2nd Office Hours Session- March 12, 2021

**Q. Does this grant accept applications on an annual basis?**

A. CDE’s 21st CCLC Office usually releases Request for Applications (RFAs) for new rounds of funding every other year. The timing for the RFA release is based on the amount of funding available at the state level.

**Q. My district’s school is not listed as a priority school in Appendix A but I do understand we would be eligible for some of the other priority points (including rural). Can you please let me know in past grant rounds if schools have been awarded when not listed on the priority list? Does this happen frequently?**

A. You are correct about priority points. Your district can apply even if the schools are not on the Appendix A priority list. In the last grant round, schools received grants that were not on the priority list due to the fact that their application scored high in other areas.

**Q. Based on the letter of intent, do you have a sense of how competitive this round will be?**

A. It is always competitive, yet we may be receiving some additional ESSER funds in addition to our regular allocation for this RFA, so more funding should be available this year. That means, if the additional funding is confirmed, we will be providing more grants than projected. We cannot project or predict how the competitive grant process will play out. However, it is a good year to apply due to the potential increase of additional funding.

**Q. Can a school district and nonprofit apply for a consortium grant?**

A. A school district and nonprofit can apply as a consortium. However, there are specific criteria and considerations. The language below comes from the “*Glossary of Terms*” section of the RFA.

Consortium: Group of two or more eligible entities, which can include community-based organizations and school districts. A consortium of entities may apply together to provide services for centers. One organization must be designated as the lead fiscal agent of the consortium. In addition, an applicant consortium must designate one individual, a Program Director, who will be responsible for communication and coordination across all centers within the consortium. Please note this does not include applications that meet the minimum requirement for partnering with a school. The collaboration outlined in the application must include detailed information regarding partnership management, programmatic collaboration, and fiscal collaboration and cooperation. Additionally, consortium applications:

* Must demonstrate the strength and quality of the proposed collaboration throughout the entire grant application. The LEA and other organization(s) must work extensively in the planning and design of the program;
* Each must have substantial roles in the delivery of services;
* Each must share grant resources to implement the proposed project effectively;
* Each must be involved in the management and oversight of the proposed program; and
* Must have a signed agreement between both entities stating the collaboration of efforts, resources, and funding must be submitted with the grant application. This document must clearly define and detail the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved with explicit expectations outlined.

**Q. If an applicant is writing a consortium grant can all the sites listed in the grant received up to $150,000 each?**

A. A consortium of entities may apply together to provide services for centers. One organization must be designated as the lead fiscal agent of the consortium. The collaboration outlined in the application must include detailed information regarding partnership management, programmatic collaboration, and fiscal collaboration and cooperation. If a consortium grant is applying for multiple centers, each center/site must meet the requirements outlined in the RFA for partnering with schools. Each proposed center can apply for $50,000 to $150,000. As is the case with other applications, the funding amount requested should be reasonable and appropriate, and based on demonstration of need and other criteria outlined in the RFA. Please be sure to see the “Glossary of Terms” section of the RFA for additional information that should be include in consortium applications.

**Q. Our organization** **runs an education collaborative and as such I’ve had many of the schools we work with reach out for our support around this grant. We want to clear on the approved role of non-profits within this grant and advise them correctly. The RFA says: “Partnering with one or more outside organizations, such as a nonprofit organization with demonstrated experience in improving student achievement”. If the school/district is requesting support from our organization around coaching and services for planning, community relationships, data collection, SEL curriculum/program, and College and Career Readiness/work based learning projects, these would be acceptable budgeted items?**

A. In terms of the question regarding planning, the costs associated with any of the work done prior to the award would not be allowed as the grant does not allow pre-award costs.  For the other question, if the LEA is the applicant applying as the fiscal agent for the grant, your organization would be considered a partner. If your organization is the applicant applying as the fiscal agent for the grant, the LEA would be the partner.  Whichever way you choose to apply, it is important to clearly outline the established role(s), timelines, and deliverables of the applicant and the partner.

Allowable activities under the grant can be found on page eight of the RFA.  These costs must align with the demonstration of need and subsequent program design and implementation outlined in the proposal.

**Q. In the online application would we be able to submit tables if not, what can we do, can we send or upload tables as a PDF. If we cannot submit tables how can we submit the chart that is required with projected numbers for each center?**

A. A chart is formatted in the online application that you fill out with the information, it is similar in format to the one provided in the referenced hard copy.

**Q. I am not able to add more than one center to the online application. Can you please tell us how to do this?**

A. The number of center pages to be displayed are tied to the answer to the following question under the first page of “Applicant Information”:



For example, if you enter the number “3” in the box and click through the applicant pages, then the navigation pane on the left side should display three “Center/School – Information and Signature” sections.

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**1st Office Hours**

**Q. Is the *Intent to Apply* a mandatory requirement to apply for a grant?**

A. If interested in applying for this funding opportunity, please complete the Intent to Apply form by Wednesday, March 10, 2021, by 11:59 pm (this has been extended a week from the original date of March 3, 2021). Though strongly encouraged, the Intent to Apply is informational and is not a required component of the grant application submission process. Those who complete the intent to apply will receive updates on the grant.

**Q. What is the difference between subgrantees vs. centers/sites/schools?**

A. Under the law, the state provides grants to fiscal agents outlined in the “eligible applicants” section of the RFA on page three. Once funded, these entities are called subgrantees. A subgrantee runs an approved program at “center,” usually at school. A center is also referred to as a site.

**Q. Does the fiscal agent need to be a school district? Can other community agencies apply?**

A. No, the fiscal agent does not need to be a district. It can be any entity described on page three of the RFA under the “eligible applicants” section. However, whichever entity is applying as the fiscal agent for the grant, it must have an established DUNS # with the federal government and have an active status on SAM.gov.

**Q. Can one application request funding for multiple priority schools and how are those priority points assigned?**

A.One application may serve more than one priority school in a district. Remember, information on all the schools for which the applicant is applying must be included in the application. Of note, all schools in the application must be on the priority list in Appendix A in order to receive the priority points assigned to priority schools.

**Q. What is the different between “district” and “non-district entity” when looking at the table on page four of the RFA that addresses equitable geographical distribution?**

A. A district is a public school district in Colorado. A non-district entity is another eligibility entity listed on page three of the RFA. That entity must partner with the local district and schools for which the applicant is seeking funding.

**Q. In developing the RFA were there considerations other than student population for the equitable distribution tables on page 4? What other considerations were taken into account?**

A. One of the overarching priorities in developing this RFA was to align Colorado’s 21st CCLC grant program with the new requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). To ensure equitable distribution of grants to meet the needs of students statewide and fulfill requirements under ESSA, CDE staff researched what other states are doing to ensure equitable access under ESSA. The model outlined in the Colorado RFA is based on models discussed at national meetings hosted by the U.S. Department of Education and used in other states to ensure compliance and equity.

**Q. Do the graph limits include current grants under 21st CCLC in Cohort VIII?**

A. No. Current grants funded under the 21st CCLC Cohort VIII do not count toward the equitable distribution table totals on page three.

**Q. How many sites can my organization apply for under one grant application?**

A. Applicants may apply for up to six sites per application.