (15 points)**

Describe the program design(s). Describe the types of programming that will be offered for each age level. Include how the programs are expected to improve student learning and engagement, including learning outcomes in content areas and in support of transferrable skills. Include strategies that will be made to ensure that programming is student-centered and that every participant has a high level of engagement.

### **C. Program coordination for access, equity, and efficiency (15 points)**

Describe how the proposed program will coordinate Federal, State, and local programs and initiatives to make the most effective use of public resources. Describe how the program aligns and integrates with the regular school day and other out of school day programs and systems (e.g., shared staff, space, training, policies, graduation requirements, LEA comprehensive needs assessments, schools' continuous improvement plans, Schoolwide Title 1 plans, Recovery Plans). Describe how the program will provide equitable access and service for all participants including those with disabilities.

#### **4. Program Management (10 Points)**

##### **A. Leadership (5 points)**

Each application must include a project director under most conditions at a minimum of 30 hours per week. Describe the structure, qualifications and attributes that will be required. For multi-site projects, include the plan for site-based coordination/leadership. Include specific organizational leadership support that the organization and partnerships will bring to assure project success. Describe expectations that will be set by leadership with regard to lesson planning, course development, pedagogy and integration.

##### **B. Systems (5 points)**

###### **a. Safety**

Describe the safety (including physical and/or social-emotional) practices and protocols that will be followed. Include how emergency and other school-based or alternative protocols will be used or adapted.

###### **b. Professional Development**

What staff training and professional development activities and processes will occur to assure continuous improvement within the project?

###### **c. Communications**

How will the organization disseminate information about the center to the community and families in a manner that is understandable and accessible?

###### **d. Volunteers.** If volunteers are used, describe how the organization will encourage and use appropriately qualified persons.

#### **5. Evaluation (10 points)**

##### **A. Program Goals and Objectives (5 points)**

Identify the areas of primary focus for your local evaluation and describe the measurements the program will use to determine success including clearly defined program goals, numeric objectives, and specific summative outcomes/measures. Include a description of who will carry out the work of the evaluation and evidence that the plan is realistic following a SMART framework. Be sure to review the federally required 21C reporting measurements, which may be included and/or adopted as a component of your plan. Include outcomes achieved from past years, if any.

##### **B. Evidence (5 points)**

Describe how the project will use best practices, including research and evidence-based practices, to provide educational and related activities that will complement and enhance academic performance, achievement, postsecondary and workforce preparation, and positive youth development.

## **6. Partnerships and Sustainability (10 Points)**

### **A. Partnerships (5 points)**

Describe the partnerships and commitments between a local education agency, a community-based organization, and other public or private entities. In addition, use the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) template that is included with this application as a starting point, develop and submit a signed MOU that defines the service and program implementation agreements between the key partners. The MOU should describe the nature and details of the partnerships between the LEA(s), community-based organization(s), and other public or private organization(s) or partners with evidence that teachers, parents, principal(s), district and/or community leaders were involved in designing the proposed programs and will assist in their implementation. Key partners are directly responsible for the implementation of the program. Partners can be individual leaders. Signatures must include non-school organizations and may include individuals as partners if the local educational agency demonstrates that it is unable to partner with a community-based organization in reasonable geographic proximity and of sufficient quality. The included sample MOU template is a resource and may be amended or another format may be used. All principals of participating schools must sign an MOU.

### **B. Sustainability Plan (5 points)**

Describe the plans for the continuous strengthening of the partnership between the local educational agency, community-based organization, and another public or private organization (if appropriate), including plans for continuing the proposed programs beyond the five-year period of funding. For the *standard* pathway, attach a preliminary or revised sustainability plan chart. For the *modified* pathway only, the sustainability self-assessment tool may optionally be used instead of a plan chart.

## **7. Budget and Budget Narrative (10 Points)**

The budget and budget narrative must demonstrate a detailed and logical connection to the goals of the project and should be specific enough to give reviewers a clear idea of project priorities and the focus for funding. At a minimum, the budget must include the following:

### **A. Budget Items (5 points)**

Complete the budget requirements within the GMS tab(s). In addition, provide a detailed aligned budget using Appendix J including up to sixteen required categories: project director, site coordinator, instructors, benefits, retirement contributions, contracted services, professional development, supplies, equipment, transportation, travel/mileage, purchased services, professional services, food, rent, and indirect. Include the 21st CCLC request, all non-21st CCLC cash funds, and the total project budget.

### **B. Budget Narrative (5 points)**

Provide a detailed narrative describing how each line item was calculated and for what purpose. The budget descriptions must include sufficient detail and should include sub-categories (e.g., *Instructors*: include tiers, rates, hours; *Benefits*: include types, amount, rationale). For non-21st CCLC cash funds, include the source of the fund, the amount, and supporting details. If special or unusual costs are proposed, include explicit detail of where these costs are in the budget.

## **XII. Selection Process**

All applications will receive an initial eligibility review by AOE staff to ensure that the application was received on time, and contains all required guidelines, sections, and signatures. If an application does not meet these basic requirements, the application will be removed for consideration. All applications will then be read, reviewed, and scored by independent readers and panelists with extensive experience in such areas as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, out-of-school time programs, education, school effectiveness, and community-based learning. Each question can receive points up to the maximum that is indicated. There are 103 total potential points. After the independent readers rate the applications, a panel will be convened to finalize the review of the applications and ratings, and make a funding decision (Fund, Fund with Conditions, Do Not Fund) for each application. In the event of a tie score, the applications serving schools with the highest poverty level shall receive priority, assuming funds are available.

## **XIII. Grant Award Decisions and Disposition of Applications**

The Agency reserves the right to award in part, to reject any and all applications in whole or in part, and to waive technical defects, irregularities or omissions if, in its judgment, the best interest of the students would be served. After receiving the grant application, the Agency reserves the right not to award all grants, to negotiate specific grant amounts and set conditions, and to select certain grantees regardless of points awarded as part of the evaluation process to meet federal requirements or State Board of Education priorities. In addition, the Agency reserves the right to change the dollar amount of grant awards.

