|  |
| --- |
|   |
| Notice of Grant OpportunityNita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, Cohort 21, Competitive26-EK74-H06Program Term Date: 9/1/2025 - 8/31/2026Application Due Date: Thursday, June 26, 2025, due by 4:00 P.M. |
| Kevin Dehmer Commissioner of EducationKathy Ehling Assistant CommissionerDivision of Educational ServicesLuiz PereiraDirector Office of Student Support Services2025-2026ALN# 84.287C26-100-034-5064-161-H400-6130-D006New Jersey Department of EducationP.O. Box 500 ● Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 |

The following are requirements and instructions for a Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO) from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE). Instructions on how to gain access to the application and how to complete the application in the Electronic Web-Enabled Grant (EWEG) system are available in [the Discretionary Grants Manual](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/apps/).

When responding to this NGO, applicants must use [the EWEG online application system](https://njdoe.mtwgms.org/NJDOEGmsWeb/logon.aspx) on the NJDOE’s [Homeroom](http://homeroom.state.nj.us/) webpage. In the EWEG GMS page scroll down to view “Available” grants to initiate the application. If the application is not available, contact EWEG help to gain access to the application. The responsibility for a timely submission resides with the applicant. The Application Control Center (ACC) must receive the completed application through the online EWEG system through the NJDOE Homeroom webpage by no later than 4:00 P.M. on the due date of the application. Without exception, the ACC will not accept, and the Office of Grants Management (OGM) cannot evaluate an application submitted after this deadline for funding consideration.

**Table of Contents**

Section I. Grant Program Information 5

I.1. Purpose of the NGO 5

I.2. Federal Compliance Requirements - Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Registrations 7

I.3. Award Management SAM Application 7

I.4. Dissemination of This Notice 9

I.5. Access to the EWEG Application 9

I.6. Application Submission 10

I.7. Application Review Criteria 11

I.8. Grantee Award Notifications 12

I.9. Open Public Records 12

Section II. Completing the Application 13

II.1 General Instructions for Applying 13

II.2 Application Technical Assistance Session 13

II.3 Grant Deliverables 13

II.4 Project Design Considerations: 16

II.5 Allowable Uses and Eligible Activities 35

II.6 Application Component Required Uploads 35

II.7 Sub-granting Funds 37

II.8 Nonpublic Participation 37

II.9 Apportionment of Grant Funds 38

II.10 Eligible Costs 38

II.11 Ineligible Costs 39

Section III – Grant Agreement 41

III.1 Grant Agreement 41

III.2 Reporting Requirements 41

III.3 Interim Activity Reports 41

III.4 Fiscal Reimbursement and Fiscal Interim Report Requirements 41

III.5 Reporting Periods 42

III.6 Monitoring 47

III.7 Acceptable Documentation for Grant Monitoring 48

III.7.a Activity Reports 48

III.7.b Reimbursements 48

III.8 Grant Amendments 49

III.9 Suspension/Cancellation of Grant/Loan Agreement and/or Reduction in Funding 49

III.10 Grant Close Out 50

III.11 Federal Requirements 50

Section IV Appendices 52

Appendix 1: Documentation of Eligibility 52

Appendix 2: Verification of School Collaboration 53

Appendix 3: Program Statement of Assurances 54

Appendix 4: Nonpublic Equitable Participation Summary and Affirmation of Consultation 55

Appendix 5: GPRA Measures 56

Appendix 6: 21st CCLC Audit Information 57

Appendix 7:List of National and Statewide Conferences 58

Appendix 8: Documentation of Required Collaboration 60

Appendix 9: Documentation of Required Collaboration 61

Appendix 10: Project Staff Responsibilities 62

Appendix 11: Budget Development Instructions 64

Appendix 12: Electronic Web-Enabled Grants System (EWEG) Tips 65

**State Board of Education**

Kathy A. Goldenberg Burlington
President

Ned James Johnson, Ed.D Salem
Vice President

Arcelio Aponte Middlesex

Mary G. Bennett Essex

Mary Beth Berry Hunterdon

Elaine Bobrove Camden

Ronald K. Butcher, Ph.D. Gloucester

Jack Fornaro Warren

Claudine Keenan, Ed.D. Atlantic

Jeanette Peña Hudson

Joseph Ricca, Jr., Ed.D Morris

Ahmed Shehata Union

Kevin Dehmer, Commissioner

Secretary, State Board of Education

It is a policy of the New Jersey State Board of Education and the State Department of Education that no person, on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age, sex, handicap or marital status, shall be subjected to discrimination in employment or be excluded from or denied benefits of any activity, program or service for which the Department has responsibility. The Department will comply with all state and federal laws and regulations concerning nondiscrimination.

# Section I. Grant Program Information

## Purpose of the NGO

The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), a federally funded program, provides approximately $4 million to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to support out-of-school time programs in New Jersey, which include before-school, after-school, or summer enrichment. Under Title IV, Part B of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the purpose of the 21st CCLC program is to provide opportunities for communities to establish or expand activities in community learning centers that:

* Increase academic enrichment, including providing tutorial services to help students, particularly students who attend low-performing schools, to meet the challenging State academic standards;
* Offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as nutrition and health education programs, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, and others that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students; and
* 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.

Awards will be issued on an annual basis with the NJDOE reviewing program performance (through on-site and desk monitoring); reports; local and state-level evaluations; adequate and efficient use of federal funds; and a continuation application to determine continued program funding. Based on the availability of federal resources, for cohort 21, this five-year grant program that will be no less than three years and no more than five years will begin September 1, 2025, and end August 31, 2030. If approved, continuation applications are required to be submitted annually. The performance periods for this grant program are as follows:

Year 1: September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026

Year 2: September 1, 2026– August 31, 2027

Year 3: September 1, 2027 – August 31, 2028

Year 4: September 1, 2028 – August 31, 2029

Year 5: September 1, 2029– August 31, 2030

**Application Type: Limited Competitive\***

**Target Audience:** [x] Local Education Agency (LEA),
[x]  Community-Based Nonprofit Organization (CBO), or
[x]  Institutes of Higher Education (IHE)
[x] Other\*: **Charter schools, educational service commissions, jointure commissions, and special services school districts; nonpublic schools; city or county government agencies; faith-based organizations; for-profit agencies; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; or consortiums of two or more such agencies, organizations, or entities. Eligibility is limited to those that will serve grades three through twelve who propose to target students (and their families) who primarily attend schools that a) are identified for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement, b) enroll students who may be at risk for academic failure, dropping out of school, and/or involvement in criminal or delinquent activities, and c) the families of such students.**

NOTE: Awards will be issued on an annual basis contingent on continued program eligibility, program performance, and the availability of federal funding.

Section 4204(j) of the ESSA describes that a state may, but is not required, to renew a subgrant provided under this part to an eligible entity, based on the eligible entity’s performance during the preceding subgrant period. The New Jersey Department of Education does not currently offer renewability as allowed under ESSA. In addition, the New Jersey Department of Education does not offer expanded learning program (ELP) activities.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

Previously funded 21st CCLC grantees will not be eligible for competitive funding in the year immediately following their most recently awarded grant cycle if any of the following occurred:

1. Grantee did not meet level of service for three out of the five years;
2. Grantee did not adhere to the NJDOE reporting requirements and deadlines in accordance with the NGO;
3. Grantee did not expend program funds in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles; or
4. During three out of the five years of the grant cycle, the grantee remained non-compliant in the submission of required monthly reimbursement requests for three or more consecutive months.

Schools in need of intervention and support are defined as:

* Schools with a minimum of 30% of their students are economically disadvantaged. Economically disadvantaged means that the student is eligible for free lunch and/or free milk as documented in the district’s most recent Application for School State Aid (ASSA); or
* Schools identified by an LEA need intervention and support based upon eligibility for schoolwide programs under section Title I, Section 1114.

Agencies currently receiving 21st CCLC funds in years one through four are ineligible to apply. Grantees in their fifth year are eligible to reapply for funds under this competitive process. Applicants are not permitted to divest more than 20% of the total grant award to any single entity, including but not limited to partners, collaborators, or sub-grantees. At a minimum, applicants must maintain direct control of 51% of the total grant award during the entire grant cycle. Additionally, applicants are not allowed to divest oversight of the program administration or implementation to another agency, this includes, but is not limited to, existing 21st CCLC programs and other agencies in a sub-grant process. These funds may not be used as a pass-through to another agency to operate a 21st CCLC program.

## Federal Compliance Requirements - Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Registrations

In accordance with the Federal Fiscal Accountability Transparency Act (FFATA), all grant recipients must have a valid Unique Entity identifier (UEI). As part of the government-wide initiative, NJDOE will join other Federal agencies and transition from the use of the Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) to the new UEI for all grant recipients and applicant organizations. UEIs are the primary means of entity identification for Federal awards and are required in accordance with 2 CFR Part 25. The UEI number is administered by the Federal Government in SAM.gov (System for Award Management).

FFATA Executive Compensation Disclosure Criteria:

In the preceding fiscal year if an applicant:

* Received at least $25,000,000 in annual gross revenues from federal awards; and
* If at least eight (80) percent of the applicant’s annual gross revenues came from federal awards; the applicant is required to disclose the name and total compensation of the five (5) most highly compensated officers of the applicant as part of the grant application.

This information is to be entered into the Award Management SAM Application in EWEG and updated on a yearly basis.

## Award Management SAM Application

Prior to applying for a grant application, all Local Education Agencies (LEA), Community-Based Nonprofit Organizations (CBO), or Institutes of Higher Education (IHE) must create a profile in the NJDOE EWEG’s AWARD Management SAM application to include the district’s UEI information:

Key steps/actions:

1. Create and submit the AWARD Management SAM application in EWEG if your entity has applied for or has received other grants from the NJDOE.
2. When completing the AWARD Management SAM application, entities must enter an active SAM UEI and upload a copy of its SAM Entity Overview page. Applicants must ensure their address has the correct zip plus four in their address and both the SAM.GOV and the LEA Central Contacts in EWEG must match to be compliant with FFATA reporting.
3. To renew an existing SAM UEI or apply for a SAM UEI, entities must go through [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov/).

Failure to complete or update the AWARD Management SAM application in EWEG will prevent the applicant from viewing, creating, and submitting applications in the EWEG system.

**No award will be made to an applicant not in compliance with FFATA.**

### Maximum Award Amounts

To provide adequate funding for quality programming while promoting prudent operations and expenditures, the NJDOE has established maximum award amounts based on the number of proposed students served.

| Level of Service (# of Students) | Maximum Eligible Amount |
| --- | --- |
| 75-100 | $250,000 |
| 101-125 | $350,000 |
| 126-150 | $400,000 |
| 151-200 | $475,000 |
| 201-250 | $550,000 |
| 251-300 | $575,000 |
| 301 + | $600,000 |

**NOTE:** An agency may request funds more than the amounts specified if the agency is serving youth with severe disabilities and documents extraordinary associated costs and may require a lower teacher/pupil ratio because of the nature of the youths’ disabilities. NJDOE reserves the right to reduce the requested amount for any application that does not document this need.

* The actual number of students served is subject to monitoring and verification by the NJDOE. The level of service is determined by the number of students who attend the program for 30 days or more. Applicants are required to maintain the level of service identified in year one for each of the subsequent years of funding. Awarded applicants must meet their level of service by November 30, 2025. Grant awards may be reduced, or the award may be rescinded if the level of service proposed is not met by November 30, 2025.

### Cost Justification

* All costs must be reasonable and necessary to carry out the program, and directly linked to the size and scope of the program and to specific goals, objectives, and activities.
* **All program staff are entered under program administrative costs, not grant administration costs.**
* Program administrative costs for required staff members must be reasonable and necessary and are subject to NJDOE program officer approval.

### Supplemental Funds

* These funds can be used only to supplement and not supplant, federal, state, or local funds. Failure to demonstrate the aforesaid will result in the reduction of the requested award amount.
* Final awards are subject to the availability of Title IV, Part B funds.

### Matching

* There are no matching requirements; however, the NJDOE reserves the right to change programmatic or fiscal requirements in subsequent years.
* Applicants are reminded that the matching funds may not exceed the amount of the grant award and cannot be derived from other federal or state funds; however, all or any portion of the match may be in the form of in-kind contributions.
* Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate their ability to transition from primary reliance on federal funds to becoming self-sustaining programs.
* Once an applicant reports any matching funds, it is expected that they would achieve the same level of match for each subsequent year of funding.

### Equitable Distribution

The NJDOE recognizes three geographic regions of the State: Northern Region, Central Region, and Southern Region. Each applicant’s assigned region will be determined by the location of the applying agency or school district. The chart below indicates the counties located within each of the three regions.

| **Northern Region** | **Central Region** | **Southern Region** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bergen County | Hunterdon County | Atlantic County |
| Essex County | Mercer County | Burlington County |
| Hudson County | Middlesex County | Camden County |
| Morris County | Monmouth County | Cape May County |
| Passaic County | Ocean County | Cumberland County |
| Sussex County | Somerset County | Gloucester County |
| Warren County | Union County | Salem County |

To ensure the equitable distribution of funds throughout the State, the NJDOE will first select the highest scoring applicants with 70 points or above. Then, the top two scoring applicants from each region (North, Central, South) will be awarded funding if there are two applicants from each region with passing scores. If there are not two applications from each region with passing scores, awards will be made in rank order. In the event of a tie score, the applicant who scored highest in the project description, project activity, and budget sections will be awarded the grant*.*

**NOTE:** NJDOE reserves the right to change programmatic or fiscal requirements in subsequent year

### ****Renewability****

Section 4204(j) of the ESSA describes that a state may, but is not required, to renew a subgrant provided under this part to an eligible entity, based on the eligible entity’s performance during the preceding subgrant period. New Jersey does not currently offer renewability as allowed under the ESSA.

## Dissemination of This Notice

The Office of Student Support Services will make this notice available to eligible applicants listed in section I.1. based upon the eligibility statement, to the Office of Comprehensive Support Team Leaders, and to the county superintendents of the counties in which the eligible agencies are located.

Additional copies of the NGO are also available on the NJDOE’s [Grant Opportunities](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/opportunities/index.shtml) website or by contacting the Office of Grants Management at the New Jersey Department of Education, 100 River View Plaza, Route 29, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500.
Email Contact – 21stCCLC@doe.nj.gov

## Access to the EWEG Application

Each eligible applicant must have a login ID and password to access the system. LEA applicants should contact their district’s Web (Homeroom) Administrator, who will complete the registration. Non-LEA applicants should send an email request to EWEG Help. Please allow 24-48 hours for the registration to be completed.

The NJDOE advises applicants to plan appropriately to allow time to address any technical challenges that may occur. Additionally, applicants should run a consistency check at least 48 hours before the due date to determine any errors that might prevent the submission of the application. Applicants are advised not to wait until the due date to submit the application online as the EWEG system may be slower than normal due to increased usage. Running the consistency check does not submit the application. When the consistency check runs successfully, a submit button will appear. Once the application is complete and has passed a clean consistency check with no error messages, the applicant may submit the application by clicking the Submit button and wait for the EWEG system message indicating the application was submitted. The application status will update in the GMS Select page to “Submitted for Review” along with the date the application was submitted.

**IMPORTANT:** Once the application has been submitted via EWEG, the application will not be returned to the applicant for editing, nor can additional information or missing documentation be submitted to the department for application review consideration. **Please Note: The submit button in the EWEG system will disappear as of 4:00 PM on the due date**. Please refer to the [Discretionary Grants Manual](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/apps/) for instructions on how to work in EWEG.

## Application Submission

The Application Control Center (ACC) must receive the completed application through the online EWEG system access through the NJDOE [Homeroom](http://homeroom.state.nj.us) web page **no later than 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 26, 2025.** Without exception, the ACC will not accept, and the Office of Grants Management (OGM) cannot evaluate for funding consideration, an application after this deadline.

