

## OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

**Summer Learning and Afterschool Opportunities Grant**

This Request for Application (RFA) is a program-specific guide that will outline the Ohio Department of Education's (Department) purpose, goal, eligibility and general guidelines in offering this competitive grant program and information needed to complete an application for the opportunity. Applicants should use this general grant guidance to work with partners in their community to prepare for the opening of the online application process.

## SECTION 1: GRANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

The U.S. Department of Education has made Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds available to Ohio to address emergency needs caused by COVID-19, including increasing access to evidence-based summer and afterschool programming for students in Ohio. This programming is defined as structured learning environments outside the traditional school day through before-and afterschool; summer; and extended-day, -week or – year programs. These learning opportunities for our students have the potential to decrease the academic impact of lost instruction time due to the pandemic, increase students' social and emotional strengths, provide a safe and engaging environment for children while their parents' work and provide opportunities for engagement in new learning activities. The main objective is to use these funds to elevate best practices in afterschool and summer learning while ensuring a focus on equity and excellence.

**Purpose of Grant.** The Department will award competitive grants, totaling up to \$89 million of the state's federal relief funds, with half the funds supporting afterschool programming and half the funds supporting summer programming. The grants will support partnerships between non-profits and schools that seek to provide out-of-school time (OST) services designed to address students' academic, social and emotional needs. Funds must be used to establish or expand comprehensive afterschool programs and/or evidence-based summer learning and enrichment programs. Services must be provided during periods of time when school is not in session, designed to meet the needs of students who have experienced disruptions to learning and did not engage consistently in school during the pandemic. Applications should focus on students most in need of services, address academic, social, and emotional needs and provide ongoing

support for students with chronic absenteeism or lack of school attendance as a result of the pandemic. Students of any age may be served with these grant dollars, including preschool.

This grant opportunity will fund afterschool and/or summer learning and enrichment programs, including but not limited to:

- Summer camps and/or opportunities to experience new learning such as programming which occurs at museums, zoos, libraries, sports clinics or camps, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM), cultural arts, etc.
- Bridge programs to help students make the successful transition to the next grade level, postsecondary education, training, etc.
- Pre-apprenticeships, registered apprenticeships or other career pathway programs;
- Programs that provide training, work-based learning and jobs to high school students, including service learning or other volunteer opportunities for high school students; and/or
- Credit recovery (retake a course through alternate means) or advancement opportunities

Necessary and reasonable costs to reduce barriers for students to attend high-quality programs (such as transportation and other costs related to attending) are also allowable under this funding opportunity.

**Eligible Applicants.** Agencies and organizations eligible to receive funds include any of the following Ohio-located:

- Community Based Organizations (e.g., the organization hosts or participates in events or programs that benefit the general public or public spaces, the organization provides educational materials or mentorship opportunities, the organization provides support to economically disadvantaged populations, etc.), which includes:
  - A 501(c)(3) nonprofit,
  - A faith-based organization,
  - A for-profit company that otherwise meets the definition of CBO, or
  - A city, county, regional or state governmental entity
- Institutions of higher education.

Please note that funding priority will be given to nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit organizations with demonstrated effectiveness in reaching its mission-driven primary purpose of serving children and youth by providing services that enhance, enrich or support education goals.

**Award Types.** The Department will award four types of grant awards through this initiative: (1) Afterschool Create, (2) Afterschool Expand, (3) Summer Create, and (4) Summer Expand. Each grant award is described below. Applicants may apply for more than one type of grant award. The maximum grant amount is listed by grant type, which may be used to fund programming at one or more sites/locations for the grant period that begins on April 1, 2022 and ends no later than September 30, 2024. Applicants applying for more than one grant type must submit a full and separate application for each grant type.

#### **Grant Type 1: Afterschool Create**

- Provides up to \$500,000 each year for the 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024 school years to create a new afterschool program where one does not currently exist.

#### **Grant Type 2: Afterschool Expand**

- Provides up to \$300,000 each year for the 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024 school years to expand (serve more students, extend hours of program, provide more activities/programming, implement an evidence-based program) an existing afterschool program where one currently exists.

#### **Grant Type 3: Summer Create**

- Provides up to \$300,000 each year for the 2022, 2023, and 2024 summers to create a new summer program where one does not currently exist.