All awards are subject to availability of federal funds. Grantees will be required to submit and sign a final grant agreement award document with the Vermont Agency of Education.

## **XIV. Other requirements**

Each year, grantees are required to submit data and/or Annual Performance Reports (APR) that describe project activities, accomplishments, and outcomes. The two purposes of these reports are to: (1) demonstrate that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives of the project as outlined in the grant application, and (2) collect data that addresses the performance indicators for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center program.

A funded applicant must commit to:

- (1) Participating in statewide evaluation activities conducted by the Vermont Agency of Education and the U.S. Department of Education including submitting data through the federal 21APR system.
- (2) Participating in site review monitoring processes.
- (3) Sending a representative team including the project director to Agency of Education professional development activities not to exceed five days per year.

- (4) Applicants may be asked to clarify certain aspects of their applications or meet specific conditions. Finalists may be asked to participate in subsequent activity such as an oral interview or to receive an onsite visit to clarify application information. Applicants will be contacted if such information is necessary.

## **XV. Note regarding plagiarism**

If a discovery of plagiarism is made known or brought to the attention of officials at the Agency of Education during a grant competition, at the discretion of the Agency, the Agency has the right to remove the grant application for funding consideration because of the occurrence of cause.

## **XVI. Grievance Procedure**

Applicants have the right to appeal the funding decision, as outlined in section 76.401(c) of EDGAR. A request for a hearing must be made within 30 days of notification. The Vermont Agency of Education will schedule the hearing within 30 days of receiving the request. Prior to the hearing the applicant must provide a detailed statement of facts and circumstances which gave rise to the appeal. After the hearing, the applicant will receive a written notification of the results of the hearing, including findings of fact and reasons for the ruling, within 10 days from the hearing.

## **XVII. Non-Profit Organizations as Fiduciary**

Applications from non-profit organizations can receive assistance to help determine their capacity to administer a 21C funded program prior to application submission. Areas of assistance include:

1. Analysis of needed fiscal infrastructure and capacity
2. Previous experience with similar amounts of funding at the state or federal level through government, foundations, or private grants
3. Staffing, governance, legal and organizational capacity to manage and sustain a large 21st CCLC funded initiative
4. Linkage with the school site(s) including a clear plan of communication.

## **Appendix A - Applicant Checklist**

(Do not submit)

- Eligibility determined**
- Readiness analyzed and assured**
  - Self-Assessment completed**
  - Team created**
  - Team members attend applicant meeting(s)**
- Team roles and writer(s) identified**
- GMS name and password created**
- GMS application created in system**
- Letter of Intent submitted by deadline**
- All GMS tabs entered**
- Requirements reviewed for compliance**
- GMS attachments submitted**
  - Appendix G-MOU**
  - Appendix J-Budget Template**
  - Additional attachments**
- GMS application proofread by third party and checked for accuracy**
- GMS application consistency check completed**
- GMS application submitted and locked for final submit by the authorized representative**
- GMS application assurances signed and final submitted by Superintendent/CEO**

## Appendix B - Planning Chart Template

Data below will be entered in GMS

List planning meetings and delineate writing sessions that occurred to create this application

Purpose	Participants/Titles	Date/Hours Worked	Notes
Totals			

## Appendix B-1 - GMS Site and Funding Tab Fields-Paper Version

For each school site in year three creating a full comprehensive center

School Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Free and Reduced Lunch \_\_\_\_% Regular attendees served annually \_\_\_\_\_  
How long has the program been in existence in years \_\_\_\_\_ Total school site population \_\_\_\_  
Afterschool, before school, summer service, other service, total service by weeks and days \_\_\_\_  
Grades served \_\_\_\_\_ Service schedule and time blocks \_\_\_\_\_  
Eligibility:

- Free Reduced used for eligibility
- Title 1 Schoolwide Plan status used for eligibility
- Feeder model used for eligibility

Has the site received an equity determination or is the site eligible for comprehensive supports under Every Student Succeeds Act? Yes ( ) No ( ) NA ( )

### Modified Pathway Year 1 Tab

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Total school site population \_\_\_\_\_ Regular attendees served in year  
1 \_\_\_\_\_ Grades served \_\_\_\_\_ Service schedule and time blocks \_\_\_\_\_  
Afterschool, before school, summer service, other service, total service by weeks and days \_\_\_\_

### Funding Information Tab

Type of Request: \_\_\_\_\_ standard pathway \_\_\_\_\_ Modified Pathway 21C  
Has this proposal been submitted but not funded in the last five years? \_\_\_\_\_  
21C annual request \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
New site expansion annual request \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total annual request \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total regular attendees served annually all sites \_\_\_\_  
Total youth served annually all sites \_\_\_\_\_  
New/Expansion site(s) total regular attendees served annually \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix C - Assurance and Signature Page

For reference only, will be entered within GMS

- The program will take place in a safe and easily accessible facility
- The program was developed and will be carried out in *active* collaboration with the schools that participating students attend (including through the sharing of relevant data among the schools) all participants of the eligible entity, and any partnership entities in compliance with applicable laws relating to privacy and confidentiality and in alignment with the challenging State academic standards and any local academic standards
- The program will primarily target students who primarily attend schools eligible for schoolwide programs under section 1114 and the families of such students
- Funds under the program will be used to increase the level of State, local and other non-Federal funds that would, in the absence of funds under this part, be made available for authorized programs and activities authorized under this part and in no case supplant Federal, State, local, or non-Federal funds
- The community was given notice of the applicant's intent to submit an application, and after the submission, the applicant will provide for public availability and review of the application and any waiver request

**By signing below, you agree to honor the above assurances.**

**LEA/CEO SIGNATURE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Superintendent**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