The NJDOE administers discretionary grant programs in strict conformance with procedures designed to ensure accountability and integrity in the use of public funds and, therefore, will not accept late applications. The responsibility for a timely submission resides with the applicant.

Completed applications are those that include all elements listed in [Section II.5.](#_Application_Component_Required), Application Component Required Uploads checklist. Applications received by the due date and specified time will be screened to determine whether they are, in fact, eligible for consideration. NJDOE reserves the right to reject any application not in conformance with the requirements of this NGO.

**Paper copies of the grant application will not be accepted in lieu of the EWEG application. Applications submitted via FAX will not be accepted under any circumstances.**

**Only one application per agency will be accepted. Additionally, applicants who were terminated from an NJDOE grant within the last 20 years are ineligible to apply.**

Applicant agencies seeking reconsideration of a grant decision made by the Office of Grants Management (OGM) must submit a written request, in a timely manner, to request a review of the disputed matter. The written request must be sent to Application Control Center, 100 River View Plaza, PO Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625. Please note that all disputes must be based on procedural inconsistencies and not reader scores. The OGM will review the request, prepare findings of facts and conclusions, and decide whether to uphold or rescind the disputed decision or action. The OGM will notify the agency in writing of the final decision.

## Application Review Criteria

To be considered for funding, all grant applications complete a two-tiered review. First, the application will be reviewed and scored by a panel of three evaluators. The evaluators will only use the information provided in the EWEG grant application under the Narrative Tabs which include the Need, Project Description, Project Activity Plan, Goals/Objectives – Indicators and Activity Plan, Commitment and Capacity, the Budget Tabs, and all required documentation uploaded as noted in [Section II.5](#_Application_Component_Required). In addition to how well the content addresses [Section II.4.](#_Project_Design_Considerations_1), the evaluators will also review the NGO application for completeness and accuracy.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of readers external to the NJDOE and may include, but are not limited to, expert representatives from the following industries: out-of-school time programming, community and/or youth serving organizations, school-age child care alliances, state departments, municipal government, public/private foundations, faith-based organizations (including religious private schools), businesses, higher education and school personnel.

The second review is done by the Program Office responsible for administering the program. The Program office reviews the application as noted in Section I.1 Purpose of the NGO, and Section II.4., Project Design Components. The NJDOE reserves the right to reject any application, not in conformance with the requirements and intent of this NGO. The total point value for the NGO is 100 points. If noted in the NGO, bonus points will only be added if the grant application scores 70 points or greater and meets the intent of the Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO).

Once scored, applications will be awarded based on rank order from highest to lowest score until grant allocated funds are exhausted.

| Application Component | Point Value |
| --- | --- |
| STATEMENT OF NEED / TARGET POPULATION | 10 |
| PROJECT DESCRIPTION  | 25 |
| GOALS, OBJECTIVES, INDICATORS, and EVALUATION  | 15 |
| ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENT AND CAPACITY  | 20 |
| PROJECT ACTIVITY PLAN (year one)  | 15 |
| BUDGET  | 15 |
| BONUS / PRIORITY: Target, County, Joint Submission, Proposed Activities | 1 - 4 |
| *TOTAL*  | 100 |

*\*\**Applicants must score a minimum of 70 points or above and meet the intent of the NGO to be considered eligible for an award.

## Grantee Award Notifications

Applicants will be notified via the EWEG system to the emails listed in the Contacts Tab and a list will be posted under the link to the NGO located in the NJDOE, Office of Grants Management, Grant Opportunities webpage.

In addition to the notifications mentioned above, the status will change on the EWEG GMS page from “Submitted for Review” to one of the following:

* Preliminary Approved – For applicants awarded the grant funds by scoring 70 points or greater and meeting the eligibility criteria, where funds are available. Approved Applications will be notified via EWEG with instructions on how to proceed with the Pre-Award process. In addition, instructions on how to initiate the Pre-Award process can be found in the [Discretionary Grants Manual](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/apps/).
* No Award – For those remaining applicants where either the applicant scored the 70-point or greater and met the eligibility criteria, but funding was exhausted; and those applicants not meeting the 70-point threshold, and/or the intent of the NGO.

## Open Public Records

Please be advised that in accordance with the Open Public Records Act P.L. 2001, c. 404, all applications for discretionary grant funds received September 1, 2003, or later, as well as the evaluation results associated with these applications, and other information regarding the competitive grants process, will become matters of public record upon the completion of the evaluation process and will be available to members of the public upon request.

If an application has been selected for pre-award revisions (PARs), the successful applicant will be notified by the EWEG system via email. Only the personnel listed on the contact page will receive a notification. The successful applicant will be required to initiate the PAR process by accessing the EWEG system, creating an amendment for the application and submitting the amendment through EWEG to the NJDOE. You will not be able to amend any of the application pages at this time. Questions on how to submit an amendment should be directed to the EWEG Help Desk at eweghelp@doe.nj.gov.

Applicants are reminded that the opportunity to make PARs will be limited. It is up to the applicant to submit timely and thorough responses to any requests made by NJDOE staff. If applicants delay responses or are unresponsive to requests, the grant award may be rescinded.

# Section II. Completing the Application

The following components are required (see Required Column) to be included as part of your EWEG application. Failure to include a required component may result in your application being removed from consideration for funding. Please make note that the following characters are not recognized by EWEG (“, -!@#$ %^&\*( )”~/<>{} and bullets). When uploading documents to EWEG be sure to properly label each document with thetitle of the form, not the appendix number. Use the checklist (see Included  Column) to ensure that all required components have been completed.

**Federal Funding Language and New Jersey 21st CCLC Logo**

Applicants are reminded that the federal funding language and New Jersey 21st CCLC logo, which will be sent to awarded applicants, must be prominently displayed on all printed and electronic program materials. Additionally, applicants must ensure that the program is listed on the agency website to assist in marketability and recognition of the program.

## II.1 General Instructions for Applying

To apply for a grant under this NGO, applicants must prepare and submit a complete application by the deadline. The application must be a response to the State’s vision as articulated in Section I. Grant Program Information of this NGO. It must be planned, designed, and developed in accordance with the program framework articulated in Section II. Completing the Application. The applicant may wish to consult additional guidance found in the [Discretionary Grants Manual](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/apps/docs/PreAwardManual.pdf).

## II.2 Application Technical Assistance Session

**Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 10 am.**

[x]  **Teams Virtual Meeting:** Applicants may attend a technical session covering contents included in the NGO. Attendance is not mandatory. If attending, [registration](https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/events/?p=a) is required. If there are any registration issues, please contact 21stCCLC@doe.nj.gov.

[ ]  **In-person Meeting:** Preregistration is required by [insert date]. Please register [online](https://homeroom5.doe.state.nj.us/events/) here. Registrants requiring special accommodation for the Technical Assistance Workshop should identify their needs at the time of registration.

## II.3 Grant Deliverables

The Afterschool Alliance has identified out-of-school time (OST) programs, such as before/after school and summer enrichment programs, as critical supports within high-functioning education systems. Quality OST programs have demonstrated an increase in academic gains and student engagement among participating youth, while also supporting working families. Additionally, these programs build stronger connections between schools and communities.

### ****New Jersey’s Vision****

The vision for New Jersey’s 21st CCLC program is to develop high quality OST programs through community learning centers that provide services that impact both the academic and social skills of participating youth. The provision of services through 21st CCLC program throughout the State will:

* Increase students’ career and college readiness by offering high-quality remediation activities in core academic areas such as language arts and mathematics and enrichment activities including arts and culture, youth development experiences, and physical activity;
* Increase positive student behavior by infusing social, emotional, and character development into the program;
* Engage adult family members of students through participation in an array of parental involvement activities; and
* Establish and maintain partnerships and collaborative relationships to ensure participants’ access to all available resources.

The 21st CCLC program intends to fund quality afterschool programs operated by knowledgeable and creative staff in partnership with schools and community agencies. To further enhance the impact on student achievement and career and college readiness, programs will implement the following components:

* Project activities that align with school-day learning through intentional planning and on-going communication between school (both public and non-public) staff and 21st CCLC program staff to improve participant achievement;
* Professional development opportunities between school-day staff and 21st CCLC program staff, including professional learning communities;
* Cross-content information and skills by focusing on one of the following themes: science, technology, math, and engineering (STEM), civic engagement, career awareness and exploration, or visual and performing arts;
* Experiential learning, problem solving, self-direction, creativity, exploration, and expression, by using a guided-inquiry approach to promote perseverance, curiosity, leadership, responsibility, and self-confidence;
* Summer programs that engage youth in learning and reduces the potential for “summer learning loss;” and
* Partnerships that produce tangible resources that will directly benefit 21st CCLC participants.

**Required Uploads**: To receive an award, eligible applicants must submit the following with this application:

* A completed eligibility form, either the **Documentation of 501(c)(3) Eligibility form** for national or statewide youth-serving organization applicants or the **Documentation of School Eligibility, Schoolwide and Low-income form** for LEA applicants.
* A recent evaluation report of the current afterschool model that demonstrates positive results on participants within the past year.
* A recent copy of the annual report that was presented to the applicant’s Board of Directors or governing authority to further support applicant eligibility within the past year.
* A valid New Jersey Charities Registration Number or 10-digit incorporation identification number obtained from the New Jersey Division of Taxation which establishes residency in New Jersey for national or statewide, public, or private 501(c)(3) youth-serving organization (note: there is no single, all-purpose number for nonprofits). This is not needed for LEA applicants.
* A copy of the childcare license (as required at *N.J.S.A.* 30:5B-1 et seq.) or receipt of a temporary license for each local program site receiving funding as part of the application. (See Status Report section under section 2 for submission directions).
* A completed **Verification of School Collaboration form** provides an assurance that the program was designed and will be implemented in active collaboration with the schools the participants attend.
* A completed **Program Statement of Assurances form** which further demonstrates an understanding of requirements and conditions of this grant.

**Note:** At the time of drafting this NGO, LEA applicants are not required to provide a childcare license. However, when completing the application, please verify that conditions have not changed to require LEAs to provide a childcare license.

**Conditions of Award**

Once the applicants meet the eligibility requirements listed above, applicants must also satisfy the following conditions of award: documentation of school collaboration, assurances, childcare licensing (if applicable), and nonpublic participation as detailed below.

**School Collaboration**

As required under Title IV, Part B of the *ESSA* legislation, section 4204(b)(2)(D)(i), an agency applying for a grant must provide an assurance that its program was developed and will be carried out in active collaboration with the schools that the participants attend. One priority point will be given to applications that are jointly submitted by not less than one LEA receiving Title I, Part A funds, and another eligible entity. One priority point will be awarded to the applying agency. Applicants must complete the Verification of School Collaboration form. Submission of this form is a condition of award under this grant program.

**Assurances**

To maintain consistency among all New Jersey 21st CCLC programs, all applicants must read and sign the Program Statement of Assurances. Submission of this form is a condition of award under this grant program.

**Child Care Licensing**

Pursuant to the Child Care Center Licensing Act, *N.J.S.A.* 30:5B-1-15, supplemented by *P.L.* 1992, *c.*95, afterschool, and summer programs for children up to age 13 must be licensed as childcare centers. All such programs must adhere to the requirements pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 10:122, Manual of Requirements for Child Care Centers, under the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. Local educational agencies (LEAs) must contact the licensing office to determine their status, as they may no longer be exempt from this state law. Submission of a copy of the agency’s childcare license or receipt of a temporary license is a condition of award under this grant program. Please refer to the [Department of Children and Families, Office of Licensing](http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/providers/licensing/laws/) or contact the Department of Children and Families, Office of Licensing.

### ****Nonpublic Consultation (Timely and Meaningful)****

For assistance in identifying all of the nonpublic schools located within the applicant’s and all sub-grantees’ geographic boundaries, the applicant should visit the [NJDOE's website](http://www.nj.gov/njded/nonpublic) for a list of nonpublic schools by county.

The applicant agency is responsible for identifying all appropriate nonpublic schools and for contacting the appropriate nonpublic school officials to begin the consultation process. The nonpublic school(s) must be given a genuine opportunity to participate in the grant program. The *ESSA* legislation requires all applicants to conduct *timely* and *meaningful* consultation with the appropriate nonpublic school officials prior to the development of the local project’s grant application and prior to any decision being made regarding the design of the local project that could affect the ability of nonpublic school students, teachers, and other education personnel to receive benefits. Consultation must continue throughout the implementation and assessment of activities. Please note that this information will be a required upload.

Listed below are the considerations that must be considered by all applicants when assessing the needs of the nonpublic school students and teachers and when determining, in consultation with the nonpublic school(s), whether those needs fit the applicant’s program design. Consultation must include discussion on such issues as:

* Which children would receive benefits under the project and how their needs would be/have been identified;
* What services would be provided;
* How, when, where, and by whom the services would be provided;
* How the services would be assessed and how the results of the assessment would be used to improve those services;
* The amount of funds available for services; and
* How and when decisions about the delivery of services will be made.

**NOTE:** A unilateral offer of services by an applicant agency with no opportunity for discussion on the part of the nonpublic school representative is not adequate consultation.

## II.4 Project Design Considerations:

Applicants will utilize the EWEG system to complete their application and will be required to complete the following tabs:

* Admin
	+ Allocations
	+ Contact
	+ Board Approval
	+ Assurances Tab
* Narrative
	+ Abstract
	+ Need
	+ Project Description
		- Program Components
		- Project Description
		- Off-Site Educational Activities
	+ Goals and Objectives
	+ Project Activity Plan
	+ Commitment and Capacity
		- Capacity
		- Sustainability
		- Professional Development
		- Evaluation
		- Stakeholders
		- Status Report
* Budget
	+ Salaries
		- Instructional and non-instructional
	+ Supplies
		- Instructional and non-instructional
	+ Equipment
		- Instructional and non-instructional
	+ Other
	+ Matching Funds
	+ Budget Summary
	+ Indirect Costs
* Upload (See required Uploads in section II. 6)

The following point values apply to the evaluation of applications received in response to this NGO:

Project Abstract *(250-300 words)* The Project Abstract is a summary of the proposed project’s need, purpose, and projected outcomes. The proposed project and outcomes must cover the full multi-year grant period. Do not include information in the abstract that is not supported elsewhere in the application.

**Needs [10 points]** The Statement of Need (not to exceed 7,000 characters and spaces) identifies the local conditions and/or needs that justify the project the applicant proposes to implement in their application. Applicants must demonstrate the need for the proposed project in relation to this grant program.

One Priority point will be given to applicants demonstrating that the proposed activities are, as of the date of the submission of the application, not accessible to students who would be served or would expand access to high-quality services available within the community. One priority point will be awarded to the applying agency.

One priority point will be given to applicants that demonstrate they target students (and their families) who primarily attend schools that a) are identified for comprehensive or targeted support and improvement, b) enroll students who may be at risk for academic failure, dropping out of school, and/or involvement in criminal or delinquent activities, and c) the families of such students. All three areas (a, b, and c) must be addressed to receive the priority point.

One priority point will be given to applicants whose county does not have an existing 21st CCLC program.

**Project Description [25 points]** The NJDOE’s expectation is that all 21st CCLC programs will be comprehensive in nature. Applicants must implement activities in each of the following six (6) categories: academic remediation; academic enrichment; positive youth development; cultural and arts; health, nutrition, fitness, and physical activity; and parental involvement. Applicants are required to submit a weekly schedule of activities for each program site.

**Target Population** - Applicants may serve youth in grades three through 12 and adult family members of those youth. 21st CCLC funds cannot be used to provide services in kindergarten to grade two or for community members at large. *Regular attendance by all participants is expected to achieve significant improvement in participant outcomes.* The applicant must carefully plan and develop a program that encourages daily participation. Applicants must respond to each of the following:

* Provide a complete description of the target population being served at each program site, including youth demographic information such as grade levels, ethnic and racial background, economic status, and the number of public and nonpublic participants receiving services.
	+ Include the number of students to be served at each site.
	+ Include the number of students to be served during the summer at each site.
* Describe how the applicant agency will provide a safe and easily accessible facility.
* Identify and provide specific accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids, and services that are necessary to serve participants with disabilities.
* Describe the recruitment and retention plans.
* Describe how the applicant agency will disseminate information about the program to the community.

