

#### Issue Date: August 30, 2024

# **Overview**

- Research such as Wallace supports "center development" (duration/intentionality/high quality staffing/many programs/"a small school") The grant applications were designed/built on as "mini" or farm team models of 21C in intent and application design (focused to smaller scale)
- Need and support tracking to highest poverty. Comprehensive and equity schools; should follow 21C standard practice since 2004.
- Integrated grant design and braiding funds: 21C centers have grown to SU-level supports in many cases, ARP-ESSER state grants followed by Act 78 brought in 2 aligned "lower tiers" and amounts available:
  - Program grants for innovative/ expansion and/or small-scale start-ups, and
  - Center grant pathway funds one comprehensive center to spur, sustain, or focus investments and provide a three-year platform for later system growth.

### Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1**: Application design features:
  - Break out program and center application timelines rolling in concert with 21C across the year. Benefit: more focus on center TA and program grants can start spending earlier. Ideal communication: 9/15 macro overview and deadlines released in WFM for all three programs concurrent with 21C RFP release.
  - $\circ$   $\;$  Keep existing priorities and tracking as absolute priorities as in year one
  - Apply additional Competitive priority structure and associated application enhancements focused on highest need and highest quality programming
    - Centers: extra (e.g. 3-5) points for highest poverty schools/communities comprehensive and/or equity communities schools not funded by 21C (e.g. 55%+ equity/comprehensive; actual number under analysis –would be top quartile of need) EB has a draft map in development
    - Programs: extra (e.g. 3-5) points for skill-based programming with sustained adequate dosage ( diverse approaches allowed could include youth leadership, tutoring, STEM and theater/artistic programs for at least 30 hrs./days: 21C uses the following, as outlined in the 21CCLC Statewide Evaluation Plan (2023):

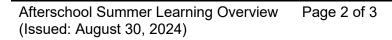
2.2b Each 21C funded site serving grades (4-12) will offer at least 1 program offering 10(3 for sites in schools with more than 100 youth) that meets for at least 30 hours and systematically builds lasting physical artistic, academic, or other skill sets.



- Update scoring, questions, highlight exemplars/best practice and TA to these needs and goals
- **Recommendation 2**: Weight initial budget allocations towards center investment. Current proposal weights centers vs programs at 2:1 to support research and sustainability.
- **Recommendation 3**: Include annual option to use some Act 78 funds in 21C competitions if federal funds cannot fund all successful proposals [cohorts have had up to 500k (2.5 mil total) in a competition with this need] *White River Valley current example*. **Why**: Including 21C in the investment strategy supports systemic development and sustainability of the last 20 years of successful investing. Legislation is aligned in intent [except with 21C schools MUST be a partner]. This would be a leveraged diverse equitable aligned strategy to use over time which can build and sustain a state system over time.
- **Recommendation 4**: Enhance and incentivize a stronger partnership model: more points for school/community partnerships, and other methods TBD. Require some form of partnership (no more solo apps for operations only) for center applications.

Туре	Grants Applied Amount	Annual Amount	Annual Award #	Duration in years	Notes
Smaller Program Grants-ACT 78	2.2mil	~733K-	~10	3	Up to ~65k each 500k in FY25-same amount as a baseline
Bigger Single Center Grants- Act 78	2.3	~766k	~5	3	Up to ~150k , 750k annually in FY25 awarded
Biggest System Level Grants- Act 78 +21C	2.0 mil	~400k option	~3	5	50k- 600k range(these are 5 years declining) 3mil annually in FY25 from ~650k federal available in FY26 I
Totals	6.5 mil	2.5 mil			+800k for years 4/5 to make 2.5mil annual amount

## **Proposed Design**





## **Proposed Timeline**

	21C	78-Programs	78-Centers	Notes
GMS+RFP Development +Guide work	Aug	Aug-SEP	Aug-Sept	Only tweaks needed for 78 programs
Draft RFP+ Guide complete	August 15	Sept 15	Sept 15	
Final RFP Feedback	Aug 15-30	Sept 15-Oct 1	Sept 15-Oct 1	
RFP release	Sept 11	Oct 15	Oct 15	Alignment makes sense
Training	10/16-#1 11/22-#2	Between 21C trainings	Concurrent-near with 21C training #2	Need dates
TA-Support	Oct-Dec	Oct-Dec	Oct-Dec	Aligned
App Deadline	Jan 24 (third)	Dec 4 (first)	Jan 15 (second) Same as 21C?	Challenge of readers Contracts needed
Review Period	Feb-March	Dec-Jan	Feb-March	Pinch point!
Announcement	April 1	Jan 15	April 1	Allows for intersection with 21C
Awards Start	July 1, 2025	Feb 1	July 1	
ТА	ongoing			Start UP Academy after 4/1 or in summer??
Annual Reporting	End of year	Sept 27/June 27	Oct 1/end of year	