## Appendix D - Self-Assessment Tool for Sustainability

Strategy	% 21c funded projects currently using (pre-Covid data)	Team brainstorm/notes column (who?/what?/how?/timeline)
Partner organizations and individuals	100%	
Federal snack and meal programs	100%	
Sliding scale fee scale donation or other program income approach	80%  If so, no youth may be turned away for inability to pay	
School and or SU budgets	73%  Average by project is \$51,237	
Other local funds or grants including foundations	53%	
Fundraising/ donations	53%  Average by project is \$5672	
Title funding	46%	
Licensing and subsidy reimbursement	33%	
Other state Funds	23%	
Medicaid	13%	
Recreation Departments	13%	
Other Federal Grants (not including food, title, or subsidy)	0%	

		 <b>Supporting systems</b>
Quality professional development initiatives	Levels vary	These need not go explicitly in the sustainability plan unless desired
Communication and outreach including Events and celebrations of knowledge	Levels vary	These need not go explicitly in the sustainability plan unless desired
Data and evaluation systems	Levels vary	These need not go explicitly in the sustainability plan unless desired
Business partnerships and support	Levels vary	These need not go explicitly in the sustainability plan unless desired
Parent involvement	Levels vary	These need not go explicitly in the sustainability plan unless desired
Leadership Development activities	Levels vary	These need not go explicitly in the sustainability plan unless desired

Note: Current sustainability plans can be requested from [Emanuel Betz](#) Emanuel Betz  
Plans and other resources will be shared with all applicants on the email list.

## Appendix E - Sample Sustainability Plan Chart

*Adapt and Input in GMS*

Describe your sustainability plan components using or adapting this template. The first three rows are random examples.

<b>Area*</b>	<b>Strategy**</b>	<b>Financial Goal***</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<i>Develop partnerships with new out of town program providers and individuals</i>	<i>Develop one new partner annually between 2020 and 2025 resulting in \$1000 of in-kind new services each year</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Get three retired teachers from local area</li> <li>-Develop college-based program options</li> <li>- Build artist collaboration with local community artists</li> </ul>
<b>Fees</b>	<i>Bring in \$5000 per year in fees by year two without turning away a single low-income student</i>	<i>\$2500 in fees by June 30, 2021</i>  <i>\$3500 in fees by June 30, 2023</i>  <i>\$7500 in fees by June 30, 2025</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Fee structure will follow a tiered sliding scale</li> <li>-Free slots will be offered to all low-income students regardless of ability to pay</li> </ul>
<b>Sponsorships</b>	<i>Get 1 sponsor for each session of programming</i>	<i>\$100 per session or \$500 by 6/30/21</i>  <i>\$200 per session or \$1000 by 6/30/23</i>  <i>\$400 per session or \$2000 by 6/30/25</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sponsor gets mentions in communications</li> <li>Sponsor is recognized in 1 public forum and in posters around town</li> </ul>

**Area\*** There are many sustainability “areas” in bold in the Appendix D tool. Consider each area for a strategy.

**Strategy\*\*** Describe the sustainability strategy

**Financial Goal\*\*\*** Set an annual target(s) over a period covering five years

## Appendix F - Objectives Measures

Examples of qualitative and quantitative information, including objective measures that may be submitted to document program impact on learning

- Program attendance data
- School attendance data (absence, tardiness, truancy)
- Participant hours
- Volunteer hours
- Program hours
- Grades, grade-point averages
- Homework completion data
- Percent of students meeting annual performance targets
- Gates/MacGinitie Reading Assessments
- Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessments
- Search Institute Developmental Asset Survey
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
- Discipline data
- Dropout rates
- Prevention data
- Student assistance program data
- School nurse data
- Guidance counselor data
- Surveys of teachers, students and parents
- Other locally designed/selected assessments
- ESSA accountability measures as described in the VT state plan: Current status and student growth academic proficiency indicators in English Language Arts, Mathematics (SBAC) and Science and: Climate and physical education measures and: English Language (ELP) proficiency indicators
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Interim assessments
- Student mobility (enrollment stability) data

## **Appendix G - Sample Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) between Key Partners**

*Attach MOU in GMS*

This is a template that is best modified to locally generated agreements except part X and XI, which must be submitted.

### **I. Parties of the Memorandum of Agreement**

The parties would include the partners who are providing services and/or financial support to the afterschool program.

### **II. Purpose**

The purpose of this MOU is to establish an agreement among the above-mentioned parties concerning their respective roles and responsibilities for implementation of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Grant from the Vermont Agency of Education.

This agreement is to establish and coordinate joint processes and procedures for the provision of afterschool (including summer, before school, weekends, evenings, in-service days, vacation breaks, etc.) programs for students, family engagement activities, staff development, supervision, and program evaluation.

### **III. Duration of the Agreement**

The agreement should be for a period of at least one year and up to the five years.

### **IV. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Vision and Overview**

Since the MOU is intended to describe and detail how partners will contribute to the establishment and maintenance of the afterschool program, it is important that all partners to the MOU share a collective vision for the program and have a common understanding as to the scope and purpose of the program. The description provided under this section will serve as a critical framework for the program as it makes decisions on the implementation of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC investment.

### **V. Duties of Parties**

In this section, the responsibilities and agreements of each party is described separately.

For the lead applicant, the responsibilities and agreements could include:

- Serve as the fiduciary for the grant.
- Hire, fund, supervise, and evaluate the position of the project director and any other position hired through that agency.
- Provide needed support including office space, telephone use, and computer use for afterschool staff.
- Provide classroom space and all other appropriate space to accommodate the afterschool program.