It is important to note, to ensure prudent fiscal practices, that all sites must have a minimum of 30 students regularly attending. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Target Population section.

**Goals/Objectives/Indicators [15 points]** – Applicants are required to adopt the state-mandated goals and objectives and create program-specific indicators. Performance indicators are quantifiable performance measurements used to define success factors and measure progress toward the achievement of program goals and objectives. Proposed activities are, as of the date of the submission of the application, not accessible to students who would be served or would expand access to high-quality services available within the community. Each indicator must specify a time frame when that objective will be achieved; identify the clients and needs served; specify what will be achieved; and identify the expected level of performance. In this section, applicants are required to develop performance indicators using the S.M.A.R.T. method:

* S*pecific*. That is, tell *how much* (e.g., 40%) *of what* is to be achieved (e.g., what behavior of whom or what outcome) by *when* (e.g., by 2026)?
* M*easurable*. Identify the level of performance expected to indicate successful achievement of the objective and indicator.
* A*chievable*. Not only are the objectives and indicators themselves possible, but it is also likely that the organization will be able to achieve them.
* R*elevant*. The organization has a clear understanding of how these objectives and indicators fit in with the overall vision of this grant.
* T*imed*. The organization has developed a timeline (a portion of which is made clear in the objectives) by which they will be achieved.

### ****Project Requirements****

21st CCLC grantees must carefully plan and develop a program that encourages daily participation. Regular attendance by all students is expected to achieve significant improvement in student outcomes.

Each eligible organization that receives an award may use the funds to carry out a broad array of before and/or afterschool activities (including activities during summer/winter/spring recess periods) that advance academic achievement and social, behavioral, and physical development. To maintain consistency with the regulations set forth by the USDE, and in accordance with the NJDOE’s belief that there are diverse and multiple paths for youth achievement, the NJDOE has established minimum program requirements. All applicants are required to adhere to and implement the project requirements as set forth in this section of the application.

Considerable thought and planning between the applicant agency and its partners, if applicable, must occur to ensure a correlation between the NJDOE’s purpose and the design of each local project. By collaborating and coordinating the resources of schools, outside agencies, community centers, corporations, churches, and/or other community groups, programs expand the benefits available to participants; allow for more efficient use of resources; and increase the chances of sustainability as a result of the investment that each organization makes to the program. Applicants should consider implementing strategies that ensure continuous program improvement, as supported by the following:

* Prior program implementation experiences (successes, challenges, etc.);
* Program evaluation reports and outcome data;
* Student, parent, and teacher surveys;
* Focus group data;
* Advisory board recommendations;
* Childcare licensing standards;
* New Jersey Student Learning Standards;
* NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool;
* NJDOE recommendations;
* Monitoring reports;
* Local level evaluation outcomes and recommendations;
* National best practice standards; and
* Partner and/or collaborator consultations.

**Eligible activities pursuant to section 4205 (a)(1), are as follows:**

* 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 improve 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;
* services for individuals with disabilities;
* programs that provide afterschool activities for students who are English learners that emphasize language skills and academic achievement
* cultural programs;
* programs that support a healthy and active lifestyle, including nutritional education and regular, structured physical activity programs;
* telecommunications and technology education programs;
* expanded library service hours;
* programs that aid 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; and
* programs that partner with in-demand fields of the local workforce or build career competencies, 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.).

### Program Themes

To enhance the impact on student achievement and career and college readiness, the NJDOE requires each applicant to select and design their program around one of the following four themes: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), Career Exploration, Civic Engagement, or Visual and Performing Arts to promote cross-content integration and application of skills. The 21st CCLC program must focus on the same theme for the duration of the program period. However, if the grantee has multiple sites, a different theme may be selected for each site. The theme should be selected based on the students’ needs, interests, and developmental age. The NJDOE recognizes the benefit of cross-content integration and application of skills across themes. The applicant is permitted and encouraged to provide cross-theme experiences.

Frequently, integration occurs naturally. Applicants should utilize resources within the [NTAC](https://21stcclcntac.org/) professional development portal developed by the US Department of Education specifically for 21st CCLC programs nationwide. Examples are provided at the end of each of the theme descriptions that follow.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**:** Given the increasing focus on automation and computers, students need more in-depth knowledge of math and science, plus the ability to integrate and apply that knowledge to solve the challenges facing our nation. Students who study STEM develop a variety of skills that are essential for success, such as: critical thinking and problem solving, creativity and innovation, communication, collaboration, and entrepreneurship. STEM programs are designed for a specific purpose: to integrate and apply knowledge of math and science to create technologies and solutions for real-world problems, using an engineering design approach. Out-of-school time programs provide students with flexible opportunities to engage in STEM-themed programs. Student experiences centered on engineering design challenges offer students meaningful ways to engage with mathematics and science content, implying that engineering is a natural conduit for STEM integration. The America Society for Engineering Education identified several characteristics of quality STEM programs:

* The context is motivating, engaging, and real-world.
* Students integrate and apply meaningful and important mathematics and science content.
* Teaching methods are inquiry-based and student-centered.
* Students engage in solving engineering challenges using an engineering design process.
* Teamwork and communication are a major focus. Throughout the program, students have the freedom to think critically, creatively, and innovatively, as well as opportunities to fail and try again in safe environments. (Jolly, Anne. *STEM vs. STEAM: Do the Arts Belong?* Education Week. Published Online: November 18, 2014)

STEM professionals may enrich the STEM program by mentoring and/or supporting students as they complete program activities. (Jolly, A. 2014). Career awareness can be supported by face-to-face or digital conversations with practicing STEM professionals. This theme is in support of the [Next Generation Standards](http://www.nextgenscience.org/) and the [New Jersey Student Learning Standards](https://www.nj.gov/education/cccs/).

Career Awareness and Exploration***:*** To assist youth in developing lifelong aspirations, making informed choices about careers, and identifying career goals, they need to be exposed to a wide range of experiences and develop the employability skills needed to be successful in a global economy. Career awareness, exploration and preparation provides exposure to careers and affords youth numerous opportunities to develop key core competencies, including the ability to: 1) identify talents, career interests, values, and skills; 2) gain an awareness of the world of work, including the multitude of career opportunities available; 3) identify career goals and understand how to effectively manage transitions between school and work, and between occupations; 4) research and explore career pathways that support career interests; 5) participate in and apply learning experiences that reflect career interests (i.e., job shadowing, volunteering, service learning, internship, or apprenticeship programs, etc.); and, 6) reflect and understand the relationships among personal abilities, education, knowledge and skills needed to pursue 21st century occupations and careers.

Expanding career readiness through the New Jersey Apprenticeship programs and career pathways is one of the Governor’s key education priorities and well aligned to this theme. Fostering awareness and exploration of the various career pathways available is critical to supporting student choice and ownership of their education and career goals. It is expected that programs selecting this theme will provide participants with active exploration opportunities while reinforcing basic skills in support of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Specifically, the 12 Career Ready Practices reflect the skills and dispositions that all youth need to develop and practice to be career ready and should be taught in all grade levels with increasing levels of complexity as students’ progress into higher grades. By integrating career awareness, exploration and preparation concepts and skills, college and career readiness will be promoted throughout all programming. For example, 21st CCLC programs could create collaborations with different work industries, including those in the eight key industry clusters (as identified by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development), and create opportunities for students to shadow professionals. A personalized student learning plan could be created for each student detailing school-related volunteer or community service projects, resume writing, college majors, and career paths congruent with their chosen profession. Programs should partner with local employers within in-demand industry sectors and work to ensure educational programming is aligned to the *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act*, *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act*, and business and industry standards. This theme supports New Jersey Student Learning Standard 9, [21st Century Life and Careers](https://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/2020/2020%20NJSLS-CLKS.pdf). You can also find additional information on the [12 Career Ready Practices website](https://www.nj.gov/education/standards/clicks/index.shtml) and the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development Key Industry Clusters website.

Civic Engagement: Students benefit from experiences that support the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to become responsible and engaged citizens. Through civic engagement, youth can appreciate a wide range of perspectives as they seek to understand the underlying causes of public issues in their community, state, and/or nation. It is expected that programs selecting this theme will provide their youth with experiences beyond one-day events such as a food drive or local clean up. Instead, participants in programs using this theme should have opportunities to deliberate with their peers and/or adults in leadership roles about how to define and address these issues, take constructive, independent, and collaborative action, reflect on their actions, and create a sustainable plan. As such, the experiences should be relevant to the community’s needs and provide opportunities for the participants to assume key roles in terms of leadership, decision-making, and developing partnerships or collaborative relationships with relevant stakeholders.

Visual and Performing Arts**:**Quality arts education can help youth think critically, understand people and traditions, develop skills associated with imagination, invention, and innovation skills, and to use sights, sounds, and movement to convey meaning beyond the power of words. The knowledge and skills acquired through this theme expose youth to a fundamental form of literacy that is necessary to function in today’s new media and information society. The arts are a key element to attracting young people, especially middle and high school participants, to afterschool programs because they allow for individual expression and demonstration of their work. Engagement is essential because regular attendance is the predominant way after school and summer programs can impart positive effects on program participants. By designing the program around a visual and performing arts theme, it is expected that participants will develop a basic level of understanding in each of the art disciplines (dance, music, theater, visual art, and media arts). By integrating arts with other subjects, such as math, reading/literacy, science, and technology, the program can enable youth to think creatively in addition to exploring, applying, and understanding the meaning of the arts as they relate to their own lives. For example, a program might integrate career awareness and exploration through projects related to famous visual and performing artists. Additionally, programs could incorporate activities that highlight careers connected to visual/performing arts, such as stage management, set design, or sound production. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Project Description section.

### ****Project-Based Activities****

Project-based learning is most often characterized by a series of activities with a sustained focus over time and linked to an outcome of significance – a performance, product, or service that is highly valued by the students as well as a broader community. These activities are generally a group effort that often moves beyond the walls of the classroom or afterschool into the community for research, internships, presentations, etc. It is expected that these activities have clear goals that embrace academic and social dimensions simultaneously. Additionally, the programs should provide for ongoing review of the process, with frequent opportunities for students to receive and provide feedback as the work is developing, as well as final evaluation from peers, instructors, and the public, including self-assessment. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Project Description section.

### ****Inquiry-Based Learning****

Out-of-school time programs are well-suited to implementing strategies that support inquiry-based learning. Engaging participants in active learning by asking them questions that spark their intellect, push them past the surface of the subject matter, and promote higher-order thinking is essential to implementing inquiry-based learning. Programs are required to develop afterschool activities that are experiential, interactive, hands-on, learner-directed, and related to the real world while remaining grounded in academic learning goals. Applicants must describe how they intend to design activities that guide participants in finding the answers themselves, encouraging them to ask new questions along the way, while also providing participants with time to think, investigate, and problem solve before answering questions. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Project Description section.

### ****Social-Emotional Learning****

According to the **Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning** (CASEL), social and emotional learning (SEL) “is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.”

Programs are required to develop an environment that is supportive of [SEL](https://www.nj.gov/education/safety/wellness/selearning/). Whether through the design of activities, staff to student interactions, or staff training, SEL practices are relevant to the overall culture of the program. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Project Description section.

### ****Summer Programming****

Applicants are required to operate a summer program that engages youth in learning and reduces potential “summer learning loss.” The program must operate for at least four (4) hours per day, five (5) days per week for a minimum of four (4) weeks or five (5) hours per day, four (4) days per week for a minimum of four (4) weeks. If the program has multiple sites, the summer program may be combined at one site; however, the summer program must be offered to all participants served during the school year. Applicants must completely describe their summer program, including the number of students, sites, number of weeks, types of activities, etc. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Project Description section.

### ****Intentional Planning, Coordination, and Communication with the School-Day Staff****

Aligning school-day (both public and non-public) learning with afterschool activities through intentional planning and ongoing communication between school-day and program staff will enhance participants’ academic and social progress and skills development. Afterschool programs are optimal opportunities to provide engaging, hands-on experiences, enabling participants to apply, reinforce, and extend skills and concepts taught in school. Afterschool programs and schools have the shared mission of helping youth achieve success; as such, collaboration between the two can be beneficial. Regular communication can help identify the needs and strengths of individual participants and those strategies that are most effective in raising achievement. An additional strategy that is effective in ensuring intentional planning and coordination is building the capacity of staff through professional development. Joint professional development for both school-day and afterschool staff equip staff to support youth learning and develops a positive and welcoming environment for staff and participants. Ensuring opportunities for staff to share or turn-key information further strengthens their capacity and in turn increases participant academic success. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Project Description section.

Programs are expected to embed the following practices within their 21st CCLC program:

* Identify the linkage between program activities and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in language arts, math, and the Next Generation Science Standards;
* Document the linkage with the school day through lesson plans, progress reports, and regularly scheduled meetings;
* Ensure the afterschool program staff participate in school meetings and committees, such as professional learning communities and school improvement teams;
* Designate a regular school-day staff person (at each school site) to coordinate communication with the afterschool program to help them support school needs;
* Assist youth with the development of skills that support classroom instruction, such as learning how to plan, take notes, and develop an outline;
* Coordinate with the school to identify appropriate staff for the program and hire classroom teachers who demonstrate success during the school day;
* Link professional development to identified school-based goals and learning objectives; and
* Provide joint training for both school-day and afterschool staff on relevant out-of-school time topics, including training on how children and youth learn and develop, how to establish appropriate learning environments, and emphasize cross-curricular content.

### ****Parental Involvement****

Describe how the program intends to offer parents an opportunity to provide input on all facets of the program’s design and implementation, including what and how activities should be provided for them and their children. Additionally, describe how the program will formally inform parents of their child’s progress in the program; invite parents to attend events/meetings at the program; and regularly meet with parents individually or as a group. The Department expects programs to implement a minimum of one (1) parental involvement activity a month. This information must be entered within PARS21 to document the activity. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Project Description section.

Additionally, an applicant’s program must provide family engagement activities to the families of participating youth. Applicants are required to serve a minimum of 75 students to be eligible for funding. The applicant agency may submit only one application and must remain the lead agency for the duration of the five-year grant program. All applicants must have the chief school administrator sign the Documentation of School Eligibility form and submit it with this application.

### Off-site/Virtual Educational Activities (Field Trips)

All off-site activities must be educational, age-appropriate, and relevant to the goals and objectives of the 21st CCLC program. Applicants must submit a detailed description of anticipated off-site educational activities with this competitive application. The description should include information regarding the specific activity and the educational benefit of the proposed activity. This information should be included in the Project Description section and included in the program site chart, under the appropriate component(s). Any field trip not documented in the approved grant application must have prior approval from the grantee’s assigned program officer, after receiving the grant award. All applicants are required to provide a minimum of four (4) off-site field trips (1 per quarter). Responses to this section must be submitted in the Project Description section.

**Project Activity Plan [20 points]** - Applicants must describe the proposed activities that will be implemented to achieve each state mandated goal and objective and result in the attainment of the performance indicators. The Project Activity Plan must directly support the budget, as it will serve as the basis for the proposed expenditures. Activities described must be specific and measurable and directly relate to the goal and objective. For example, the following is an ***unacceptable activity***: “Meetings with community partners, community entities, collaborators.” A more ***acceptable activity*** would be: “The project director will meet with community entities, partners, and collaborators on a quarterly basis.”

For consistency purposes, please ensure that all activities are documented within the appropriate objective. Applicants should refer to: State Mandated Goals and Objectives, for a list of state mandated objectives. Listed below are general categories of activities most common for 21st CCLC programs and the appropriate objective under which they should be listed. This list is not exhaustive. These are general categories and applicants should not use these categories within the project activity plan, as applicants are required to be more specific when describing the activity.

