



Nita M. Lowey Delaware 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)



The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) are federally funded, administered by state agencies, in Delaware through the Department of Education, and authorized under Title IV, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015.

The 21st CCLC sites are established through a competitive grant process to implement local community learning centers that provide a high-quality, broad array of enrichment activities that complement student's regular academic programs. 21st CCLC programs are:

- Conducted during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools;
- Help students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; and
- Offer literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children through family engagement activities.

Delaware 21st CCLC Goals

- Increase attendance and academic achievement of participating students in one or more academic areas;
- Increase school connectedness of participants, including families, caregivers, and school teachers;
- Increase capacity of participants to become productive adults.

RFP

The annual competitive application is open to local school systems, interagency, interdepartmental, community and faith-based or other private or public organizations, or a consortium of two or more of the aforementioned, proposing to provide services to students, and families of students, who primarily attend schools eligible for Title 1 schoolwide programs or schools that serve a high percentage of students from low-income families.

In Delaware, subgrant awards are made for up to five (5) consecutive years. However, the continuation of awards beyond the first year are contingent upon satisfactory progress toward achieving goals and objectives and availability of federal funds. Subgrantees are required to submit a "Sustainability Plan" describing how the community learning center will continue after 21st Century funding ends.

Subgrantees must offer opportunities for families to actively and meaningfully engage in their children's education. (A component of this may include family member and caregiver literacy programs.)

21st CCLC State Coordinator - Ruth A. Uhey, Ed.D. (DDOE) ruth.uhey@doe.k12.de.us
21st CCLC Technical Assistance Coordinator- Teresita Cuevas (UD) tmejia@udel.edu
education.delaware.gov

Activities

Each 21st CCLC subgrantee may use the funds to conduct the broad array of before- and after-school activities (including those held during summer) to advance student achievement. These activities include:

- Remedial education activities and academic enrichment learning programs, including those which provide additional assistance to students to allow the students to improve their academic achievement;
- Mathematics and science education activities;
- Arts and music education activities;
- Entrepreneurial education programs;
- Tutoring services, including those provided by senior citizen volunteers, and mentoring programs;
- Programs that provide after-school activities for limited English proficient (LEP) students and that emphasize language skills and academic achievement;
- Recreational activities;
- Telecommunications and technology education programs;
- Expanded library service hours;
- Programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy;
- Programs that provide assistance to students who have been truant, suspended, or expelled to allow them to improve their academic achievement;
- Drug and violence prevention programs;
- Counseling programs; and
- Character education programs.

Quality afterschool programs provide safe, engaging environments that motivate and inspire learning outside the regular school day. While there is no single formula for success in afterschool programs, both practitioners and researchers have found that effective programs combine academic, enrichment, cultural, and recreational activities to guide learning and engage children and youth. They also find that the best programs develop activities to meet the particular needs of the communities they serve.

Data Collection

The purpose of the 21 APR Federal Data Collection System is to collect basic information about the characteristics associated with 21st CCLC projects funded through state-administered programs and the outcomes these programs were able to achieve as a result of providing services to students and adult family members attending their programs. Subgrantees are assessed regarding student progress by monitoring student school attendance, suspension, grades, state assessments, and school-day learning engagement through the federally-required 21APR online tool.

Monitoring

21st CCLC programs are monitored annually using multiple Site Observations, Self-Assessment Meetings, Compliance Monitoring Visits, etc. They submit an annual Continuation Plan for years 2 – 5.

Licensing

21st CCLC subgrantees assure and are required to meet Delaware Office of Child Care Licensing Regulations. Current licensing exemption includes 21st CCLC programs located in schools and are operated by the school or school district as the lead fiscal agent.

Resources

The You for Youth website <http://y4y.ed.gov> presents a rich collection of resource materials, along with a variety of opportunities to connect with education experts and practitioners. Current course topics include project-based learning; aligning with the school day; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); strengthening partnerships; family engagement; literacy; and college and career readiness.