- Provide custodial support, office support, and other appropriate support to ensure the program runs smoothly and that children are safe afterschool.
- Be responsible for purchasing necessary materials/supplies for designated components in accordance with the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC budget.
- Support staff in trainings and professional development opportunities in areas related to afterschool programming and issues.
- Participate in the evaluation of the afterschool program at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Complete paperwork related to any association with the program.
- Provide access to assessment and other required federal data including “GPRA measures” for the purposes of program evaluation and federal and state reporting. 21CCLC annual reporting never reports by individual student.
- Assist the program in developing, implementing, and making progress on its sustainability plan.
- The Program Director will participate in statewide meetings, workshops, and conferences.
- Recruit and refer students to the afterschool program.
- The Program Director or other appropriate person will participate on the Afterschool Advisory Team.
- Assume payroll responsibilities for afterschool positions, as budgeted.
- Communicate and collaborate with all partners.
- Support the afterschool program in developing appropriate curricula, running an effective learning lab and/or tutoring program, and establishing clear linkages with the school day.
- Establish a collaborative relationship between school day staff and afterschool staff including having a significant number of school-based staff committed to working in the program.

For a partner, the following may apply:

- Hire, supervise, and evaluate designated afterschool positions in consultation with the Program Director.
- Provide appropriate space or programming to accommodate the afterschool program.
- Recruit and refer students to the afterschool program.
- Communicate and collaborate with all partners about rules, expectations, and norms
- Communicate and collaborate with school partners about curriculum and instruction
- Establish a collaborative relationship between organization staff and afterschool staff.
- Complete paperwork related to and associated with the program.
- Provide access to assessment and other available data for the purposes of program evaluation.
- Participate in the evaluation of the afterschool program at the local, state, and federal levels.

- Assist the program in developing, implementing, and making progress on its sustainability plan.
- The Program Director or other appropriate person will participate on the Afterschool Advisory Team.

## **VI. Decision Making Process**

- All major administrative decisions concerning policy and personnel of the afterschool program shall be brought to the Afterschool Advisory Team. The Advisory Team consists of (list partners) and the Program Director. Decisions will be reached by group consensus whenever possible and appropriate. The Advisory Team will meet at least four times per year or as needed, if necessary. The Program Director will oversee and make all day-to-day decisions, when appropriate for the operations of the program. If partners cannot come to a mutual agreement, the Executive of the lead agency will have final decision-making authority.
- The Program Director will bring issues to the Advisory Team. They will be responsible for clarifying policies and program goals with the direct service team. The Program Director will supervise all afterschool staff in their role with the afterschool program. Collaborators will have program and technical oversight of staff in their agencies.
- Hiring and firing of the appropriate staff will be the responsibility of the agency for which they will. The Program Director will assist partners in interviewing and hiring staff that will be working in the afterschool program through their respective agencies. In addition, the Program Director will provide input into the performance evaluation of all partner agency staff working with the afterschool program.

## **VII. Meetings**

- The Afterschool Advisory Team will meet four times per year or more if necessary, about key decisions and issues related to successful program implementation.
- The Afterschool Program direct service staff will meet regularly to discuss program issues and planning and to participate in professional development opportunities.

## **VIII. Funding**

Funding will be provided through the Vermont Agency of Education 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant and will be allocated as noted on the attached budget. In addition, key partners will provide \_\_\_\_\_. (List funds and other commitments)

## **IX. Procedures for Modification and Termination**

- The MOU may be modified, revised, extended, or renewed by mutual written consent of all parties, by the issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated

by all parties. Submission of a revised MOU does not necessarily require a modification to the local plan.

- Any party of the MOU may terminate their participation in this MOU by giving not less than (90) calendar days’ prior written notice of intent to terminate to each of the partners. In such case, termination by one or more of the parties to this MOU does not alter the terms or obligations of the other parties to this MOU.
- An individual partners’ participation in the afterschool program may be terminated for non-compliance with the MOU provided the other parties provide 30 days’ written notice clearly outlining the reasons for the termination. The termination letter shall be sent to all parties via certified mail. The partner to be terminated may appeal this decision by responding in writing to the termination notice within 14 days of receipt. The partners shall then convene a meeting, prior to the 30-day termination date, to discuss the appeal. If the partners cannot come to a mutual agreement to terminate the partner or alter their responsibilities so they can adequately participate in the MOU, the Director of the lead agency shall make the final determination.

**X. Severance Clause**

If any part of this agreement becomes unenforceable or illegal, then the agreement will continue in force, but the offending provision(s) shall be severed from the agreement and will have no effect on the remaining services agreed to and associated performance.

This MOU is a zero-dollar exchange agreement. If there is an anticipated monetary exchange of goods and services outside of the MOU, local, state, and federal procurement policies and procedures must be followed.

**XI. Signatures (all principals and Superintendent of participating schools must sign)**

All partners in this agreement sign to confirm their acceptance of its terms by their signature.

**Supervisory Union or School District**

Superintendent	Date

**Key Partner**

Director	Date

**School**

---

Principal

**School**

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Principal

---

Date

**Key Partner**

---

Director

---

Date

**Key Partner**

---

Director

---

Date

## Appendix H - Intent to Apply Form

Use and submit this e- [Intent to Apply Form](#)

Form details for informational purpose only

Due November 24, 2021

DO NOT USE

- (1) **Name of Project:**
- (2) **Fiduciary:**
- (3) **Contact Person:**
- (4) **Phone:**
- (5) **Email:**
- (6) **Position/ Title:**
- (7) **Number of Sites/ Schools:**
- (8) **Grade Levels of Students to be Served:**
- (9) **Names of Sites/ Schools** (please note that ALL sites/schools must meet the eligibility requirements specified on page 4 of the grant application):
- (10) **Key Partners:**
- (11) **Estimated Amount to be Requested:**
- (12) **Please provide a brief description of the proposed project (1 paragraph):**

The [Cognito Link](#) of the INTENT TO APPLY must be received by Emanuel Betz at the Vermont Agency of Education (Emanuel.Betz@vermont.gov) no later than **4:30 PM on November 24, 2021 for an application to be accepted in the 2021-22 competition. Applicants are not locked into letter of intent data, but AOE should be made aware of any major changes, if they occur prior to submission.**

## Appendix I - Data Summary from Annual Performance Reports

*Input will occur in GMS*

Returning Applicants Only: Complete one column aggregating all sites' data for each box