#### **Grant Type 4: Summer Expand**

- Provides up to \$200,000 each year for the 2022, 2023, and 2024 summers to expand (serve more students, extend hours of program, provide more activities/programming, implement an evidence-based program) an existing summer program where one currently exists.

Grant funds will be dispersed through a reimbursement system where expenditures must be documented and submitted to the Department on a quarterly basis through the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP), the Department's electronic unified grants application and verification system.

**Funding Priorities.** Applications that provide supporting evidence of any (or all) of the following will be given priority points in scoring:

1. Non-profit organizations who apply.
2. Applicants who partner with school districts and schools that serve students attending schools that are implementing comprehensive support and improvement activities or targeted support (per Title I designation).

3. Applicants who provide direct services for students were not consistently engaged in school during the pandemic, for economic, academic, social, or emotional reasons. Examples of direct services include academic, social and emotional needs, and/or supports to reduce chronic absenteeism or increase engagement.
4. Applicants who propose to serve students in areas where there is a lack of existing programming within the geographic boundaries of the school district(s) of service.

**Application Submission Deadline.** Applications must be submitted to the Ohio Department of Education via email no later than 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time on February 22, 2022. To submit a application, follow the directions provided in the Grant Application Submission Packet and Instructions. Applications will be submitted to [summerlearning@education.ohio.gov](mailto:summerlearning@education.ohio.gov).

**Application Inquiries.** For questions about the process of applying for this grant opportunity, email [summerlearning@education.ohio.gov](mailto:summerlearning@education.ohio.gov).

## SECTION 2: GRANT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Any application for these grant funds must meet the following requirements.

**Intent to Apply.** All applicants who intend to apply for funds must complete an online survey [at this link](#) on or before February 1, 2022. Completing the online survey is required *for each intended application* by award type to submit a grant application. Applicants submitting more than one Intent to Apply will either have to clear browser cache/history or use a different web browser (Google, Chrome, IE) between surveys.

**Local Need Requirement.** Applications must be developed based on local need in preventing, preparing, and/or responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Need(s) should be determined after consultation with relevant community stakeholders including, but not limited to families, students, community leaders, community-based organizations, and school leaders.

**Partnership Requirement.** Community and non-Local Education Agency (LEA) organizations applying for funding must partner with at least one LEA representing the students who will receive the proposed programming. It is critical that alignment between LEAs school day programming is connected with the Out-of-School time (such as the existing standards-based school day curriculum, familiarity with the students who attend and their needs, etc.). Evidence of such partnership consists of either a Memorandum of Understanding or Letter of Commitment

detailing the partner's roles and responsibilities and must be signed by the appropriate individual authorized to enter into such partnerships (i.e., principal or superintendent).

**Licensing Requirement.** Applicants who are required by the Ohio Revised Code to be licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services or the Ohio Department of Education must be licensed. Applicants who are [exempt from licensure](#) are not required to be licensed. In applications

where a new program is being created where a license is required, applicants must apply for a license on or before award date of April 1, 2022, and complete the license process by June 30, 2022, for summer programming or September 30, 2022, for afterschool programming. Sites operated by community-based organizations are licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Sites operated by public districts, community schools, chartered non-public schools, Educational Service Centers, Joint Vocational Schools, or county boards of developmental disabilities are licensed by the Ohio Department of Education. Licensing contacts for both agencies are listed below.

The organization operating the daily programs and responsible for the day-to-day activities of the students must determine the correct license.

*Licensing Contacts:*

*Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Office of Family Assistance*

Bureau of Child Care Development Licensing and Monitoring

Policy Help Desk: (877) 302-2347, option 4 General Help Desk: (877) 302-2347-3537, option 1

[http://jfs.ohio.gov/CDC/Licensing\\_Information.stm](http://jfs.ohio.gov/CDC/Licensing_Information.stm)

*Ohio Department of Education Office of Early Learning and School Readiness*

(614) 502-7535 [OELSR.licensing@education.ohio.gov](mailto:OELSR.licensing@education.ohio.gov)

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/School-Age-Child-Care-Licensing>

**Evidence Based Programming.** Any program that is created or expanded under this grant must be evidence based. There are four levels of acceptable evidence which qualify programming for funding, including strong, moderate, promising, and demonstrates a rationale. Resources that can be used to determine what level of evidence exists for your proposed programming, see the Department's [Evidence Based Clearinghouse](#) and the U.S. Department of Education's [guidance document on levels of evidence](#).

