

Act 78 Afterschool and Extended Learning Program

Summary and Proposals for FY 25 and the future

December 19, 2024

Agency of Education

Opportunity Statement

The additional revenue in FY 25 and FY 26 creates an opportunity to accelerate our ability to achieve the vision of universal afterschool.

This opportunity requires us to be agile, responsive, and creative.

We are looking for feedback from the Advisory Council on new grant program tracks to support scale, promote equity and elevate opportunities for Vermont kids.



“The overarching goal is that every child and youth in Vermont (kindergarten through high school) has a place to be in the afterschool hours outside the school day and over the summer.” –Afterschool Taskforce Report, 2021

Why Universal Afterschool and Extended Learning?

As a key element of a Cradle to Career Model, Universal Afterschool...

- Supports working families by reducing the logistical and financial burden of aftercare
- Supports student academic success and prevention of harmful choices by:
 - Increasing engagement to address issues of chronic absenteeism,
 - Increasing student success and preparation for the work force
 - Decreasing the potential use of drugs or activities that may lead to interactions with law enforcement
- Addresses persistent gaps between student subgroups (economically disadvantaged, rural students, etc.) by offering high quality opportunities in underserved areas/communities → increases choices for all students

Act 78

Afterschool Grants

- Per Act 78, AOE shall administer grant programs:
 - To support mixed delivery afterschool and summer programs
 - Open to public, private, and non-profit organizations
 - Which may support technical assistance, implementation, expansion, or expansion
 - Which may target communities with low existing capacity

What does success look like?

Aftercare for families with young children to support working families

High quality enrichment experiences to close achievement gaps for all students

Decreasing rates of interaction with law enforcement, drug use, chronic absenteeism

Use of funds to support strategic priorities for the state

How will we measure success?

Performance measures

- Increased number of slots
- Increased number of program hours
- Increased number of students attending
- Addition of academic enrichment component to programs that do not have them
- Reduce/eliminate wait lists for aftercare

Outcomes for students

- Reduction in chronic absenteeism
- Improved academic outcomes (graduation rates, persistence rates, etc)
- Improved scores/measures on YRBS and other measures of mental health (reduced numbers of behavioral incidents at school)

Program/Center Grant Program

What is the Program/Center Model?

- Funds Expansion and Development of Afterschool delivery at public, private, and non-profit sites
- Two tracks to allow for flexibility:
 - **Program** – small scale awards to add additional features, services, or capacity to existing programming or develop new programming where none currently exist
 - **Center** – larger scale awards to support expansion or development of single site afterschool centers (i.e., director, staff, 100+ days of program per year)
- Related to, but distinct from 21C
 - Shorter application, wider eligibility pool, smaller scope, simpler reporting requirements,

FY 2024 grantees

Awardee Type	Organization	Annual Award	Award Type
Schools	Addison Northwest SD	\$150,000.00	Center
	Burlington SD	\$60,000.00	Program
	Caledonia Central SU	\$131,193.00	Center
	Caledonia Central SU	\$60,000.00	Program
	Franklin Northeast SU*	\$18,900.00	Center
	Kingdom East UUSD	\$60,000.00	Program
	Missisquoi Valley SD	\$56,296.00	Center
	Orange Southwest UUSD	\$94,103.56	Center
	White River Valley SU	\$60,000.00	Program
	Windham Southeast SU	\$24,340.80	Program
Community Based Organizations	Boys and Girls Club of Brattleboro Inc.	\$150,000.00	Center
	King Street Center, Inc.	\$60,000.00	Program
	Montshire Museum of Science	\$27,421.00	Program
	Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Inc.	\$150,000.00	Center
	Paran Recreations, Inc.	\$56,046.99	Program
	UVM Extension: Vermont Migrant Education Program	\$51,773.00	Program
	Vermont Works for Women	\$26,945.00	Program

The FY24 awards were only able to be released in FY 25 due to delay incurred waiting for the BAA to resolve the source of fund/eligible entity conflict

FY 2025 grant plan

- The amount allocated to each track was increased versus last year
- The program track award cap was increased, and funding schedule was adjusted to allow immediate release of funds
- Both tracks moved from a three-year to a five-year model.