	2018-19	Example and instructions
Number of students in school/number of Regular Attendees		100 students in school 45 regular attendees Use APR submitted data
Number of Total Students Served		100 Total students served Include sites and project total
Percent of participants who are low income compared with low-income percent of school		Total participants served = 100 Total low income served = 62 Percent of site attendees who are low income = 62% Low-income percent of school = 55% Include sites only
Number of licensed teachers working in the program		5 teachers working Include sites and project total 20 total staff
Total hours the center is open per year		Add up all hours from the whole year
Cost per regular attendee served		Use total budget including all costs Total cost=\$103,500 Total regular attendees=45 Cost per regular attendee-\$2300
% total budget sustained by non-21c sources		Include: total budget, 21c portion, non-21c amount and a percentage (cash basis only)  Total budget: \$103,000 (100%) 21c: \$50,000 (49.5%) Non-21c: \$53,000 (51.5%)

## Appendix J Budget- Budget Template

*Attach in GMS Section 7*

	Grand Total (all funds)	Total 21c Request (grant request)	Total non- 21c Funds (cash only)	Project Office 21c funds	Project Office non- 21c funds	Site 1 21c funds	Site 1 Non-21c funds	Additional Site 21c funds	Additional site non- 21c funds
<b>Project Director</b>									
<b>Site Coordinators</b>									
<b>Instructors</b>									
<b>Benefits</b>									
<b>Retirement Contributions</b>									
<b>Contracted Services</b>									
<b>Professional Development</b>									
<b>Supplies</b>									
<b>Equipment</b>									
<b>Transportation</b>									
<b>Travel/Mileage</b>									
<b>Purchased Services</b>									
<b>Professional Services</b>									
<b>Food</b>									
<b>Rent</b>									
<b>Indirect</b>									
<b>Total</b>									

## Appendix K – Student Centered Approaches to Learning

### AFTERSCHOOL

A generic term denoting a period of time when a structured program for youth occurs anytime outside of the school day. This can include activities and programs that may occur: before school, afterschool, during the summer, and on weekends, evenings, and school vacations periods.

### BLENDED LEARNING

An education program in which content and instruction are delivered both in a traditional classroom setting and through virtual learning that allows for student choice around time, place, path, and/or pace.

### COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING (SERVICE LEARNING)

A program that combines meaningful service to the community with a student's learning goals. Students improve their academic and transferable skills and personal development by applying what they learn in school to a valuable, significant, and necessary service which has real consequences to the community; they then reflect on their experience to reinforce the link between their service and their learning.

### EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

High quality programs within communities and schools designed to serve learners on a regular basis by providing unique opportunities for academic growth, hands-on learning, and personal development. Often these programs are provided by schools in collaboration with non-profit organizations, museums, and other local entities. These opportunities can occur beyond traditional school hours and outside of the school building. *Note: This approach may be funded with 21st CCLC dollars if they take place during non-school hours.*

### FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

Any combination of high-quality expanded learning opportunities, including academic and experiential components, which build and assess attainment of identified proficiencies and lead to secondary school completion, civic engagement and postsecondary readiness. Flexible pathways allow students to apply their knowledge and skills to tasks of personal interest as part of the personalized learning planning process.

### INDIVIDUALIZATION

Learning outcomes, instructional and assessment strategies and educational experiences customized to meet the needs of individual students.

### PERSONALIZATION

A learning process in which schools help students assess their own talents and aspirations, plan a pathway toward their own purposes, work cooperatively with others in challenging tasks, maintain a record of explorations, and demonstrate their learning against clear standards in a wide variety of media, all with the close support of adult mentors and guides. – *National Association of Secondary School Principals*

### PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Systems and approaches that deepen student learning by incorporating each student's interests, strengths and needs - including student voice and choice in what, how, when and where they learn - to achieve the goals of active engagement, academic success, and preparation for post-secondary opportunities. While often less formalized, personalized learning and personalized instructional approaches are critical to students in kindergarten through grade 6 as well.

### PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

An approach to education in which learners explore real-world problems and challenges to address learning targets.

### VIRTUAL LEARNING

Learning delivered through a Web-based platform that employs a variety of digital tools, content, and supports and allows for student choice around time, place, path, and/or pace. Virtual learning can facilitate both individual and collective learning and can occur synchronously and asynchronously.

### WORK-BASED LEARNING

An educational program or experience involving student interactions with industry or community professionals in real, virtual, online, or simulated work environments that exposes learners to postsecondary options, provides opportunities for skill development and proficiency attainment, and allows students to reinforce and deepen their school-based learning.

## Appendix L - Full Comprehensive Centers

The term “full comprehensive center” denotes a project that is large in scope and in impact. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funds support full comprehensive centers. Be sure that your community is ready and able to build and maintain a full comprehensive center

### A Full Comprehensive Center

Area	Larger school example (n>80 students) school year and summer combined	Small school example (n<80 students) school year and summer combined	Summer Programs
# of programming days	150-200	150-200	25+
Number of daily programming hours	2-3	2-3	4-8
# of weeks	32+ school year 5+ for summer	32+ school year 5+ for summer	5 (required minimum)
# regular attendees	32%-50% of program attendees	32%-50% of program but should be higher	varies
# attendees in the program	50% of total school population	50%-100%	varies
% free and reduced lunch and IEP/504 attendees served	Same or higher than the school average	Same or higher than the school average	Same or higher than the school average
Suggested start-up cost range	\$50,000-\$135,000	\$35,000-\$80,000 and likely teamed with other sites to form a multi-site project	--