* Objective 1.1 –partner/collaborator/advisory/student meetings;
* Objective 1.2 – intentional planning, thematic activities; summer programming, inquiry-based activities, project-based activities, and off-site activities;
* Objective 1.3 – professional development and trainings;
* Objective 1.4 – academic, recreational, cultural, arts activities and daily snacks;
* Objectives 1.5 – youth development activities and social, emotional and character development activities;
* Objective 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 – family involvement activities; and
* Objective 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 – evaluation, including implementation of action-research.

Within the EWEG Project Activity Plan section, applicants must select the period in which the activity will be implemented. If the activity is ongoing or recurring, select each period in which the activity will take place. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Project Activity Plan section.

### Service Start and End Dates

To ensure quality and continuity of care, the NJDOE requires that all programs have a full complement of services in place and available to all participants as of October 1. Applicants must indicate the exact start and end dates within the application. Applicants are required to establish the end date no earlier than two weeks prior to the last day of school. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Abstract and the Status Report section.

NOTE: Failure to begin by October 1, will result in a withholding of grant payments and may result in a reduced award or termination of the grant.

### Program Hours of Operation

Applicants must specify the actual hours of operation for each of the proposed 21st CCLC sites. All applicants are required to offer both afterschool and summer programming. NJDOE requires that each 21st CCLC program adhere to the minimum requirements outlined below:

* Programs operating a before-school component during the academic year must operate for at least one (1) hour per day, five (5) days per week and conclude before the school day begins. Program scheduling and days of operation must coincide with the regular school year.
* Afterschool programs are required to operate for at least three (3) hours per day, five (5) days per week, during the academic school year. Afterschool programs must commence when the school day officially ends. Program scheduling and days of operation must coincide with the regular school year.
* Summer programs are required to operate for at least four (4) hours per day, five (5) days per week for a minimum of four (4) weeks, or for at least five (5) hours per day, four (4) days per week for a minimum of four (4) weeks.
* Programs that propose to operate on weekends, half-days, and/or other non-school days are required to operate a minimum of four (4) hours per day.

Responses to this section must be submitted in the Abstract section and the Status Report section.

**NOTE:** For applicants operating multiple sites, please note that the requirements listed above must be applied to each program site.

### Staffing and Certification Requirements

To effectively perform the administrative responsibilities of this federally funded grant program, the NJDOE requires that each 21st CCLC program adhere to the minimum requirements outlined below. Applicants have some flexibility in the establishment of their staffing patterns; however, the NJDOE will review and approve the management plan, including staffing, based on what is necessary and reasonable to implement the project and adhere to program requirements. It is expected that applicants maintain a staff to student ratio of 1:15 for all activities, including physical activities. The NJDOE reserves the right to require changes based on this review.

* All programs are required to identify a project administrator (the Project Director) who will serve as the agency’s primary point of contact with the NJDOE program officer responsible for the grant program. This person must be employed by the applicant agency and is responsible for managing the administrative functions of this program.
	+ For programs that service less than 151 participants, a minimum of one part-time project administrator is required.
	+ For programs that service more than 151 participants, a minimum of one full-time project administrator is required.
	+ Project administrators, whether full-time, part-time, funded by 21st CCLC funds or not, are required to fulfill all responsibilities described in Project Staff Responsibilities.
* Programs are required to have regular meetings with staff at each site to ensure appropriate linkage with school-day activities.
* Programs must utilize certified teachers to implement the academic remediation component activities, specifically in math and language arts. Programs are not required to hire school-day teachers for all activities offered. Programs may utilize personnel from community agencies, youth workers or other experts in the field of out-of-school time programming.
* One (1) site coordinator is required at each site. The site coordinators, whether funded by 21st CCLC funds or not, must fulfill all responsibilities detailed for their respective program sites. A teacher or part-time project director may serve as the site coordinator if the person works enough hours to fulfill all the responsibilities.
* One data-entry staff person is required. This staff person must be assigned specific responsibility for entering data into PARS21 and completing other administrative duties. Other project staff may fulfill data-entry activities if employed for enough hours to fulfill all the responsibilities. A project director may not fulfill this position.
* Programs may utilize volunteers to assist with program needs. Volunteer responsibilities and hours must be clearly outlined in the project activity plan. In addition, the applicant must describe how volunteers will be recruited for the program.

It is important to note, to ensure prudent fiscal practices, all sites must have a minimum of 30 students regularly attending. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Status Report section.

All applicants are required under state law to submit Child Abuse Record Information (CARI) forms to the Department of Children and Families, Office of Licensing, for all staff members and volunteers who regularly interact with youth participants. Additionally, all applicants are required under state law to submit Criminal History Record Information (CHRI) forms to the Department of Human Services for all staff members and volunteers who regularly interact with youth participants. For additional information on CARI, contact the Department of Children and Families, Office of Licensing. For additional information on CHRI, contact the Department of Human Services, CHRI Unit. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Status Report section. Background checks are required by State law, using 21st CCLC funds for these costs is supplanting and. Therefore, may not be paid for with 21st CCLC funds.

### Child Care Licensing

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:5B-1-15, supplemented by P.L. 1992, c.95, an entity offering afterschool and summer programming for children up to age 13 is required to be a licensed childcare center. All programs must adhere to the requirements pursuant to New Jersey Administrative Code, N.J.A.C. 10:122, Manual of Requirements for Childcare Centers, under the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. LEAs must contact the licensing office to determine their status, as they may no longer be exempt from this [state law](http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/providers/licensing/laws/). Submission of a copy of the agency’s childcare license or receipt of a temporary license is a condition of award under this grant program. Please contact the Department of Children and Families, Office of Licensing. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Status Report section.

### Emergency Protocols

Applicants must adhere to the following emergency protocols and maintain the following documentation at each program site:

* An emergency readiness plan that includes policies and procedures for early dismissal, inclement weather, health emergencies, building security breaches, and other urgent situations;
* Emergency contact information for each participating student which includes a minimum of two emergency contact persons in addition to the parent/guardian;
* A list of persons authorized by the parents/guardians to whom the site can release the child;
* A procedure for verifying the identity of the person to whom the child is released, if other than the parent/guardian; and
* Information detailing chronic health conditions for all participants, and procedures for the care of any participant who becomes ill during the program.

Responses to this section must be submitted within the Status Report section.

**NOTE:** All information should be readily accessible when program activities occur off-site.

### Transportation

Applicants are required to provide transportation for participants to and from the program site and home or pre-arranged site if the student resides more than one mile away from the program site. If participants are transported to a location other than their home, applicants must obtain written parental consent. Applicants must also obtain written parental consent for participants who walk to and from the program site. It is the responsibility of the applicant agency to ensure the safety of each child to and from the program site. Grantees must abide by the school district’s transportation policy. Applicants must survey parents regarding transportation needs. A copy of the transportation survey must be included as an upload. Responses to this section must include how the grantee will abide by the school district’s transportation policy and must be submitted within the Status Report section.

**NOTE:** Applicants must transport participants in accordance with all applicable state laws and regulations.

### Daily Nutritious Snack

While snacks are required during programming, 21st CCLC funds may not be used to purchase those snacks or any other food for any participants, child, or adult. NJDOE strongly encourages programs to determine their eligibility for the following federal nutrition programs: snack from the National School Lunch Program, snacks and full meals from the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) At-Risk Afterschool Meal Program, as well as the Summer Food Service Program for summer programs. For more information, please visit the [NJ Department of Agriculture](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/). If programs do not qualify for the above nutrition programs, they must utilize other sources of funding to provide daily snacks. For more information visit [USDA snack requirements](http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/fn/childadult/school_snack.html).

**Federal Funding Language and New Jersey 21st CCLC Logo**

Applicants are reminded that the federal funding language and New Jersey 21st CCLC logo, which will be forward sent to awarded applicants, must be prominently displayed on all printed and electronic program materials. Additionally, applicants must ensure that the program is listed on the agency website to assist in marketability and recognition of the program.

**Commitment and Capacity [20 points]** - Applicants are required to respond to each of the following within EWEG:

* Describe why the project proposed is important to your community.
* Describe the agency’s commitment to addressing the conditions and/or needs identified in the needs section, including the organizational support that exists for implementing the proposed project.
* Describe why the agency is an appropriate (i.e., authorized) organization to implement the project.
* Describe the agency’s experience in implementing similar types of projects, as well as the outcomes of those projects. What worked, what did not work, and why?
* Describe how the agency will use its previous experience to ensure successful implementation of the proposed project.
* If the agency has not implemented similar projects, tell us why the proposed project will be successful.
* Describe the organizational resources (staff, facilities, equipment, funds, etc.) that will support successful project implementation.

Responses to this section must be submitted in the Organizational Commitment and Capacity tab and sub tab (Capacity, Sustainability, Professional Development, Evaluation, Stakeholders and Status Report).

Program Evaluation

State Level Evaluation: Applicants must describe how they intend to ensure that appropriate program staff will continually enter data into the PARS21 state database; participate in on-site monitoring; complete required state quarterly reports; complete federal data collection; and participate in state-level evaluation activities.

Local Level Evaluation: Applicants must demonstrate that they will use best practices, including research or 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 of the students. It is expected that applicants will comply with all components of the comprehensive statewide evaluation plan, as described in section 1. Each applicant is required to fully describe its program implementation strategies, findings, and outcomes, and utilize the findings of its local evaluation efforts to continuously improve its program. Accordingly, the local evaluation must:

* Define and use indicators to measure the progress towards meeting the state-mandated goals/objectives, e.g., academic, and behavioral outcomes (see Goals, Objectives, and Indicators section of this NGO).
* Describe the impact of the program on students and families, e.g., student attendance and engagement during the school day and after school, and parental involvement participation, and skills acquisition.
	+ Special consideration should be given to assessing the knowledge and skills that promote career and college readiness such as critical thinking, problem-solving, perseverance, collaboration, creativity, and communication.
* Assess the efficacy of the local administration and implementation of the approved program, e.g., recruitment and retention of staff and students, program staff instruction and engagement, maintenance of collaborations and partnerships, intentional planning, student attendance, linkage to the school day (both public and non-public), breadth of program offerings, and progress towards sustainability; and
* Describe the program improvements implemented.

Applicants are required to refine, improve, and strengthen the program and to refine the local performance measures, as appropriate. Thus, in future years, if awarded, the applicant must describe how the previous year’s evaluation data will inform the upcoming year’s program design. Applicants must list the types of data that will be collected, the frequency of collection, and the related objectives. Additionally, applicants must describe how the local level evaluation findings will be used to provide feedback to stakeholders and project staff while also informing future program direction.

Applicants must provide a description of plans for: familiarizing staff with the action research process; identifying key stakeholders in the action research process, including those taking the action and those in a supportive role; identifying data sources and/or shared data systems; the methods of collecting and reporting qualitative and quantitative data (PARS21, focus groups, student surveys, staff surveys, parent surveys, etc.); reporting to stakeholders (advisory board, parents, school-day staff, program staff and other key stakeholders); ensuring that what is learned from the action research project(s) informs efforts to improve the afterschool program; and the utilization of the local evaluator as a resource. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Evaluation section.

**NOTE:** The grantee will make program evaluations available to the public upon request. This may be completed via a Board of Education meeting, program website, parent meeting, etc.

### Mandatory Professional Development

This NGO seeks to enhance staff capacity through professional development for both school-day and afterschool staff on relevant out-of-school time topics. As mentioned above, professional development is a strategy to ensure intentional collaboration and linkage to the school day. Providing joint professional development equips staff with skills necessary to implement a quality afterschool program that supports youth learning, engages staff, and encourages innovative ideas and creativity. To ensure linkage with the school day, applicants are required to adhere to the professional development requirements listed below as part of the design of the program: The 21st CCLC Project Director is required to attend at least two conferences during each grant year that focus on out-of-school time programming. It is expected that conference attendees will turn-key the information to other 21st CCLC program staff and incorporate relevant best practices into the program. Applicants may allocate funds for expenses related to registration costs, travel, meals, and lodging. Refer to the list of national and statewide conferences.

* Applicants are required to conduct a minimum of one staff orientation and one in-service training which all program staff are required to attend. Training topics must be aligned with the goals and objectives of the 21st CCLC program and should be tailored to each program’s areas of focus. Applicants may allocate funds for expenses related to consultant fees to conduct the trainings.
* Partners are required to attend a minimum of two staff training opportunities that are directly related to the implementation of the program as determined by the project director.
* Project directors are required to attend all NJDOE project directors’ meetings, trainings, and technical assistance workshops.
* During the 5-year grant cycle, each grantee will be required to present, at least once, at *The Soaring Beyond Expectations: A Statewide Afterschool Celebration* or another event deemed appropriate by NJDOE. This annual conference is held in New Jersey and is open statewide.

Responses to this section must be submitted in the Professional Development section.

### List of National and Statewide Conferences

Please refer to the approved list of annual conferences in Appendix 7. This list is not meant to be exhaustive. Applicants may submit for NJDOE approval to attend conferences that are not listed.

The 21st CCLC Project Director is required to attend at least two conferences during each grant year that focus on out-of-school time programming.

### Advisory Board

Applicants are required to maintain a stakeholder advisory board comprised of partners, collaborators, evaluator, parents, a youth representative, and other appropriate interested stakeholders. The advisory board should support the agency in achieving its program goals and objectives. Board members should offer guidance in the areas of program implementation, evaluation, and sustainability of the 21st CCLC program. It is required that the stakeholder advisory board meet regularly, at a minimum of once per quarter. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Stakeholder section.

### Student Engagement

Applicants are required to maintain a 21st CCLC youth advisory board comprised of youth that participate in the program. The youth advisory board must include representatives from all grade levels and sites served. Student input can improve and strengthen programs in ways that the project director could not do alone. Involving students in meaningful ways both in and beyond the afterschool program provides them with leadership opportunities to learn skills that can be transferable to the workplace or community. Participation on a youth advisory board also gives students ownership of the program they attend, while deepening their commitment to and engagement in the program. The student advisory board may organize activities, plan student events, conduct a student orientation, help solve problems at the program, present to local school boards on program accomplishments, and advertise the program. Project directors must consider and implement, where appropriate, the recommendations made by the student council regarding program implementation to ensure that student interests are being addressed. It is required that the youth advisory board meets regularly, at a minimum, every other month. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Stakeholder section.

### Collaborations

All applicants are required to develop and maintain effective collaborations among diverse agencies within the community to strengthen the variety of services that the 21st CCLC program can offer and allow for more efficient use of local resources. Applicants must complete the Documentation of Required Collaboration forms for each collaborator and upload them into EWEG. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Stakeholder section.

### Partnerships

* At a minimum, quarterly meetings between the applicant and its partners to review progress toward program goals and each agency’s continued role and responsibility;
* Expansion of the number of partners (at least one per year) as programs enter each succeeding year, to increase available resources and services; and
* Partners must provide tangible program resources, such as curriculum, facilities, staffing, equipment, etc., that are directly related to the goals and outcomes of the program.

Responses to this section must be submitted in the Stakeholder section.

### Sustainability

The vision of the New Jersey 21st CCLC program is to develop and support long-term, sustainable programs that enhance or improve participants’ academic performance along with social, emotional, and physical development. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to continue to provide comparable services upon the expiration of this grant program. The NJDOE expects that the advisory board will work with program administrators in the development and implementation of a sustainability plan. Applicants must describe how they plan to sustain the program after federal funding ends, including the identification and use of other funding sources. The sustainability plan must be implemented throughout the grant year and succeeding grant years. Applicants must respond to the following, as required in the ESSA Legislation, section 4204:

1. Provide a description of a preliminary plan for how the community learning center will continue after funding under this program ends.
2. Provide a description of how the applicant will coordinate with federal, state, and local programs and make the most effective use of public resources.

Additionally, applicants will be required to conduct at least one N.J. Celebrates Afterschool event annually. N.J. Celebrates Afterschool events are open houses with engaging and educational activities for parents, children, and local community leaders to build ongoing community support and learn the goals and purpose of the 21stCCLC program. These events may coincide with the *Lights on Afterschool* day or any other date the applicant chooses. Applicants are required to conduct this event before the end of the program year. Refer to the [New Jersey School Age Care Coalition (NJSACC) website](http://www.njsacc.org/) for resources. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Sustainability section.

### NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool

The [NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool (NJQSA)](http://www.njsacc.org/qualityStandards/index.php)is a resource available to all afterschool programs as a self-assessment and continuous quality improvement tool. Applicants should become familiar with these standards and utilize them as a resource throughout the year. If awarded, all first-year grantees will be required to complete the Program Activity, Administration and Human Relations sections of the quality assessment tool. In years two through five, grantees must select any two sections from the *NJQSA* with the understanding that by year five all sections will be completed.Although the quality assessment tool will not be collected by NJDOE, the applicants are required to maintain documentation of the review by program staff and the completion of the accompanying assessment tool by April 30, 2026. This process may be divided among staff at the agency’s discretion and should include multiple staff members. For example, a program section can be divided amongst staff whose responsibilities are specific to certain areas. Responses to this section must be submitted in the Sustainability section.

**Budget [15 points]** – If awarded, the organization designated as the applicant agency in the original application must remain the applicant agency and must be accountable for all fiscal and program oversight. It is critical for grantees to develop strong collaborations that will enable them to leverage private resources to sustain the program beyond the period for which grant funds are available. The applicant’s budget must be well-considered, necessary for the implementation of the project, remain within the funding parameters contained in the NGO, and demonstrate prudent use of resources.

Once the objectives that will guide the work in the implementation phase of the grant have been prioritized, begin to develop the details of the budget that will be necessary to carry out each activity. The budget will be reviewed to ensure that costs are customary and reasonable for the implementation of each project activity. The applicant must provide a direct link for each cost to the goal, objectives, and activities in the Project Activity Plan that provides programmatic support for the proposed cost. In addition, the applicant must provide documentation and enough details to support each proposed cost. The NJDOE will especially review budget line items to determine the percentage of administrative costs and ensure that they, like all costs, are reasonable and necessary. These line items may include administrative salaries, fringe benefits, office supplies and office equipment. The NJDOE reserves the right to require a reduction should it be determined that the administrative costs are excessive and unreasonable. Guidance on constructing a grant budget may be found in the [Discretionary Grants Manual](http://www.state.nj.us/education/grants/discretionary/apps/). The budget submitted as part of the application is for the current grant period only.

The applicant must ensure that it meets all the requirements listed below:

1. Transportation
	1. Cost for transportation must be reasonable and necessary for the program. Vehicles may not be purchased; however, any applicant may choose to contract with a service provider or annually lease a vehicle.
2. Background Checks
	1. Criminal background checks are required for all program staff having direct contact with students, as indicated in the child care licensing laws. For additional information, please visit the [New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) website](http://www.state.nj.us/dcf/reporting/record/) and [CHRI website](https://www.nj.gov/education/crimhist/).
3. Professional Development
	1. Applicants may budget grant funds for expenses related to consultant fees, registration costs, travel, meals, and lodging in accordance with state regulations.
4. Supplement not Supplant
	1. Applicants must use program funds to supplement and not supplant other federal, state, and local funds to provide programs and activities allowable under this grant program.
5. Evaluation
	1. Applicants must obtain and submit one quote from an external program evaluator with their application for funding. The external evaluator may not be a current vendor or employee of the agency. The quote must include information regarding the scope of the evaluation, deliverables, and costs. Additionally, applicants must attach the evaluator’s resume or curriculum vitae. Please refer to Project Guidelines, for submission instructions. Applicants must budget enough funds to cover the costs to complete the required evaluation, including costs for the external (non-employee) program evaluator and administrative support personnel responsible for PARS21 data entry.
6. Maintenance of Effort (MOE)
	1. 21st CCLC programs are subject to a Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement, which is the same requirement that is applied to Title I, Part A. Under the MOE requirement, a 21st CCLC program may receive its full award only if the NJDOE determines that the project’s LEA partners combined fiscal effort per pupil or aggregate expenditures of state and local funds for free public education in the preceding fiscal year was not less than 90% of the combined fiscal effort or aggregate expenditures for the second preceding fiscal year. If the LEA fails to meet the 90% level, the NJDOE must reduce the project’s award by the exact percentage by which the LEA failed to meet the 90% level. The NJDOE will verify the MOE requirement for LEAs during the award process. For more information about this, please contact the Office of Grants Management.

## **II.5 Allowable Uses and Eligible Activities**

The NJDOE will remove from consideration all ineligible costs, as well as costs not supported by the Project Activity Plan. Applicants should consider required trainings/conferences (e.g., state and national 21st CCLC conferences), transportation expenses, and evaluation costs when preparing budget detail forms. The actual amount awarded will be contingent upon the applicant’s ability to provide support for its proposed budget upon application and will be determined by the NJDOE through the pre-award revision process. The applicant’s opportunity to make pre-award revisions will be limited by the NJDOE, which is not responsible either to provide repeated opportunities for revisions or to permit reallocation of the funds previously requested for costs that have not been approved or have been disallowed.

Programs will not be able to charge students and families program fees for activities.

Applicants submit a budget for 12 months of 21st CCLC funding. In constructing the budget, please note that all costs must be *reasonable and necessary* to implement program activities. Additionally, the budget entries must demonstrate clear and specific links to the project activity plan. All applicants must provide enough explanation of budgeted costs, including the calculation detail (cost-basis).

Through an amendment process, the department may authorize a modification to an approved application. This process requires substantial programmatic and fiscal review by the DOE. The grantee must have compelling programmatic justification and rationale for the need for the requested amendment. Any requested change must align with the intent, goals, and objectives of this NGO. The last day for grantees to submit an amendment is Sunday, May 31, 2026.

Applicants must adhere to the NJDOE required provisions of *N.J.A.C.* 6A:23A-7, School District Travel Policies and Procedures. These provisions contain additional requirements concerning prior approvals, as well as expenditures related to travel. It is strongly recommended that the applicant collaborate with their fiscal manager when constructing the budget. The NJDOE uniformly applies these regulatory restrictions among all grant applicants in any grant. Unless otherwise specified, the following restrictions apply to all grant programs:

* No reimbursement for in-state overnight travel (meals and/or lodging);
* No reimbursement for meals during in-state travel;
* Mileage reimbursement may not exceed $.47 per mile;
* Program administrative staff costs must be reasonable and necessary, and are subject to NJDOE program officer approval; and,
* Grantees may not request program income. Program income is not allowed.
* Other ineligible costs are listed in the section below.

## II.6 Application Component Required Uploads

See **the** **Appendices section** for attached forms, assurances, and/or informational documents related to this NGO. Failure to upload any required forms and/or documentation may result in an adverse funding decision.

The following components are required (see Required  Column) to be included as part of your EWEG application. Failure to include a required component may result in your application being removed from consideration for funding. Please make note that the following characters are not recognized by EWEG (“, -!@#$ %^&\*( )”~/<>{} and bullets). When uploading documents to EWEG be sure to properly label each document with thetitle of the form, not the appendix number. Use the checklist (see Included  Column) to ensure that all required components have been completed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Required* ***(*** ☒ ***)*** | *Form*  | *EWEG TAB/SUBTAB*  | *Included* ***(*** ☐ ***)*** |
| ☒  | EWEG  | Admin (Contacts, Allocation, Board Approval, and Assurance)  | ☐  |
| ☒  | EWEG  | Narrative (Abstract, Need, Target Population, Project Description, Goals/Objectives, Evaluation, Organizational Capacity, Professional Development, Stakeholders, Sustainability, Status Report, Activity Plan, Nonpublic)  | ☐  |
| ☒  | EWEG  | Budget (Salaries, Supplies, Equipment, Other, etc.)  | ☐  |
| ☒  |   | \*The following documents are to be scanned and uploaded in the EWEG application as PDF files, prior to submission. Except for the evaluation quote, weekly schedule and child care license, all forms are included as Appendices in this NGO. | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | Documentation of School Eligibility  | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | Verification of School Collaboration  | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | 21st CCLC Program Statement of Assurances  | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | Nonpublic Equitable Participation Summary and Affirmation of Consultation Form  | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD | GPRA Measures | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | State Mandated Goals and Objectives  | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | 21st CCLC Audit Information Form  | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | Documentation of Required Collaboration  | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | Local External Evaluation Quote including Evaluator’s Resume or Curriculum Vitae  | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | Child Care License (as appropriate)  | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | Weekly schedule of activities for each program site, transportation survey given to parents/guardians, and volunteer checklist.  | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | Copy of applicant’s federally negotiated indirect cost rate OR a signed statement requesting the use of a de minimis indirect cost rate subject to the conditions set forth in the NGO.  | ☐  |
| ☒  | UPLOAD  | Entity Overview page from the [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov/) website. (This is the page that shows your agency’s name, address with 4-digit extension zip code, DUNS number, and SAM expiration date, which must be a date that comes after the start date of the grant program.)  | ☐  |

## II.7 Sub-granting Funds

Applicants are not permitted to divest more than 20% of the total grant award to any single entity, including but not limited to partners, collaborators, or sub-grantees. At a minimum, applicants must maintain direct control of 51% of the total grant award during the entire grant cycle. Additionally, applicants are not allowed to divest oversight of the program’s administration or implementation to another agency, this includes, but is not limited to, existing 21st CCLC programs and other agencies in a sub-grant process. These funds may not be used as a pass-through to another agency to operate a 21st CCLC program. A subgrantee budget, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or contract must be uploaded that indicates the scope of service(s).

## **II.8 Nonpublic Participation**

Pursuant to *EDGAR 76.650 - 76.662*, when providing benefits to nonpublic school students with federal funds, the following must be addressed:

* Funds cannot be used for construction of nonpublic school facilities.
* The applicant may place equipment and supplies in the nonpublic school for the period needed for the grant. The grantee must ensure that the materials are used only for the purposes of the grant and can be removed from the nonpublic school, by the lead applicant, without remodeling the nonpublic school facility.
* Funds must be used to meet the specific needs of students and staff. *(Funds cannot supplant benefits normally provided by the nonpublic school.)*
* Funds may be used to pay for the services of an employee of the nonpublic school if the employee performs the services outside of his or her regular hours and the employee performs the services under the supervision of the grantee.
* All benefits provided, including equipment and materials, must be secular, neutral, and non-ideological. (*IASA, Sec 14503)*

The applicant must complete the Documentation of Nonpublic School Participation form in EWEG, which is located under the Narrative, Nonpublic tab. In addition, the applicant must submit the signed Nonpublic Equitable Participation Summary and Affirmation of Consultation form. The uploaded form must be signed and dated by both the applicant’s chief executive officer (CEO) or chief school administrator (CSA) and the nonpublic school official, where appropriate. An applicant agency may be disqualified if it fails to complete and include these forms in its grant application.

Any nonpublic school applicant or participant must have a minimum of 30% of its total student population designated as low-income. After which, the eligibility is based on the location of the nonpublic school(s), design of the specific grant program, and needs of the nonpublic school students and teachers. These needs must be able to be met via the discretionary grant program’s specific program design. \*The nonpublic school must be located within the communities or geographic boundaries of the applicant agency or partner agency, if applicable. According to the parameters of the grant program and available funding, the applicant agency determines the area to be served.

## II.9 Apportionment of Grant Funds

The applicant’s project must be designed and implemented in conformance with all applicable state and federal regulations. Final awards are subject to the availability offunds. Total funds available are $250,000 to $600,000 based upon the maximum eligible award amounts. This is 100 percent funded from Federal 21st CCLC funds (FAIN S287C250030; CFDA 84.287C; 26-100-034-5064-161-H400-6130-D006). The performance period is September 1, 2025 through August 31 2026.

All grant funds are subject to a 60-day liquidation period at the end of the grant term. At this time, a final expenditure report will be due to close out the grant award.

Grants funds are to be used solely for the costs associated in implementing the grant program. Click on the links below to view the current rates:

[Max Administrative Cap](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-E/subject-group-ECFRd41a10959e1acab/section-200.417): [Max 10%] [NJ Travel Reimbursement Rate](https://www.nj.gov/infobank/circular/cir23-02-OMB.pdf): $0.47 cents per mile

[Max Benefit Cap](https://www.nj.gov/infobank/circular/cir24-11-OMB.pdf) Composite Rate: 77.15% [Max Indirect Costs Cap %:](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-E/subject-group-ECFRd93f2a98b1f6455/section-200.414) [Max 8%]

Please refer to section II.10 and II. 11 of the NGO for information regarding the allowability, inclusion of and/or restriction(s) to indirect costs in a grant budget.

Additional guidance for indirect costs can be found in the [glossary page of the Discretionary Grants Manual.](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/apps/)

The NJDOE will remove from consideration all ineligible costs, as well as costs not supported by the Project Activity Plan. The actual amount awarded will be contingent upon the applicant’s ability to provide support for its proposed budget upon application and will be determined by the Department of Education through the pre-award revision process. The applicant’s opportunity to make PAR will be limited by the NJDOE, which is not responsible either to provide repeated opportunities for revisions or to permit the reallocation of the funds previously requested for costs that have not been approved or have been disallowed.

## II.10 Eligible Costs

Use the [Quick Reference for Commonly Requested Costs](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/apps/docs/common_costs.pdf) or the [Uniform Minimum Chart of Accounts](http://www.nj.gov/education/finance/fp/af/coa/coa1718.pdf) to locate the appropriate budget costs codes.

Please note that the passage of N.J.A.C 6A:23A-7 places additional administrative requirements on the travel of school district personnel. The applicant is urged to be mindful of these requirements as they may impact the ability of school district personnel to participate in activities sponsored by the grant program.

Grant funds may be used by applicants for the following costs that directly support the activities described in the application:

* Salaries and benefits for program staff, including but not limited to custodial, security, and nursing staff, which are reasonable and necessary to run the program;
* Purchase of curricula, project materials, and supplies for grant-funded project activities, including computer software and on-line resources;
* Professional development and training in support of grant-funded projects and services;
* Identification, selection, and orientation of grant-funded staff;
* Transportation services for project participants to participate in grant-funded activities;
* Reasonable and necessary services and accommodations associated with serving disabled students;
* Computer(s) for the purpose of program administration and implementation;
* Other grant related expenses (e.g., printing, telephones, postage, travel, rent) that are necessary to perform grant administrative functions; and
* Indirect costs may be requested in the budget from grantees that either 1) have a current federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement; or, 2) have never received a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement. The actual indirect cost rate that may be used in budgeting is a de minimis rate, which is subject to the requirements of the grant program. If indirect costs are requested, care must be taken to ensure that costs that would be considered an indirect cost are not included in the budget as a direct cost. Please refer to [2 CFR Part 200.414](http://www.ecfr.gov) for additional information. The indirect cost dollar amount you budget in your application must be the same dollar amount as the maximum, allowable indirect cost dollar amount calculated by EWEG. If you want to budget a lesser dollar amount, reduce the rate amount that you insert in the RATE box.
* Applicants with a current federally negotiated indirect cost (IDC) rate agreement must scan and upload a copy of their indirect cost rate agreement. As this program is subject to a supplement not supplant requirement, grantees with an approved restricted indirect cost rate must use that rate. For all grantees, the maximum IDC rate that may be budgeted for this grant program is 8%.
* Applicants that have never received a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement must scan and upload a signed statement as part of the application. This statement must attest to the fact that the organization has never received a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, and that the grantee is requesting the use of a de minimis indirect cost rate. This statement must be signed by the Chief Executive Officer or designee of the organization. The de minimis rate is 8% MTDC, as this program is subject to a supplement not supplant requirement.
* LEAs without an approved indirect cost rate are limited to the state median-approved indirect cost rate applicable to this program.

**NOTE:** Out-of-state travel not documented in the approved grant application requires prior approval from the applicant’s program officer.