**Allowable and Non-Allowable Expenditures.** The applicant will create a budget that is aligned to the primary purposes of this grant opportunity, which is to either create or expand extended engagement opportunities for students disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Budgets should detail costs for staffing, contracts, materials, supplies, curriculum and other programmatic expenses. Additionally, necessary materials, supplies, curriculum, and associated expenses will be allowed. Final budget approval will be completed after the notice of grant award to ensure planned expenditures are reasonable and necessary, and allowable with these federal funds. These funds have no restriction on students who can be served regarding age, proof of citizenship, or district of residence.

Regardless of the size of the grant, proposed costs must be *reasonable, necessary and allocable* to carry out the program's purpose and objectives. Grant recipients may use a federally approved Indirect Cost Rate. If you do not have a federally approved Indirect Cost Rate, please contact [Grants Management](#) at the Department.

**Program Monitoring.** The Department or its designee will complete program and fiscal monitoring to assess programs funded under this grant opportunity. Grantees will be required to periodically report on program information and outcomes.

### SECTION 3: PREPARING FOR THE APPLICATION

To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted to the Ohio Department of Education via email as described in the Grant Application Submission Packet and Instructions on the [grant webpage](#) or before 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time on February 22, 2022. To prepare, the Department recommends that any potential applicant:

- Identify and bring together potential partners and stakeholders to identify needs of the intended student population.
- Identify community data that can be used to demonstrate need in the application.
- Decide who will serve in the grantee role, the fiscal agent, and who the necessary partner(s) are.
- Review the four grant award types and decide which one(s) would best support the intended student population.
- Develop a Memorandum(s) of Understanding (MOU) and/or letter(s) of commitment detailing partnership roles and responsibilities.

- Draft a “letter of approval to submit the grant application” which includes the name, title, and signature of an individual authorized to approve grant submissions on behalf of the applicant organization.
- Gather supporting documentation, including location IRN, licensing number (or request to become licensed, as applicable), and building and fire safety inspection reports, as necessary, for the location(s) of the proposed programming.
- Read and understand the [levels of evidence required](#) for the programming funded under this grant opportunity, as described by the U.S. Department of Education.

### Important Dates.

- Notice of Grant Opportunity announced **January 10, 2022**
- Virtual Bidders Conference Webinar to help applicants learn more about the opportunity and requirements of these federal funds held live on **January 21, 2022**, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Click [this link](#) to participate in the webinar. This is **not required** and will be recorded and posted on the Department webpage for this grant opportunity <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Federal-Programs/Programs/21st-Century/Summer-Learning-Grant>.
- Intent to Apply is due on or before **February 1, 2022**, at [this link](#) and is **required** for each grant award type and application that will be submitted
- Grant submissions are due on or before 11:59 p.m. on **February 22, 2022**
- Grant award notification will occur on or before **March 24, 2022**
- Grant award year begins on **April 1, 2022**
- Mandatory webinar for all grantees will be held live on **April 6, 2022**, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

### SECTION 4: GRANT APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Each application must include answers to each of the following questions, except where noted as applicable to a specific grant award type. One application must be submitted for each grant award type being proposed, although multiple site locations can be proposed under each grant award type.

**A. Applicant Basic Information:**

Question 1: Applicant Name

Question 2: Applicant Type (Select From: Nonprofit agency, City or county government agency, Community-based organization, Faith-based organization, Institution of higher education, or Other—Please specify) Please note: When submitting the grant application, you will need to upload a copy of documentation of 501c3 status, when applicable.