## Appendix M - Application Quality Guide

Application Section	Basic Response	Better Response	Best Response
<b>Overall</b>	Poor Confusing Limited Unconvincing Vague Unrealistic Underwhelming Disjointed Untested	Average Clear Complete Representative Resonant Realistic Acceptable Structured Tested	Exemplary Convincing Achievable Robust Comprehensive Performing Innovative Elegant Proven
<b>1. Planning</b>  (5 points maximum)	One person writing in complete or near complete isolation  Common meeting times with partners are limited  Lead writer meets and plans, but other activities are limited in scope  The effort in developing the product is substandard versus the average	One main writer working with a small group or team  School leadership provided input and attended planning meetings  Leadership of other key partners from the community are represented in meetings and other activities  Evidence of teamwork and end product meets or exceeds the norm	A cohesive project team exists including a variety of stakeholders and partners who met together regularly to plan  Team leaders lead a team process, and the work is shared within a project team  Evidence of diverse and/or exemplary planning activities  Effort expended is obvious and end product is exemplary

Application Section	Basic Response	Better Response	Best Response
<b>2. Program Need</b>  (10 points maximum)	Poverty data averages around 40% and there may be lower need compared with other applications	Poverty data is around the average for applicants	Poverty data indicates the greatest need versus other applications.  School(s) have an equity determination, small school(s) demonstrate equity needs, or school(s) are eligible for comprehensive supports
	Limited school data demonstrating academic need is used	Clear school data including academic data demonstrates need	Compelling, well thought out school and other supporting data shows strong academic and other needs.
	The plan does not include meaningful performance measures	A diversity of performance measures are used, but it is not clear how they connect and inform the proposed program design	There is a strong assessment of community and other needs and the results are used to inform the proposal
	The connection between need and the proposal is not established	There is some clarity as to how the proposed programs will generally meet the needs of children (and families)	A clear connection exists between the program being proposed and students' needs; with program design linked to identified need

Application Section	Basic Response	Better Response	Best Response
<b>3. Programming</b>  (45 points maximum)	Dosage is below range	Dosage is in recommended range(s) with a clear effective design	Dosage is in upper recommended range for afterschool and summer with a superior accompanying rationale based on the option chosen
	Program strategies are unclear or not fully developed	A variety of program strategies are proposed and well-designed including effective academic component(s)	Programming is intentional, well-designed, and purposeful, including opportunities for personalization including a rich variety of explicit strategies and approaches
	Program descriptions lack detail	Program detail includes and numbers of students served, schedules, days, offerings, sites, ratios, curriculum, rationale, staffing configurations	All program details are clearly presented and support other assertions throughout the proposal
	There is limited evidence that a student-centered approach is used or considered	A student-centered approach is evident but not central to programs	A student-centered approach is clearly articulated in detail
	The staffing plan relies on lower skilled workers	The staffing plan relies on a variety of quality staff	The staffing plan revolves around highly skilled workers and advanced training
	The program design lacks cohesion	The program design is varied and tied to a variety of learning outcomes	The program design is carefully constructed and explained, valuing student choice and using a variety of strategies with the ability to continuously improve and adapt to need on multiple levels

Application Section	Basic Response	Better Response	Best Response
	Safety protocols lack specificity	Safety protocols are adequate and clear.	Physical and emotional safety protocols are articulated and integrated with the school day
	The program is limited in scope and staffing qualifications are not specified or seem weak	The proposal constitutes a diverse staffing approach	Staff are highly qualified. The program employs or plans to employ a number of school day teachers and professionals
	The proposal lacks a variety of opportunities. Student choice and appeal seems limited.	Many programs would appeal to children and youth and engage them regularly	Programming is exciting and engaging. There are ample opportunities for students to learn, explore, and develop skills. Regular attendance is assured.
	Linkages to the school day are limited or non-existent	School day linkages are emerging or growing	School day linkages are robust and evident with multiple examples
	There is limited evidence of coordination of programs and resources and the project design is separate or lacks the ability to integrate over time	There is evidence of coordination of programs and resources	Initiatives across multiple domains are integrated into an effective design that serves individual and program needs

Application Section	Basic Response	Better Response	Best Response
<b>4. Program Management</b>  (10 points maximum)	The director's position is not well-designed and it is unclear who might fill this position or what their qualifications will be	The director's position is fairly well-defined, but it may not be clear how the position fits into the overall school, district, or organizational structure	A well-qualified and experienced project director (role) has been identified or a solid and thorough plan is in place to recruit and retain one within a functional and supportive organization
	It is not clear how the school leadership supports the program	There is evidence that the school leadership is invested in the project	There is ample evidence that the school leadership team not only supports, but will use the project to implement its educational vision
	Strategies that support instructional leadership are limited or non-existent	A variety of strategies that support instructional leadership are articulated but are not thoroughly designed	Explicit strategies are proposed around lesson planning, course development and on-going assessment and improvement
	Limited effort or attention to the value of communication with students, parents and community is in evidence.	At least three methods of communication are described that appeal to a cross section of the community	A system of integrated communication strategies will be implemented
	Transportation is not addressed	Transportation is addressed but without a lot of detail	Transportation has been thoroughly researched and a plan is proposed based on data
	Professional Development opportunities are limited	Professional development activities exist, yet do not meet the need	Professional development activities are differentiated and meet articulated need(s)

Application Section	Basic Response	Better Response	Best Response
<b>5. Evaluation and Evidence</b>  (10 points maximum)	The questions, goals, objectives and outcomes are minimal, or not well thought out	The questions, goals, objectives and summative outcomes are in existence, but all components of a SMART goal may not be met.	The questions, goals, objectives and outcomes are concise, well thought out, and are clearly linked to a SMART framework (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time sensitive)
	Only a few indicators are used, and there are few specific targets	The proposed design and measurements are compelling, but certain aspects of the plan could be improved	Multi layered evidence and data is presented that is linked to the program proposal making a powerful case
	Three or fewer pieces of evidence accompany a narrative that is lacking.	At least five pieces of evidence across different domains accompany a compelling narrative	A mixture of academic and other performance measures includes multiple assessments using school and other data and linked to valid research-based approaches
	There is limited evidence that best practices and research are being leveraged or understood	Performance measures are part of the plan and Correlational studies are referenced and relevant	A number of scientifically based research citations were used; Experimental or quasi-experimental study(s) and practice are aligned
	It is not clear who will do the evaluation work	There are adequate funds for a director or evaluator to do the work and there are linkages to other systems	The plan is clear, informed by people with expertise, and systems are aligned
	For returning sites, Appendix I data are below expectations	For returning sites, Appendix I data meet the average	For returning sites, Appendix I data substantially exceed averages