## II.11 Ineligible Costs

The NJDOE will not reimburse grantees or sub-grantees for ineligible costs. Ineligible costs include:

Outside of grant term: Costs incurred outside of the grant term.

* Existing staff: Salaries and/or benefits for existing staff are not eligible unless they are assigned program responsibilities depicted in the staffing chart (see Section II.10.).
* Routine operating/admin costs: Costs for the routine operation of or administration of the organization are not eligible except when part of the approved budget (see section b of the grant/loan agreement).
* No benefit: Costs incurred for salaries, services or media which do not benefit the end user of the grant program.
* Not reasonable or necessary: Costs which are not reasonable or necessary to carry out the grant.
* Outside of target area: Providing services outside the target service area.
* Poorly Documented/Undocumented: Costs that are not supported by adequate documentation.
* Off Message: Costs for media that are prohibited or off message.
* Curriculum Development or Expansion of Curriculum unless specified by the grant program as an eligible activity.
* Supplanting: Costs for salaries, services, or media which are covered under other federal, or state funding.
* Food, including snacks and refreshments for project participants, both children and families, or for 21st CCLC staff meetings, including required orientation, professional development trainings, scheduled in-service trainings and advisory board meetings.
* Vehicle purchases.
* Supplanting local, state, or federal funds already designated for grant-related activities.
* Construction or capital improvements.
* background checks are required by State law, using 21st CCLC funds for these costs is supplanting and, therefore, may not be paid for with 21st CCLC funds.
* Religious practices or programs; such as religious instruction, worship, or prayer.
* Costs that are not directly related to the implementation of grant activities.
* Membership to associations or organizations.
* In-state overnight lodging and/or meals.
* Meals on in-state travel.
* Mileage reimbursement in excess of $.47 per mile.
* Administration costs, which are different than program administrative staff costs, exceed 10% (i.e., overhead, indirect costs, leasing, etc.).

**NOTE:** Ineligible costs, as well as costs not supported by the activity plan, will be removed from consideration.

# Section III – Grant Agreement

## III.1 Grant Agreement

Once the application for funding is approved in the PAR process, the EWEG grant application will convert to a Grant Agreement between the applicant and the NJDOE ([OMB Circular 07-05-OMB](https://www.nj.gov/infobank/circular/cir0705b.pdf)). The grantee is expected to complete the goals and objectives laid out in the approved application and is expected to complete the activities established in its grant agreement and make satisfactory progress toward the completion of its approved action plan. Failure to do so may result in the withdrawal by NJDOE of the grantee’s eligibility for the continuation of grant funding. The NJDOE will remove ineligible, inappropriate, or undocumented costs from funding consideration. To view and download the complete grant agreement documents, including attachments A and B of the grant agreement, click [here](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/management/docs/attacha_b.pdf). To locate the appropriate budget costs codes, go to the [Uniform Minimum Chart of Accounts](https://www.nj.gov/education/finance/fp/af/coa/) web page.

## III.2 Reporting Requirements

Grantees will be required to submit reports on activities according to the program report schedule in [Section III.5. Reporting Periods](#_Reporting_Periods). The grantee will ensure that all reports are uploaded to EWEG by the due dates. Failure to deliver the reports by due dates may result in the Grantee achieving an unsatisfactory rating and may result in the stop of all NJDOE program payments.

## III.3 Interim Activity Reports

These reports are to be delivered to NJDOE via electronic format uploaded or within the EWEG system. Reports submitted by other means will not be accepted and will be considered late if not uploaded by the due date listed in Section III.6. Reporting Periods. This report tracks actual progress in meeting benchmarks and documenting measurable outcomes from the program activities listed in the application. Specific instructions for completing each report are found in this [link](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/management/docs/INSTRUCTIONS%20FOR%20SUBMITTING%20PERS-REPORTS.pdf).

## III.4 Fiscal Reimbursement and Fiscal Interim Report Requirements

**Reimbursement Request:** The grantee shall request monthly, by the 15th of every month, reimbursement payment from the NJDOE. The grantee will complete a reimbursement request through the EWEG payment system. Reimbursement requests will be shut down 30 days before the end of the grant period. Any payments due to the grantee will be paid all remaining grant funds in the Final Expenditure Report. Specific instructions for completing this report are found at this [link](https://njdoe.mtwgms.org/NJDOEGmsWeb/HelpFiles/New_Reimbursement_Request_Instructions.pdf).

Requests may begin once the contract has been fully approved and executed by the NJDOE. All programs are reimbursement-only programs. Grantees will be reimbursed based on the grantee’s actual expenditures. Grantees must submit payment requests not later than the 15th of the month, via the EWEG system, to receive a payment, the following month. The reimbursements are closed 30 days before the end of the grant term. Funds owed to the grantee will be captured in the Final Expenditure Report. The date to submit the last reimbursement request is August 15, 2026. If approved, the last reimbursement request should be paid by the end of September or early October. Please keep in mind that the EWEG system cannot process both reimbursement requests and final reports simultaneously.

Only one (1) reimbursement request may be submitted per month. Grantees must submit reimbursement requests monthly**.** To receive a reimbursement at the beginning of the following month, grantees must submit a monthly request no later than the 15th of the current month. The requests may include funds that will be expended through the last calendar day of the month in which reimbursement is requested. If the grantee’s request is approved by the NJDOE program officer, the grantee should receive payment on approximately the 10th of the following month.

In making disbursements to any third party with whom the Grantee may contract to undertake the Project, the Grantee shall ensure that disbursements are made upon delivery of satisfactory work product and in accordance with the Department’s program policies.

This grant program is federally funded. Federal funds have an expiration date after which grant funds, even appropriately spent, cannot be reimbursed. It is the responsibility of the grantee to avoid forfeiting grant funds by creating and submitting reimbursement requests and reports by the requested deadlines. Electronic Payments

To receive electronic payments from the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Treasury requires applicants to submit the Electronic Payment Authorization for Automatic Deposits (ACH Credits) form and the W-9/Vendor Questionnaire form directly to the Department of Treasury. These forms can be found on the Department of Treasury website at <https://www.nj.gov/treasury/omb/pdf/forms/W9.pdf>.

Please contact vendor control at (609) 633-8183 or via email to AAIUNIT@treas.nj.gov or contact the Office of Management and Budget at 609-292-1865 with any questions regarding these forms. Forms must be submitted to Treasury concurrently with the EWEG application; however, please DO NOT submit these forms with this NGO.

**NOTE:** The NJDOE will not approve any reimbursement request(s), if a program has any outstanding report(s), including but not limited to the Federal Annual Performance Report, Staff Survey, Youth Survey, or the Federal Teacher Survey.

**Fiscal Interim Reports:** These reports are due as stated in [Section III.5. Reporting Periods](https://doe365-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lnietos_doe_nj_gov/Documents/Draft%20forms/Draft%20NGO%202023.docx#_Reporting_Periods). with the interim activity report. In this report, the grantee will report on actual expenditures incurred during their reporting period and reconcile the expenditures reported in the interim report should match what has been paid to the district during the reporting period. Must upload the interim report forms.

**Final Expenditure Reports:** This is the same report as the Interim Report, except that this report generates a final payment to the grantee upon selecting the “final report radial button.”

## **III.5 Reporting Periods**

Reimbursement requests are due by the 15th of every month.

The reporting periods for expenditure reports are as follows:

| **Program/Fiscal Report** | **Quarterly Reporting Period** | **Due Date** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1st Interim Report | September 1, 2025-December 31, 2025 | January 31, 2026 |
| 2nd Interim Report | September 1, 2025-March 31, 2026 | April 30, 2026 |
| 3rd Interim Report | September 1, 2025-June 30, 2026 | July 31, 2026 |
| 4th Final Report | September 1, 2025-August 31, 2026 | October 31, 2026 |

Grant recipients are required to submit quarterly program and fiscal progress reports through the online [EWEG system](http://homeroom.state.nj.us). For additional information regarding post-award reporting requirements, please review the [*Discretionary Grants Manual*](https://www.state.nj.us/education/grants/discretionary/apps).

Grantees are required to submit a narrative summary of activities conducted during the reporting period. This summary shall be submitted as an upload within EWEG. All program and fiscal reports must be submitted by the dates specified below:

Statewide assessment scores will be required as an upload into EWEG with the final quarterly report. All programs must create a list with the NJSMART number for each student who attended the program for 30 days or more and provide their statewide assessment scale score for math and English/language arts by site. After the final report is reviewed and approved at all four levels in EWEG, a payment will be issued if funds were due to the agency. Payments may be withheld if reporting requirements are not met.

### Additional Program Reports

Grant recipients are also required to submit the following information by the designated timelines. The table below indicates data collection timelines estimated for implementation during the 2025-2026 program year. Additionally, applicants should refer to section 1, Assessment of Statewide Program Results, for additional information.

| **Report** | **Reporting Period** | **Due Date \*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Youth Pre-Survey | October-November | December |
| Parent Survey | October-November | December |
| Youth Post-Survey | February-March | March |
| ETRS 1 | September-January | February |
| Teacher Survey | April  | April |
| ETRS 2 | September-April | May |
| PARS21 | Monthly | 15th of each month |
| 21APR Federal Reporting | September-August | Collected 2x/year  |
| Final 5-year Comprehensive Evaluation Report | September 2025-August 31, 2030 | October 31, 2030 |

\*Dates are tentative and subject to change. Actual due dates will be released once the contract begins.

### Assessment of Statewide Program Results

The evaluation of New Jersey’s 21st CCLC program is done at both state and local levels. Both levels of program evaluation focus on accountability, program improvement, and dissemination of identified best practices. The NJDOE’s comprehensive evaluation of this grant program will include a Department review of state and federal data, quarterly reports, monitoring reports, and local-level data to measure the progress of local programs. If awarded, applicants will be required to comply with all components of the comprehensive evaluation, which may include, but are not limited to, submission of additional reports or data. The data obtained through the multi-tier comprehensive evaluation will be used for continuous improvement and to inform the NJDOE’s monitoring of programs and reporting to the United States Department of Education (USDE). This evaluation is subject to change during the grant period.

### Federal Evaluation

The USDE disseminated specific measures for the 21st CCLC program. These measures are required by federal law under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) and are in place to assess program performance and effectiveness. This federal law requires all federal agencies to develop strategic plans describing their overall goals and objectives, annual performance plans containing quantifiable measures of their progress, and performance reports describing their success in meeting those standards and measures. The federal GPRA measures for the 21st CCLC program are:



### Statewide Evaluation

AIR is currently responsible for evaluating the overall impact of the 21st CCLC program in New Jersey. The components of the state-level evaluation include an assessment of grantee progress towards achieving the state-mandated goals and objectives; impact on youth and their families; and effectiveness of the state’s administration of the 21st CCLC program. During the grant period, the state-level evaluator administers staff and student surveys, manages the Evaluation Tracking and Reporting System (ETRS) data collection, and analyzes qualitative and quantitative data. Additionally, AIR will provide a series of webinars and presentations that support quality improvement efforts, including regional “Planning with Data” sessions that will be conducted in June - August 2026. The 21st CCLC grantees are expected to perform all statewide evaluation activities and cooperate with the state-level evaluator during the grant period.

### Local Level Evaluation

Applicants are required to hire an external evaluator to assess the overall impact of the 21st CCLC program on the participants, including both students and parents. Each grantee must undergo an annual local level evaluation to assess its progress toward achieving its goal of providing high-quality opportunities for academic enrichment. Federal legislation requires that the local evaluation is based on the factors included in the Measures of Effectiveness pursuant to Title IV, Part B, Sec.4205 (b)(1). The Measures of Effectivenessare:

* An assessment of objective data regarding the need for before-school and afterschool (or summer recess) programs and activities in the schools and communities;
* An established set of performance measures aimed at ensuring the availability of high-quality academic enrichment opportunities;
* Based upon evidence-based research that the program or activity will help students meet the challenging State academic standards and any local academic standards;
* Aligned with the regular academic program of the school and the academic needs of participating students and include performance indicators and measures described in ESSA Section 4203(a)(14)(A); and
* Necessary for the measurement of student success.

Additionally, the results of the evaluation must be: 1) used to refine, improve, and strengthen the program or activity, and to refine the performance measures; 2) made available to the public upon request, with public notice of such availability provided; and 3) used by the State to determine whether a grantee is eligible to be renewed. If awarded, in subsequent years, it is expected that the local-level evaluation will be designed to support a comprehensive longitudinal analysis report on the impact of the 21st CCLC program on the participants (both student and families) and the school community environment. This report must be submitted to the NJDOE at the end of the five-year grant cycle, which would be October 31, 2030. The final five-year cumulative report will include, at a minimum:

* an analysis of the development of the program over the past five years;
* identification of significant trends over the past five years;
* a description of the impact of the program on students and families over the past five years; and
* a summary of progress on the attainment of the goals and objectives and corresponding local-level indicators over the past five years.

More information will be available to the applicant, if awarded. The NJDOE reserves the right to request the return of dispersed funds if the report is deemed insufficient and unsatisfactory.

### Data Collection Systems

The NJDOE utilizes three specific data collection systems to support a comprehensive evaluation of the 21st CCLC program. The systems are the Program Activity Review System (PARS21), the Annual Performance Report (APR), which is the federal collection system, and the 21st CCLC Evaluation Template and Reporting System (ETRS). Applicants are responsible for entering all required data directly into each system manually. Each system has a specific purpose and deadline which are detailed below.

### Program Activity Review System (PARS21)

PARS21 collects information about youth activities, parent activities, staff, students, collaborators, partners, and assessment data (state, local and federal). Due to the intensity and accuracy necessary to enter data into PARS21, grantees must regularly enter data. The PARS21 data must be entered by the 15th of each month for the prior month (i.e., all data for September must be entered by October 15). The NJDOE will conduct a review of PARS21 attendance data on November 30, 2025, to determine if each grantee has maintained the level of service approved in its application.

The level of service is defined as the number of youths participating in the program for 30 days or more during the school year. This review will analyze data submitted between September and November 2025 to confirm the actual number of students attending the program for 30 days or more. All student NJSMART numbers are required to be entered in PARS under the ‘State Student ID’ for each student. All programs must create a list with the NJSMART number for each student who attended the program for 30 days or more and provide the student’s statewide assessment scale score for math and English/language arts by site. This list will be a required upload into EWEG with the final report.

Award amounts may be reduced based on this review for the current year or consecutive years. Participants who have attended the program for 30 days or more are the only participants who will be counted towards the program’s participation rate. The NJDOE reserves the right to reduce funding award amounts or withhold payments to any program that does not meet an appropriate level of service.

### Annual Performance Report (APR) System

During this grant cycle, the USDE will also require annual data to be reported through the federal APR system. The USDE will collect basic information about the characteristics associated with 21st CCLC funded programs and the outcomes they were able to achieve as a result of providing services to students and adult family members attending their programs. Information collected may include: (1) data about the progress made in meeting project objectives; and (2) data that addresses the federally defined performance indicators for the 21st CCLC program. Grantees will be required to enter data directly into the system. Reports from PARS21 will provide grantees with the necessary data for completion. Grantees may be required to collect additional data if requested by the USDE. The data is tentatively scheduled to be collected as listed below:

| **Data Period** | **System Open** | **Due Date** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2025-2026 | July 2026 | September 2026 | Activities, Staffing, and Participation |
| 2025-2026 | November 2026 | February 2027 | Outcomes |

Further details will be shared with grantees once received from USDE. Due dates may change based on USDE guidance.

### 21st CCLC Evaluation Template and Reporting System (ETRS)

The online 21st CCLC Evaluation Template and Reporting System (ETRS) was developed to facilitate consistent prompt reporting about program practices and goals and is used to support various evaluation efforts. Information is due twice a year. Information is provided by the grantees for each site active during the program period and entered directly into ETRS. Some of the data requires coordination with local evaluators. The ETRS is separated into three main sections: 1) Program Operations, 2) Goals, and 3) Conclusions and Recommendations. If awarded, applicants will be encouraged to access the ETRS early in the project period to review the information that is needed to complete the required reporting.