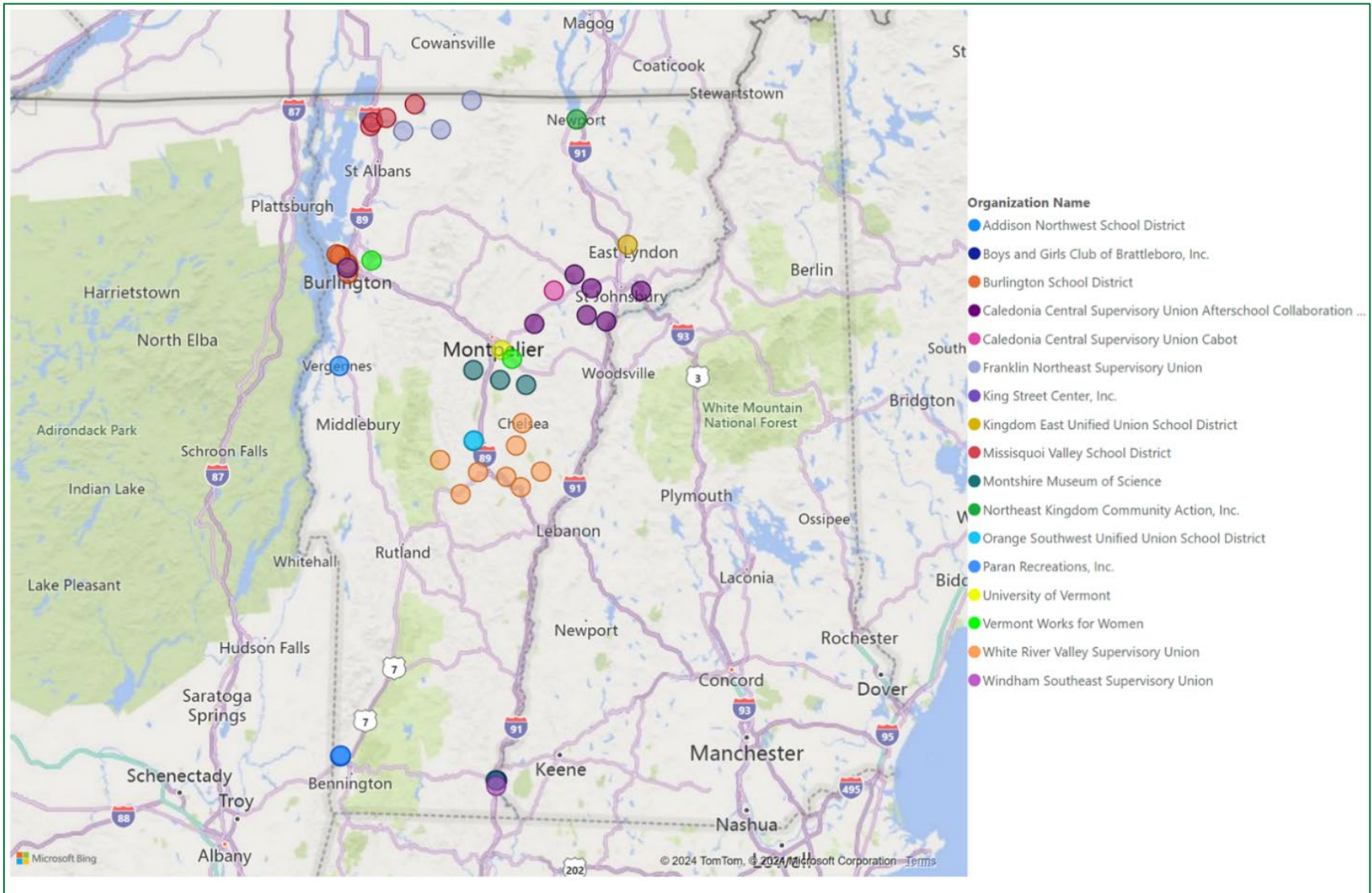
	Allocation/5 years	# of awards	Start of Funds
FY 24 Program	\$3.2 M	11	7/1/24
FY 24 Center	\$3.7 M	7	7/1/24
FY 25 Program	\$4.3 M	20	1/1/25
FY 26 Center*	\$6.8 M	12	7/1/25

* awards starting FY 26, but competed in FY 25

Building towards capacity

- Capacity is reached after FY 26 competition round
 - FY 26 Program Competition
 - FY 27 Center Competition
- Proposed \$5 million annual allocation
 - ~50 program track awards and ~30 center track awards
- Potential for annual renewal grants
- Program performance measures

Current Act 78-Funded Afterschool Sites



Extended Learning as a Statewide Strategy

**REGIONAL AND STATEWIDE GRANTS TO
SUPPORT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

Extended Learning Opportunities- Push in Model

- Proposal for grants to regional/statewide entities to “push in” high quality learning opportunities into community and school spaces
- Could offer trained staff and content-rich experiences to existing programs (adding an academic/learning component to a non-academic program)
- Could offer enrichment to community and school spaces that do not offer afterschool/summer programming
- Annual set of priorities recommended by the Council to align with educational priorities

Proposal for FY25 and future

- Areas of priority for FY 25 and FY 26: STEM/STEAM; college and career prep; mental health and engagement to reduce chronic absenteeism
- Geographic priorities: Rutland and Bennington counties, Northeast Kingdom
- FY 25 (5-year grants) → \$4 million
- FY 26 (5 year grants) → \$3 million

Expanding Capacity Strategy

**CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

Capacity Building Grants

- Eligible recipients already operate a program or may wish to provide extended learning opportunities without a formal program (e.g. afterschool club at library; transportation to drive students home from afterschool, create additional slots or additional program time)
- 3 year grants, smaller amounts (stipends for teachers, staff; transportation contracts, extra slots)
- FY 25 → \$2 million
- FY 26 → \$1 million

Technical Assistance Grants

- Grant to statewide organization(s) to support LEAs and community organizations through technical assistance, support for program implementation, expansion, and sustainability, and to provide recommendations on best practices and return on investment analysis to the Agency and Advisory Council to promote the vision of Universal Afterschool in VT
- 3-year grant with potential for annual renewal
- FY 25 → \$2.5 million

Available Funding Projections and Awards

- FY 25: \$14 million
 - Program/Center grants- \$5 million
 - Statewide/Regional Extended Learning Opportunities grants- \$4 million
 - Capacity Building Grants- \$2 million
 - Technical Assistance grant(s)- \$2.5 million
 - Admin- \$500,000
 - Total **\$14 million**
- FY 26: \$10 million
 - Program/Center- \$5 million
 - Statewide/Regional- \$3 million
 - Capacity Building- \$1.5 million
 - Admin- \$500,000
 - Total **\$10 million**

Questions and Feedback?