Application Section	Basic Response	Better Response	Best Response
<b>6. Budget and Budget Narrative</b>  (10 points maximum)	Costs are not clear and do not relate explicitly to the proposal design	The costs are reasonable, balanced, and for the most part tied to the proposal design	The budget is reasonable, clear and convincing, per participant costs are within guidelines and the budget can successfully and reasonably implement the proposed plan.
	Some costs may not be reasonable or necessary	Some detail may be missing from the budget narrative to understand how funds will be expended, but the information is clear on the whole	Costs are reasonable and necessary. Administration and direct instruction are balanced, and the budget has compelling specificity for each section
	The narrative is missing essential information to make a full assessment	Costs are well designed, reasonable and necessary, but a few items may need more information and are not explicitly explained in the narrative	The budget narrative is clear and convincing and has a high level of detail giving the reader a high degree of confidence in the proposal
<b>7. Partnerships and Sustainability</b>  (10 points maximum)	There is little or no evidence that active partnerships have been formed with organizations or individuals within the proposal and the Memorandum of Understanding	Evidence is provided that the lead organization has plans to collaborate with a variety of partners and providers and/or individuals through the proposal and the Memorandum of Understanding	The proposal and the Memorandum of Understanding includes a variety of partners that are involved in the planning and delivery of the program in specific and compelling ways
	There is limited substance as to what partners will each contribute to the program or how they will support the project	The partner agreements and contributions are clear and in line with what would be expected/leveraged from the community	The agreement is robust, and partners all contribute substantially to the success of the program

<b>Application Section</b>	<b>Basic Response</b>	<b>Better Response</b>	<b>Best Response</b>
	Limited specifics are articulated on how the program will be sustained and the basic plan is weak	The plan involves a variety of sources that are realistic and achievable	A detailed plan is in place with specifics that are realistic and achievable and can be implemented in a timely manner
<b>Partnerships and Sustainability (Continued)</b>	For returning applicants: A detailed plan is in place with specifics that are realistic and achievable. Past sustainability results are appropriate and acceptable	For returning applicants: A detailed plan is in place with specifics that are realistic and achievable and can be implemented quickly: Past sustainability results are excellent and meet the competitive average	For returning applicants: A detailed plan is in place with specifics that are realistic and achievable and can be implemented quickly. Past sustainability results are exemplary, diverse, and significantly exceed the norm

## Appendix N – Tips

### Information - Tips

First Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine Eligibility.</li> <li>• Review Requirements and Expectations.</li> <li>• Ask difficult questions.</li> <li>• Assess readiness (use the readiness assessment) and only apply if the communities are ready.</li> <li>• Create a local team to implement the process.</li> <li>• Involve key players from the school and community.</li> <li>• Identify the team leader and writer with the needed skills.</li> <li>• Organize multiple planning meetings to prepare the application and project.</li> <li>• Survey students, parents, and other stakeholders.</li> <li>• Allow plenty of time to prepare your proposal carefully and thoughtfully. Do not rush through the process.</li> </ul>
General Presentation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use plain English. Include a mixture of bullets, charts, and text. If you can't make a point in less than 35 words, the point needs to be rethought.</li> <li>• Follow the formatting guidelines carefully and precisely.</li> <li>• Avoid cluttering pages with text, using several different fonts, spacing text erratically, and inserting pictures or symbols.</li> <li>• Check and test GMS formatting including cutting and pasting from web based or other platforms well in advance.</li> </ul>
General Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structure your narrative by answering each question from the grant application by section in order.</li> <li>• Assure that your narrative makes clear the proposal's vision by the end of the third page or you may lose the reader.</li> <li>• Clarity is brevity. Every sentence should say something needed and relevant to the question.</li> </ul>
Do not make these	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied when the site(s) was not ready to be successful.</li> <li>• Omitted statistical data to back assertions throughout the proposal.</li> </ul>