### Staff/Student Surveys

During the project period, the NJDOE will disseminate information to the program administrators regarding required surveys. The surveys are necessary to demonstrate the impact of 21st CCLC programs on student academic, self-management, and interpersonal skills, in addition to staff practices and approaches to implementing activities. All programs are required to ensure a minimum of an 85% return of the surveys. Since surveys may be administered throughout the program year, it is up to the program administrators to ensure that this minimum response rate is maintained. More information will be forthcoming.

## III.6 Monitoring

All programs will receive two separate on-site visits during their first and third year of funding. The types of on-site visits are: 1) a program quality visit and 2) a compliance monitoring visit. Additionally, programs that have been identified as at-risk due to low level of service or program or fiscal irregularities may also receive an on-site visit. The 21st CCLC programmatic risk and compliance assessment form will be carefully reviewed throughout the grant year and prior to the monitoring visit which is conducted February – June. Program quality visits are considered targeted technical assistance for continuous quality improvement of 21st CCLC programs. The program quality visits will be conducted by the contracted technical assistance provider, utilizing the *NJ Quality Standards for Afterschool* self-assessment tool. During the quality visit, the technical assistance provider, in collaboration with the grantee, will develop strategies to address any areas in need of improvement. NJDOE will not collect the self-assessment tool; however, the grantee should maintain a record of the program quality visit. All on-site compliance monitoring visits are conducted by NJDOE staff and occur between November and April. The purpose of the on-site compliance monitoring visit is to assess the program’s implementation, effectiveness, and progress towards the achievement of 21st CCLC program indicators, goals, and objectives. Additionally, the NJDOE will assess the agency’s adherence to the requirements outlined in the approved contractual agreement. NJDOE will utilize the *NJDOE Compliance Monitoring Tool*, which project directors may download from the grantee only website. Both programmatic and fiscal documentation will be reviewed. Any non-compliant findings from the on-site compliance monitoring visit will require a corrective action plan.

## III.7 Acceptable Documentation for Grant Monitoring

Full and detailed documentation for grant expenditures shall be retained at the organization’s level for monitoring purposes. This shall include the expenditures of the Grantee and all sub-grantees.

## III.7.a Activity Reports

Grant recipients are required to submit quarterly program and fiscal progress reports through the online [EWEG system](http://homeroom.state.nj.us). For additional information regarding post-award reporting requirements, please review the [*Discretionary Grants Manual*](https://www.state.nj.us/education/grants/discretionary/apps).

Grantees are required to submit a narrative summary of activities conducted during the reporting period. This summary shall be submitted as an upload within EWEG.

These reports consist of documentation and/or evidence of educational, outreach events, and program activities. This can be in the form of a properly completed programmatic Activity Report uploaded into EWEG or emailed to the program officer detailing events and activities. Sample documentation includes flyers, attendance sheets, and newspaper clippings. Documentation should be retained with the grantee for monitoring purposes unless otherwise specified by the program office.

## III.7.b Reimbursements

**Staffing** – All timesheets and payroll records for any salaries paid using funds must be retained by the Grantee for both monitoring and reimbursement purposes. If staff is assigned part-time to the grant, a cost allocation sheet should accompany the reimbursement request.

**Travel** – Mileage records must include the date of travel, the point of origin and its designation (home/office), the sites visited, the purpose of the travel, and the ending location. Commutation must be subtracted from the mileage claimed. The travel reimbursement rate is $0.47 cents per mile. Receipts for parking and tolls must be retained.

**Mailings** – Receipts for postage and other materials and services associated with photocopying, printing, and distribution of materials. Cost allocation based upon agency budget may be acceptable. Please review with the NJDOE representative.

**Training** – Receipts for payment of training providers, course materials, venue, proof of attendance, and copies of any certificates awarded.

**Other costs** – Receipts, invoices, and purchase orders with enough detail to determine that the expenditure is an eligible cost under the grant program.

## III.8 Grant Amendments

All requests for amendments must be submitted at a minimum of 90 days before the end date of the grant agreement via the EWEG system.

Amendment modification forms are available [here](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/management/). Amendment modifications are initiated and submitted through the EWEG system to be uploaded into the Upload Tab in the grant application. Instructions on how to initiate the amendment are available in [the Discretionary Grants Manual](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/apps/). Use the [Quick Reference for Commonly Requested Costs](http://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/apps/common_costs.pdf) or the [Uniform Minimum Chart of Accounts](https://www.nj.gov/education/finance/fp/af/coa/) to locate the appropriate budget costs codes.

Amendments are required if the following situations occur:

* Changes to the program activity and request for no-cost time extension;
* Budget transfers greater than ten percent of the total approved budget into a previously approved line item;
* Changes to 200-320 Purchased Professional Education Services (subgrantee costs) previously approved in the budget;
* Budget transfer to a line not previously approved in the budget;
* Equipment: Grantees are limited to the specific equipment items listed in the final approved grant application budget. To comply with federal requirements, all equipment purchases require prior NJDOE approval. You can pay more or less than the approved amount, but the approved equipment item cannot be changed without permission (i.e., no additions, deletions, or substitutions to the approved equipment list);
* Changes to Indirect Costs.

**IMPORTANT NOTE**: The subgrantee is subject to the same terms and conditions as the grantee and is responsible to you (the lead agency) for the agreed-upon scope of work (approved goals, objectives, and activities), and the expenditure of subgrant funds. Any changes (program or fiscal) requested by a subgrantee must be reviewed by the grantee. If NJDOE requires sub-grantee amendment approval and you support the changes, forward the requested changes to the NJ NJDOE Program Office for review. As the grantee, you do not have the authority to approve any changes in their project activities, any budget variances, or without prior approval by the NJDOE.

## III.9 Suspension/Cancellation of Grant/Loan Agreement and/or Reduction in Funding

The Department reserves the right to suspend and/or cancel this Grant Agreement for nonperformance of any of the Grant/Loan Agreement provisions. Failure by the Grantee to comply with agreement stipulations, standards, or conditions may give the Department cause to suspend this agreement and withhold further payments, prohibit additional obligations, or project funds pending corrective action, and disallow all or part of the cost associated with the noncompliance, terminate this agreement, or take other remedies that may be legally available.

Formal written notice of suspension/cancellation of Grant Agreement and/or reduction in funding will be provided to the grantee in advance of the adverse action to be taken together with recommendations to correct deficiencies. Grantees that correct deficiencies in accordance with guidance provided in the written notice shall be reinstated.

## III.10 Grant Close Out

The Grantee shall provide all documentation necessary to close out this agreement within 60 days of the grant agreement’s ending date. If performance is ahead of schedule, the documentation should be submitted within 60 days of the conclusion of grant activities. Documentation will include the Final Report referenced in paragraph III.5.

## III.11 Federal Requirements

### Statutory/Regulatory Source and Funding

The applicant’s project must be designed and implemented in conformance with all applicable state and federal regulations. The 21st CCLC program is 100% federally funded under the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, Title IV, Part B of the 21st CCLC(ALN: 84.287C). Applicants are required to serve a minimum of 75 students to apply for funding. The NJDOE will award a minimum of $250,000 and a maximum of $600,000 for a 12-month program year, regardless of the number of sites. Final awards are subject to the availability of Title IV, Part B funds. The applicant is informed that this grant does not allow any carry-over funding. These funds MAY NOT be used for expanded learning time programming. Per the USDE, Expanded Learning Time is the time that an LEA or school “extends its normal school day, week, or year to provide additional instruction or educational programs for all students beyond the State-mandated requirements for the minimum number of hours in a school day, days in a school week, or days or weeks in a school year.” The NJDOE does not offer expanded learning time activities currently.

The applicant is expected to complete the goal(s) and objectives laid out in the approved grant application, complete implementation activities established in its grant agreement, and make satisfactory progress toward the completion of its approved action plan. Failure to do so may result in the withdrawal by the NJDOE of the applicant’s eligibility for the continuation of grant funding. In addition, the NJDOE will remove ineligible, inappropriate, or undocumented costs from funding consideration.

Applicants must score a minimum of 70 points or above and meet the intent of the NGO to be considered eligible for an award. If balances are available, or if additional funds become available during the fiscal year, the next highest scoring application(s), at or above 70 points, may become eligible for an award. Awards will be given in rank order.

### Audit Reports

Recipients of specific federal and/or state grant funds are required to have an annual audit performed in accordance with the Single Audit Act, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Subpart F and State Circular 15-08-OMB. The 21st CCLC program is subject to this requirement. The State of New Jersey policy regarding grant recipients is as follows:

1. Grantees that expend $750,000 or more in federal and/or state funds within their fiscal year must have an annual organization-wide audit performed in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards for any fiscal year period beginning after December 26, 2014.
2. Grantees that expend less than $750,000 in federal and/or state funds within their fiscal year, but expend $100,000 or more in state and/or federal funds must have either a financial statement audit performed in accordance with Government Accounting Standards or a program-specific audit performed in accordance with the Act, Amendments, Subpart F-Audit Requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. Although Subpart F-Audit Requirements allows specific provisions for biennial audits; State policy continues to require all audits be performed on an annual basis.
3. Audit reports for grantees requiring an annual organization-wide audit as indicated in No. 1 above must include the auditor’s comments on internal controls over state grants and state aid, compliance with material terms and conditions of state grant agreements, state aid programs, and applicable laws and regulations and the system review report (peer review).
4. Non-LEA recipients of the 21st CCLC grant must complete the 21st CCLC Audit Information Form and submit with this NGO.
5. Audit reports for grantees requiring either a financial statement audit or a program-specific audit as indicated in No. 2 must include a Schedule of Expenditures of Federal and State Awards and the system review report (peer review). Applicants are not required to submit a Schedule of Expenditures nor a peer review with this application. If the applicant is awarded, NJDOE will request the information.
6. Audit reports are the responsibility of the grant recipient. The financial statements may be prepared by the business administrator or other financial personnel; however, the statements must be certified by an independent auditor.
7. Failure to comply with these audit requirements could jeopardize the grantee’s eligibility for future grant funding. Grantees should consult their business administrator and independent auditor regarding these requirements. Any grantee that has not had an audit done for each year it has received more than $500,000 (prior to December 26, 2014) or more than $750,000 (after December 26, 2014) in federal or state funds will be out of compliance with federal regulations.

### Audit Due Dates

For grantees with a fiscal year ending June 30, the audit report is due annually in March. For those grantees with a fiscal year ending December 31 the audit report is due annually in September.

# Section IV Appendices

## Appendix 1: Documentation of Eligibility

Please copy and complete for each school the applicant proposes to serve.

Applicants must propose to serve students who attend: (1) schools implementing comprehensive or targeted support and improvement activities; or (2) schools eligible for schoolwide programs; (3) schools determined by the LEA to need intervention and support or (4) schools with a high percentage of students from low-income families. Schools that serve a high percentage of low-income families will be defined as those schools that have a minimum of 30% of its student population defined as low-income. Low-income families are defined as those families whose children are eligible for free lunch and/or free milk as defined in the Application for State School Aid (ASSA). (5) targets students who primarily attend schools eligible for Title I schoolwide programs and their families.

Applicant Agency Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[ ]  Check this box if this school will be the site where activities will take place.

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the school listed above meets one of the following eligibility requirements (please check one)

[ ]  (1) Currently listed as a comprehensive or targeted support and improvement school, which can be found at [https://www.state.nj.us/education/csn/](https://www.state.nj.us/education/csn/%22%20%5Co%20%22https%3A//www.state.nj.us/education/csn/) or

[ ]  (2) Currently eligible for schoolwide programs under section Title I, Section 1114; or

[ ]  (3) Identified by an LEA to need intervention and support based on state or district data. If an applicant selects this option, the applicant must submit a rationale for its selection process, which must include state or district data; or

[ ]  (4) A minimum of 30% of the school building’s student population is eligible for free lunch and/or milk, as documented in the most recent ASSA count of enrolled students. If choosing this option, complete 1-4 below:

1. Total Number of Students Enrolled: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Total Number of Students Eligible for Free Lunch: \_\_\_\_

3. Total Number of Students Eligible for Free Milk: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Low Income Percentage (adding #2 & #3 and dividing by #1): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%

[ ]  (5) Target students who primarily attend schools eligible for Title I schoolwide programs and their families.

Name of Chief School Administrator (Print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Chief School Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Applicant Agency Chief Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant Agency Chief Executive Officer Date

## Appendix 2: Verification of School Collaboration

Please duplicate for each school to be served.

This document is to be signed and included with the application as evidence of collaboration with each school approved to be served.

**Applicant Agency Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of School to be Served:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of School District:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

It is my understanding that the above-named applicant will serve the students who attend my school with comprehensive out-of-school time services and target students who primarily attend schools eligible for Title I schoolwide programs and their families.

A representative of the above-named school will work with this program to ensure coordination and collaboration of services to these students and their families.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Print Name of Chief School Administrator District

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chief School Administrator Date

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Applicant Agency Chief Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant Agency Chief Executive Officer Date

## Appendix 3: Program Statement of Assurances

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (applicant agency name) hereby assures that:

1. The program will conduct activities in a safe and easily accessible facility.
2. The program will ensure the safe transportation of students to and from the program.
3. The program will abide by the district's transportation policy.
4. The program will provide equitable services to participating nonpublic schools as specified in the original approved application.
5. The program was developed and will be implemented in active collaboration with the schools that participating students attend (including through the sharing of relevant data among the schools, such as NJ SMART data).
6. All participants of the eligible entity, and any partnership entities, must follow applicable laws relating to privacy and confidentiality, and in alignment with the challenging State academic standards and any local academic standards.
7. The program will target students who primarily attend schools eligible for Title I schoolwide programs and their families.
8. The program will target students who attend schools: identified as comprehensive or targeted support and improvement schools, currently eligible for schoolwide programs, schools identified by an LEA to need intervention and support or with a minimum of 30% of the school building’s student population is eligible for free lunch and/or milk and the families of those students.
9. Funds under the program will be used for authorized programs and activities and will be used to supplement, and not supplant other Federal, State, and local public funds expended to provide programs and activities authorized under this grant and other similar programs. Reimbursement requests will be submitted monthly.
10. The community will be given notice of an intent to apply, and that the application and any waiver request will be available for public review after submission of the application.
11. The program will conduct outreach activities to identify qualified children with disabilities who meet the eligibility criteria for participation in the center’s programs.
12. The program will provide accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids, and services for eligible children with handicaps/disabilities and their families that ensure their equal participation in, and benefit from, the programs/services/activities offered to children without disabilities and their families.
13. The program will comply with all components of the comprehensive statewide evaluation and a local level evaluation plan.
14. The program will align activities with the challenging State academic standards.
15. The program will identify and partner with external organizations, if available, in the community.
16. The applicant will ensure that all services being provided are in accordance with all relevant New Jersey Administrative Code (*N.J.A.C*.) and New Jersey Statutes Annotated (*N.J.S.A*) requirements, including licensing requirements.
17. The applicant will not divest more than 20% of the total grant award to any single entity, including but not limited to partners, collaborators, or sub-grantees.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Chief School Administrator or CEO

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Chief School Administrator or CEO Date

## Appendix 4: Nonpublic Equitable Participation Summary and Affirmation of Consultation

(Complete a form for each participating nonpublic school. Copy this form as necessary.)

In the space below, the applicant agency is to briefly respond to each of the five items listed. Please ensure that what is described on this form is directly related to the components of timely and meaningful consultation and the equitable participation of nonpublic school students/teacher(s) in this grant program, as required (EDGAR 76.650-76.662). For each nonpublic school, this form must be signed and dated by the applicant CSA/CEO and the nonpublic school official. The applicant agency must submit with the grant application a copy of this form for each nonpublic school.

1. Describe the consultation process that took place including meeting date, those in attendance and agenda.
2. Describe the needs of the eligible nonpublic school students/teachers and how these needs have been/and will continue to be identified?
3. What identified services will be provided? Explain how, when, where, and by whom the services will be provided.
4. How and when will the services be assessed and how will the results of the assessment be used to improve the services?
5. What is the amount of estimated grant funding available for the agreed upon services?