Question 3: Applicant Information Retrieval Number (IRN) #

Question 4: Applicant Street Address, City, State, Zip Code

Question 5: Applicant Contact (Name, Title, Organization, Phone Number, Email)

Question 6: What public school or district do your program participants attend? List all that apply

**B. Applicant Site Information:** For each program site being proposed, provide the following information:

Question 7: Program Site Name (where students are served)

Question 8: Program Site IRN

Question 9: ODE or ODJFS License Number, if applicable

Question 10: Program Site Street Address, City, State, Zip Code

**C. Applicant Award Type:**

Question 11: Which Award Type are you applying for? (Select From: Afterschool Create, Afterschool Expand, Summer Create, Summer Expand)

Question 12: How much money are you applying for in this award type? See up to amounts provided earlier in this document. A budget will be submitted as part of this application (see Question 28 below).

**D. Applicant Program Information:**

Question 13: Approximate start date of the grant-funded programming, if awarded.

Question 14: Approximate end date of the grant-funded programming, if awarded. Please note, if applying for a summer grant, provide an approximate end date for summer programming each year (2022, 2023, and 2024). If applying for an afterschool grant, provide an approximate end date for school year programming each year (2023 and 2024).

Question 15: Age, grade range and number of students the program will serve. Describe local needs that will determine students the program will serve. Describe how the program will promote enrollment among vulnerable populations (including, but not limited

to students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, military-connected, English learners, students with disabilities and in transition from court involvement).

Question 16: Operational hours of the program (be specific as to when students will arrive and leave which days of the week during the scheduled program) that includes academic enrichment and other proposed activities that will be a part of the evidence-based programming.

Question 17: Describe the structure of the programming, including where the students will be served, the days of the week and timeframe of operation. Stated another way, how will the program run?

Question 18: Describe the programming plan, including curriculum, assessment, and activities. How will the program ensure interventions and social emotional supports are in place so students most in need can participate fully and regularly?

Question 19: Describe what the intended or anticipated outcomes of participating in the program include. These can include academic, social and emotional, physical/health, and/or preparation, experience, or exposure to new opportunities provided directly by the proposed programming and/or the areas in partnership with an LEA that will be provided

Question 20: Which level of evidence does the planned programming meet? [Ohio's Evidence-Based Clearinghouse](#) contains more information and resources to support the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Evidence criteria. When identifying the level of evidence, select from the following ESSA evidence levels:

- **Strong Evidence:** there is at least one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study (e.g., a randomized control trial) on the intervention. This is sometimes referred to as “Tier 1” evidence.
- **Moderate Evidence:** there is at least one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study on the intervention. This is sometimes referred to as “Tier 2” evidence.
- **Promising Evidence:** there is at least one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias on the intervention. This is sometimes referred to as “Tier 3” evidence.
- **Demonstrates Rationale:** the intervention includes: 1) a well-specified logic model that is informed by research or an evaluation that suggests how the intervention is likely to improve relevant outcomes; and 2) an effort to study the effects of the intervention. This is sometimes referred to as “Tier 4” evidence.

#### **E. Applicant Capacity, Experience, & Readiness:**

Question 21: Describe your experience in providing academic and enrichment services in afterschool and/or summer programming.

Question 22: Describe the need for this type of programming for the location and population it is proposed for. Include data from census, community, school, organization, or other assessment sources.

Question 23: Describe the relationship between the Applicant and the Partnering Organization, including the planning meetings which have taken place and the extent to which a written Memorandum of Understanding, contract, or agreement has been drafted or is in place.

Question 24: Describe the extent to which the program, if already in existence (Required for Expand grants, Not Required for Create grants), has provided for meeting needs in the location/community and/or population it serves. Provide any positive outcome data that is available on the impact for participants in the programming.

Question 25: Describe the capacity of the Applicant to staff the program with existing personnel and/or the plan for hiring, including the credentials or other minimum qualifications of those being utilized or hired by position.

Question 26: Describe how the grant activities will be monitored for meeting program requirements.

Question 27: Describe how the grant will be monitored for meeting fiscal responsibilities, including expending funds only for allowable expenses, submitting budget revisions into the Department CCIP system, uploading Project Cash Requests for reimbursement on a quarterly basis and completing an annual Final Expenditure Report (FER).

Question 28: Describe each section of the grant's proposed budget, including the annual amount expected to spend for each of the spending categories: The budget is divided into object and purpose codes. [Budgeting Guidance](#) is provided by the Department and should be followed both before and after award. You must provide a detailed summary of the anticipated expenditures to determine allowable costs.

Question 29: Describe the extent to which proposed programming meets any of the funding priorities.