<p>mistakes others have made</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion: Overview of existing versus proposed programs were missing. Include program name, program site, numbers served before 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC application, projected numbers served with 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program and an explanation of the nature of expansion, if any in a chart showing pre-post scenarios.</li> <li>• Missing basic program detail: numbers of students served, regular attendees, schedules, days, offerings, sites, ratios, curriculum, rationale, staffing configurations.</li> <li>• Used google docs or other shared internet tools where last-minute consolidation and formatting was very difficult.</li> <li>• Used color in charts, graphs; or pictures, all of which are not allowed.</li> <li>• Tried to work around the narrative guidelines. The rules are there for equity and fairness for all, and they are checked.</li> </ul>
<p>Section 1: Planning and Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include a sufficient level of detail to demonstrate that a wide variety of partners were involved in the planning process; list names and titles and dates of work. Include summarized totals at the bottom of the chart.</li> <li>• Historical planning data with average hours: Funded proposals- 62 hours (range 19-107), Unfunded-16 hours (range 7-26)</li> <li>• If a rushed last-minute proposal is submitted without team input and the communities are not ready, do not submit.</li> <li>• Do not use a paid grant writer.</li> </ul>
<p>Section 2: Program Need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include clear bulleted data points that cogently make the case based on objective data.</li> <li>• The answers to this section cannot exceed 10000 characters: use narrative that only adds value to the objective data.</li> <li>• Make clear why the proposed program is needed and how afterschool and summer programs are a solution to the identified need.</li> <li>• Complete a survey and compile the results.</li> <li>• Show data on how the project or community has made progress in meeting the needs of the youth and community and that the proposal will build on that success.</li> <li>• Use the resources AOE shares during applicant meetings.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be mindful to only submit attachments that add value, do not submit computer generated data sheets with duplicative data.</li> </ul>
Section 3: Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin the whole proposal or this section with a short, concise “overview” introduction. Include program locations, numerical information, and programming highlights that will meet identified needs</li> <li>• Include a schedule in the site tab with at least: school dismissal time, snack and outdoor time, program blocks, program end time, pick up/transportation schedules, differentiated choices.</li> <li>• Include program components that have 4:1 staffing or better. Include wages that will attract high quality staff.</li> <li>• Visit an existing program.</li> <li>• Take the time to analyze and think about the importance of design in the following areas: programs, schedules, transitions, space, meals, staff, end products, celebrations and performances.</li> <li>• Addenda can be used for site specific details and programming info for multi-site projects.</li> <li>• Use at least short program descriptions, not single words or short phrases to describe programs.</li> <li>• Consider alternative models and approaches that can complement and extend a “traditionally designed” afterschool program.</li> </ul>
Section 4 Program management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include reference to a clear governance structure or advisory team and a schedule for meetings and oversight.</li> <li>• Make sure the job, hours and salary are clearly articulated. Include sustainability tasks and instructional leadership as an integral part of the Project Director job.</li> <li>• Project Director membership on the school administrative team is strongly recommended.</li> <li>• Include strategies to communicate directly with students and parents as well as more general communication strategies.</li> <li>• Transportation “must be addressed” by law. Explore the opportunities of car-pooling as well as extra school bus runs or adapting existing bus schedules.</li> <li>• Volunteers can support a strong structure but are not to be a relied upon for core staff of a 21c funded program.</li> </ul>
Section 5: Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include SMART goals that answer the question: “How is anyone better off?”</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use “SMART” Goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely) <a href="#">SMART Criteria Wikipedia</a>. Limit the number of goals/objectives. Choose a combination of quantitative and qualitative assessments. Include short and longer-term objectives.</li> </ul>
Section 6: Budget and budget narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For program expansions: Include program name, program site, numbers served and other outcome data for both “pre and post application. Provide new projected numbers served and/or the explanation of the nature of a program expansion.</li> <li>• Consider implementing a sliding scale schedule of fees or a donation option at the opening of programs for elementary students while allowing all to come regardless of ability to pay or decide that fees will never be used.</li> <li>• Use the budget template provided by VTAOE.</li> <li>• Include clear formulas that match the numbers and any narrative such as <math>\\$22 \times 8 \text{ hours} \times 25 \text{ days} = \\$4400</math></li> <li>• Do request what is needed to achieve goals. The appropriate amount within the listed ranges on page is largely a function of program size and scope.</li> <li>• Do make sure all costs are <i>reasonable, necessary, and allocable</i> to carry out your project. Be specific about how the funds will be used and check all of your budget to make sure each item is linked somewhere to your program narrative.</li> <li>• Do submit budgets in even dollars; never use cents.</li> <li>• If the modified funding pathway is chosen first generate a year three “full budget” and then back off amounts by category to create the year one budget.</li> <li>• Do include significant detail in the budget narrative including a brief explanation and a calculation for each item.</li> <li>• Do have a third party check the math and assumptions carefully.</li> <li>• Do include FICA (.0765) for all staff.</li> <li>• Do make sure costs for administration and direct instruction are balanced with not more than 30-40% of the budget for start-up projects allocated toward administration.</li> <li>• Do have per participant cost be between \$700-\$1500, or \$1400-\$3000 per regular attendee served (back out food, tutoring and transportation costs), or use a cost per student hour calculation not to exceed \$25 per student hour served.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do only propose programs that meet full comprehensive center guidelines.</li> <li>• Do propose funds to support licensed teacher and equivalent staff.</li> <li>• Up to 2% for staff development is recommended, in addition to paid time for trainings.</li> <li>• Up to 5% for supplies is suggested.</li> <li>• One time equipment purchases should be limited to only items related directly to program needs.</li> <li>• Transportation is allowable and by law transportation must be addressed for all youth.</li> <li>• Provide appropriate wages for leadership.</li> <li>• Include wages for licensed teacher (and equivalent) component(s) and include the retirement contribution of ~18%.</li> <li>• Do not request funds for "miscellaneous" or other purposes using vague language.</li> <li>• Do not request funds for anything that is not directly related to the 21<sup>st</sup> Community Learning Centers program described in the narrative.</li> <li>• Do not request funds for construction projects.</li> </ul>
Section 7: Partnerships and Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List past sustainability and partnership successes.</li> <li>• Review multiple existing sustainability plans and the 21c statewide funding spreadsheet</li> <li>• Only complete one Memorandum of Understanding per application and edit and cut down the provided template as needed; less is more.</li> <li>• Attach a sustainability chart as an appendix. Sample Sustainability plans exist on the <a href="#">Vermont Afterschool Wiki</a>.</li> </ul>
Last Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proofread your proposal. Ask colleagues who have not been involved in the proposal's development to proofread the proposal. Reviewers will not give your proposal the benefit of the doubt if information is missing, if spelling errors change the meaning of sentences, or if information is presented in a confusing manner.</li> <li>• Check the budget figures for consistency and accuracy.</li> <li>• Use the checklist printed in the application package to ensure that all required information is included.</li> <li>• Finalize signatures and pages needed in the process well in advance.</li> <li>• Become trained with the GMS well in advance of the deadline and submit before the deadline (January 31 recommended) to avoid any technical pitfalls, which can happen. The process for GMS submission includes:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Grant coordinator completes the application and clicks Consistency Check on the Submit tab; if no errors found, it goes to superintendent or CEO</li><li>○ Superintendent or CEO agrees to assurances in the application and inputs data on <u>two</u> different tabs</li><li>○ Superintendent or CEO clicks Legal Entity; Agrees on the assurance's summary page</li><li>○ Superintendent or CEO clicks Submit to AOE on the Submit tab</li></ul>
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