RESPONSES:

By our signatures below we agree that timely and meaningful consultation occurred before the LEA/applicant agency made any decision that affected the participation of eligible nonpublic school children, teachers, or other educational personnel in the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

□ Yes, we wish to participate in this grant opportunity

□ No, we do not wish to participate in this grant opportunity

Name of Nonpublic School \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nonpublic School Representative Name of Applicant Agency

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nonpublic School Representative Signature Applicant Agency Signature and Date

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 5: GPRA Measures

Instructions: Grantees are required to adopt the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) measures below. Each applicant must create one or more program-specific performance indicator(s) for each of the mandated GPRA measures below. Additionally, grantees must create performance indicators for each GPRA measure. Performance indicators are quantifiable performance measurements used to define success factors and measure progress toward the achievement of program goals and are directly correlated to the implementation activities created in the Project Activity Plan.



The CSA/CEO of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (applicant agency name) assures that the goals, objectives, and locally developed performance indicators were reviewed, understood, and adopted.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Applicant CSA or CEO

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Applicant CSA or CEO Date

## Appendix 6: 21st CCLC Audit Information

To be completed by all grantees.

Audit requirements and the type of audit are solely based on the totals of all state and federal grant expenditures incurred during the recipient’s 12-month fiscal year. To determine your agency’s audit requirements, all non-LEA grantees must submit the following information:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant Agency** |   |
| Address of Agency |   |
| Agency Federal Tax ID # |   |
| Agency Fiscal Year Ended (mm/dd/yy) |   |
| **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** |   |
| Telephone # |   |
| Email Address |   |
| Signature of CEO |   |
| Date |   |
| **Agency Fiscal Contact** |   |
| Title of Fiscal Contact |   |
| Telephone # |   |
| Email Address |   |
| **Agency Auditing Firm** |   |
| Address of Auditing Firm |   |
| Auditing Firm Contact Person  |   |
| Telephone # |   |
| Email Address |  |

**NOTE: Audit Information Form should be typed (not handwritten).**

## Appendix 7:List of National and Statewide Conferences

Applicants may submit for NJDOE approval to attend conferences that are not listed. The 21st CCLC Project Director is required to attend at least two conferences during each grant year that focus on OST programming.

**NATIONAL CONFERENCES**

**[The Center for Summer Learning National Conference](https://www.summerlearning.org/national-conference/%22%20%5Co%20%22https%3A//www.summerlearning.org/national-conference/)** *(*October 2025 *Location TBD)*

This conference hosted by The Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins University will challenge you to plan, implement, support and advocate for high-quality summer programming in your community and nationwide. Through its national network of providers and partners, the Center works to make summer learning a priority in communities across the country. Using research-based approaches and models of effective practice, the Center strives to ensure that children have access to high-quality learning opportunities during the summer.

[**National Afterschool Association’s Annual Conference**](http://naaweb.org/convention)*(*March 2026 *Location TBD)*

The National After-School Association (NAA) conference is the preeminent professional development experience for afterschool professionals in the country. For twenty years, the NAA conference has been the place to connect with colleagues and learn the latest of what you need to know and do to serve children in high quality afterschool and summer programs.

[**Families Learning Conference**](http://conference.familieslearning.org/) ***(****November 2025 Location TBD****)***

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) offers an opportunity to learn from leading educators, researchers and community leaders who are proven experts in and dedicated to two-generation approaches. NCFL regularly draws the nation's most progressive teachers, administrators, community leaders, researchers and policy makers committed to families learning together.

[**Foundations, Inc. Beyond School Hours Conference**](http://www.foundationsinc.org)*(February 2026 Location TBD)*

The Foundations’ national Beyond School Hours® conference promotes the expansion of quality afterschool programs that provide safe havens for children, improve academic achievement, and offer positive social interaction in a healthy environment. Take advantage of this excellent professional development and networking opportunity.

[**National Service-Learning Conference**](https://www.nylc.org/) *(April 2026* *Location TBD)*

The National Service-Learning Conference, sponsored by the National Youth Leadership Council, brings recognition to the contributions that young people are making to change the world and helps them, with the assistance of their adult mentors, reach their goals. The conference does this through learning, inspiration, and connection. Both youth *and* adults come out of the experience with the tools, resources, ideas, and inspiration to return home to improve their practice, their schools, and their communities.

**[Community Schools National Forum](http://www.communityschools.org) (***May 2026 Location TBD***)**

The Coalition for Community Schools, housed at the Institute for Educational Leadership, is an alliance of national, state, and local organizations in K-12 education, youth development, community planning and development, family support, health and human services, government, and philanthropic networks. They hold a national forum every two years.

**[Afterschool for All Challenge](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)** *(June 2026 Location TBD)*

The Afterschool for All Challenge brings together high-level afterschool educators and stakeholders with U.S. representatives and senators on behalf of afterschool programs nationwide. The gathering provides panels and workshops addressing issues in afterschool programs.

**STATEWIDE CONFERENCES**

[**New Jersey Arts Education Collective**](http://www.njaec.org/)<http://www.njaec.org/conference-information.html>*(September 2025 Location TBD)*

The New Jersey Arts Education Collective (NJAEC) is a partnership of NJ based not-for profit organizations whose mission is to provide the highest quality professional development and networking opportunities for members of the arts education community.

[**New Jersey Science Convention**](http://www.njscienceconvention.org.)*(October 2025**Location TBD)*

The New Jersey Science Convention is a professional development opportunity in the Mid-Atlantic area for science educators, including teachers, administrators, and student interns. Sessions are available for all levels and disciplines in science.

[**New Jersey Council for the Social Studies Conference**](https://njcss.weebly.com/) **(***October 2025 Location TBD***)**

The New Jersey Council of Social Studies (NJCSS) Conferenceis a statewide conference devoted solely to social studies education. A major goal and accomplishment of the NJCSS has been to bring together educators from all social studies disciplines, including history, economics, political science, sociology geography, anthropology, and psychology.

[**New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition Annual Conference on Afterschool**](http://www.njsacc.org) **(***November 2025 Location TBD)*

The New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition (NJSACC) conference is the only statewide conference in New Jersey that offers administrative and direct service workshops for all afterschool personnel. The mission of NJSACC is to promote and support the development, continuity, and expansion of quality programs for children and youth during out-of-school time. For new grantees, we recommend that the project director and at least one site coordinator attend this statewide conference. For more information, call (908) 789-0259 or email sac@njsacc.org.

Soaring Beyond Expectations: A Statewide Afterschool Celebration **(***June 2026 Location TBD)*

Annually, the New Jersey Department of Education sponsors the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Program Afterschool Showcase, entitled *“Soaring Beyond Expectations: A Statewide Afterschool Celebration*.” This afterschool showcase highlights successful strategies used by New Jersey’s federally funded 21st CCLC programs. Workshops focus on a variety of topics that support program quality in New Jersey, such as, linking to the school day, designing engaging activities, developing effective partners and collaborations and effective evaluation. This Afterschool Showcase is open to all New Jersey school districts, faith-based agencies, community-based agencies, and others interested in providing afterschool, before school or summer school programs that improve youth’s knowledge and skills and engage them in meaningful learning opportunities. For new grantees, we recommend that the program staff attend this statewide conference.

## Appendix 8: Documentation of Required Collaboration

**(Please duplicate for each collaborating agency.)**

This document is to be signed and submitted with the grant application as evidence of the collaboration between the applicant and the agency/organization with whom the applicant has or will coordinate in the planning and execution of services outlined in the grant application.

Name of collaborating agency/organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Name and Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Type of agency/organization (Please check the appropriate agency type):

| \_\_\_ Charter School\_\_\_ Institution of Higher Education\_\_\_ City Government\_\_\_ County Government | \_\_\_ Business/Corporation\_\_\_ Community Based-Organization\_\_\_ Faith Based-Organization |
| --- | --- |

It is my understanding that the applicant listed above plans to submit a Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program application, available through the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) to provide comprehensive afterschool programming services to eligible students and their families. Recognizing the need for such services, I am committed to ensuring that my agency/organization acts in full support of the proposed program through the provision of activities, services, and/or resources because of the collaborative effort between my agency/organization and the aforementioned applicant agency. In addition, my agency/organization will provide data or other information to the applicant for the purposes of documentation of services and the state evaluation of the program.

Please check off the services that the collaborating agency will provide:

| \_\_\_ Provide programming/activity-related services\_\_\_ Provide paid staffing\_\_\_ Provide volunteer staffing\_\_\_ Provide in-kind donations\_\_\_ Provide goods/materials\_\_\_ Provide transportation\_\_\_ Provide technical assistance | \_\_\_ Provide services (referral, mental health counseling, social services)\_\_\_ Fundraising\_\_\_ Adult Education \_\_\_ Parent Education\_\_\_ Provide evaluation services\_\_\_ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| --- | --- |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Collaborating Agency/Organization CEO or CSA

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Collaborating Agency/Organization CEO or CSA Date

## Appendix 9: Documentation of Required Collaboration

(Please duplicate for each collaborating agency.)

Name of collaborating agency/organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applicants must answer each of the following questions for each collaborating agency:

* Is this collaborator also a partner agency in the contract? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
* Estimate the value of in-kind contributions that will be made by this collaborating agency: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Is this collaborating agency also a sub-grantee in the contract? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
	+ If ‘Yes,’ enter the dollar amount of the subcontract to be held by this agency/collaborator in the current contract year. \_\_\_\_\_\_
	+ If ‘Yes,’ provide the percentage (%) of the total award amount. \_\_\_\_\_\_

List below the address and contact information for each site of this program (duplicate as necessary).

The site is where the majority of activities are being provided.

Site #1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ # of Students proposed: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Site Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Site #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ # of Students proposed: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Site Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Site #3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ # of Students proposed: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Site Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix 10: Project Staff Responsibilities

Outlined below are the minimum responsibilities for the staffing requirements. Agencies must ensure that all 21st CCLC project staff have enough time to perform these duties at a minimum. Applicants have some flexibility in the establishment of their staffing patterns. However, the NJDOE will review the management plan, including staffing, based on what is necessary and reasonable to implement the project and adhere to program requirements. The NJDOE reserves the right to require changes based on this review.

Project Director (administrator or coordinator)

This position will be responsible for managing and implementing the educational program and budget described in the approved application to ensure that the agency meets its responsibilities to the NJDOE under the grant agreement in a timely manner.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Ensuring program implementation in alignment with approved application (monitor program/budget appropriately);
* Completing necessary reports and submitting to state;
* Maintaining participant files, program forms, and applicable licenses;
* Developing attendance policy, calendar of activities;
* Meeting with key program staff, teachers, partners, collaborators, evaluator, etc. regularly;
* Coordinating 21st CCLC advisory board meetings and ensuring implementation of sustainability plan;
* Supervising site coordinators, administrative staff, and program volunteers;
* Conducting program orientation for staff, parents, students, volunteers, and key program staff;
* Developing and maintaining health and emergency plans/files;
* Attending mandated project directors’ meetings and required professional development trainings;
* Ensures that appropriately qualified persons will be used to serve as volunteers in activities carried out through the community learning center, if applicable. Applicant must upload a checklist used to identify volunteers that includes, but is not limited to employment history, volunteer experience, a volunteer agreement containing responsibilities, and other information demonstrating the volunteer’s qualifications; and
* Ensuring compliance with evaluation requirements (data-entry into federal and state data-collection systems).

Site Coordinator

This position is required for each site. This person will be responsible for the daily operation, coordination, and delivery of services at the respective program site(s). If an agency has only one site, the program may opt to hire a site coordinator to assist the director in the administration and oversight of the program. Agencies have the discretion to amend the title of the site coordinator to suit its program structure.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Ensuring staff and students are in assigned classrooms and have signed in;
* Ensuring activities are delivered as intended;
* Overseeing drop off and pick up of students;
* Coordination and distribution of daily snacks;
* Ensuring field trip activities are completed as scheduled and emergency contacts are accessible; and
* Communicating with school-day teachers regarding specific student needs.

Data-Entry Staff

This position is required for all agencies. This person will be responsible for entering data into PARS21, the federal reporting system, gathering registration forms, attendance sheets and other forms as required by the program. Additionally, this person is responsible for other administrative tasks as deemed necessary by the project director. A project director may not fulfill this position.

## Appendix 11: Budget Development Instructions

Click [here](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/apps/docs/common_costs.pdf) to get Common Function Object Budget Codes. To reduce the number of pre-award revisions, please follow these instructions:

* In EWEG, under the Salary tabs and in the Title of Position box, be sure to list the other benefits by type and percentage amount for positions that have other benefits. The total of the individual other benefit percentage amounts should equal the percentage amount shown in the Other Benefits box.
* For budget entries that represent administrative costs, be sure to check “Administrative” in the Cost section of that budget entry.
	+ For any budget entry that has both a program and administrative portion, create two budget entries, one for each. Be sure to check Program or Administrative in the Cost section. For example, the Project Director’s salary is based on providing both program and administrative services to the grant.
* Be sure to explain what the amounts in the ‘How Many’ and ‘Cost per Unit’ boxes represent for the Supply, Equipment, and Other tabs budget entries. If the amounts in those boxes represent a calculation, describe the calculation in the Description box.
* Be sure the Description boxes also describe the cost of the item, the need for the item, and the item’s relation to the grant program.
* Mileage reimbursement budget entries must describe the traveler’s relation to the grant, the grant-related purpose(s) of the travel, and a brief explanation of how the number of miles was calculated. Mileage must be a separate budget entry. When requesting conference travel costs such as airfare, lodging, and meals, create separate entries for each conference. Be sure to identify each traveler’s relation to the grant. (There should be a corresponding conference registration entry.) Insert this statement: “gsa.gov rates will be used at the time of travel” for all conference travel costs. Be sure to itemize the cost per person as follows:
	+ meals = cost per day x the number of days,
	+ round-trip coach air or rail fare = per person x the number of grant staff, and
	+ lodging = per room per night basis x the number of rooms x the number of nights.
	+ Note that car rental at a conference is generally not allowed.

## Appendix 12: Electronic Web-Enabled Grants System (EWEG) Tips

The following are tips for working in the EWEG system. Please take note as these will ease submission of your application.

* Do not use the “Back” button. This will cause a system error.
* It is always recommended that long narrative sections be typed in either Word or Note Pad and copied and pasted into EWEG. Doing this will prevent you losing the text that you worked hard to create, should something go wrong when you save the page.
* When copying and pasting from Word or Note Pad, be sure to check for special characters. Most notably, quotation marks, apostrophes, bullets, and hyphens are the biggest culprits. Avoid using all of the other special characters (!@#$%^&\*()”~/<>{} and bullets). Do not try to use fancy formatting. It will only give you problems. Just be sure that the content is there in a concise and clear manner.
* The EWEG system is not compatible with the way Microsoft Word formats quotation marks, apostrophes, bullets, and hyphens. Use the following procedure to resolve this problem. Remove the quotation marks, apostrophes, bullets, and hyphens in the text that you want to copy and paste. Paste the text into EWEG. Working in EWEG, BEFORE YOU TRY TO SAVE THE PAGE, put the bullets, hyphens, apostrophes and quotation marks back in. You will notice that the apostrophes and quotation marks will now look different indicating that the problematic formatting has been removed. You should be able to save the page without getting an error message.
* When you click on a Tab to open a page, do not click on it more than once. Some of our pages take a while to open. If you click on the tab more than once, you will get a system error.
* Certain systems are just not compatible with EWEG. Most notably: MAC, hand-held devices, Notebooks, Safari, Google Chrome, and Firefox. If you have these systems, please try to locate a different PC to use to enter your data.
	+ Also note that Internet Explorer versions higher than 7.0 should access the EWEG site in

“Compatibility Mode” or you may have unexpected errors and will not be able to view all

application pages.