

21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program

2021 – 2022 FACT SHEET



COLORADO
Department of Education

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grant program supports the creation of local out-of-school time (OST) programs to provide students and their families with high-quality academic enrichment opportunities and services. Centers serve students—in particular, those who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools—and provide academic and enrichment services during non-school hours. Services focus on helping children succeed academically by:

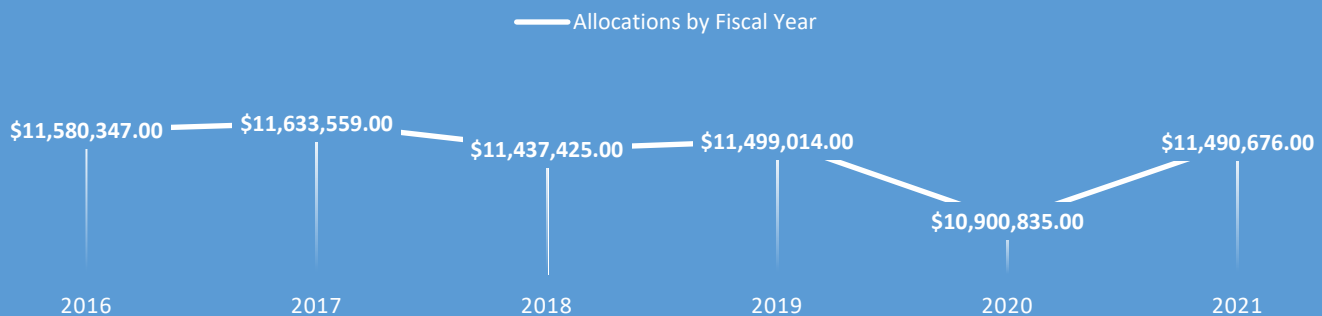


1. Providing opportunities for academic enrichment, including tutoring services and homework help, to help students meet state and local academic standards.
2. Offering students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as but not limited to, youth development activities, service learning, arts, music, technology education programs, financial literacy programs, environmental literacy programs, mathematics, science, 21st century learning skills, career and technical programs, internship or apprenticeship programs, and other ties to an in-demand industry sector or occupation for high school students that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students.
3. Offering 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.

FUNDING COLORADO'S 21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

Colorado Department of Education's (CDE) 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) program provides subgrantees with multi-year grant funding to establish or expand out-of-school time programming to K-12 students, with priority given to students attending low-performing and high-poverty schools, as well as families of those students. CDE distributes the majority of U.S. Department of Education's annual allocation to subgrantees, on average retaining seven percent of the total state allocation to cover indirect and administrative expenses.

U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION 21ST CCLC ALLOCATIONS TO CDE



In addition to these federal program funds, CDE also dedicated state Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to support community learning centers in Colorado in 2021. **A total of \$2 million of ESSER I funds were awarded to Cohort VIII subgrantees** to support approved activities and services that 1) addressed COVID-19 learning impacts, 2) prepared students for the return to in-person learning, 3) supported additional data collection and reporting efforts, as well as 4) provided other innovative activities meant to address new and unique needs of students and their families. Moreover, **\$4.5 million ESSER II funds were awarded to 15 E2 OST subgrantees** who applied for 21st CCLC funds through the Cohort IX 21st CCLC RFA process.



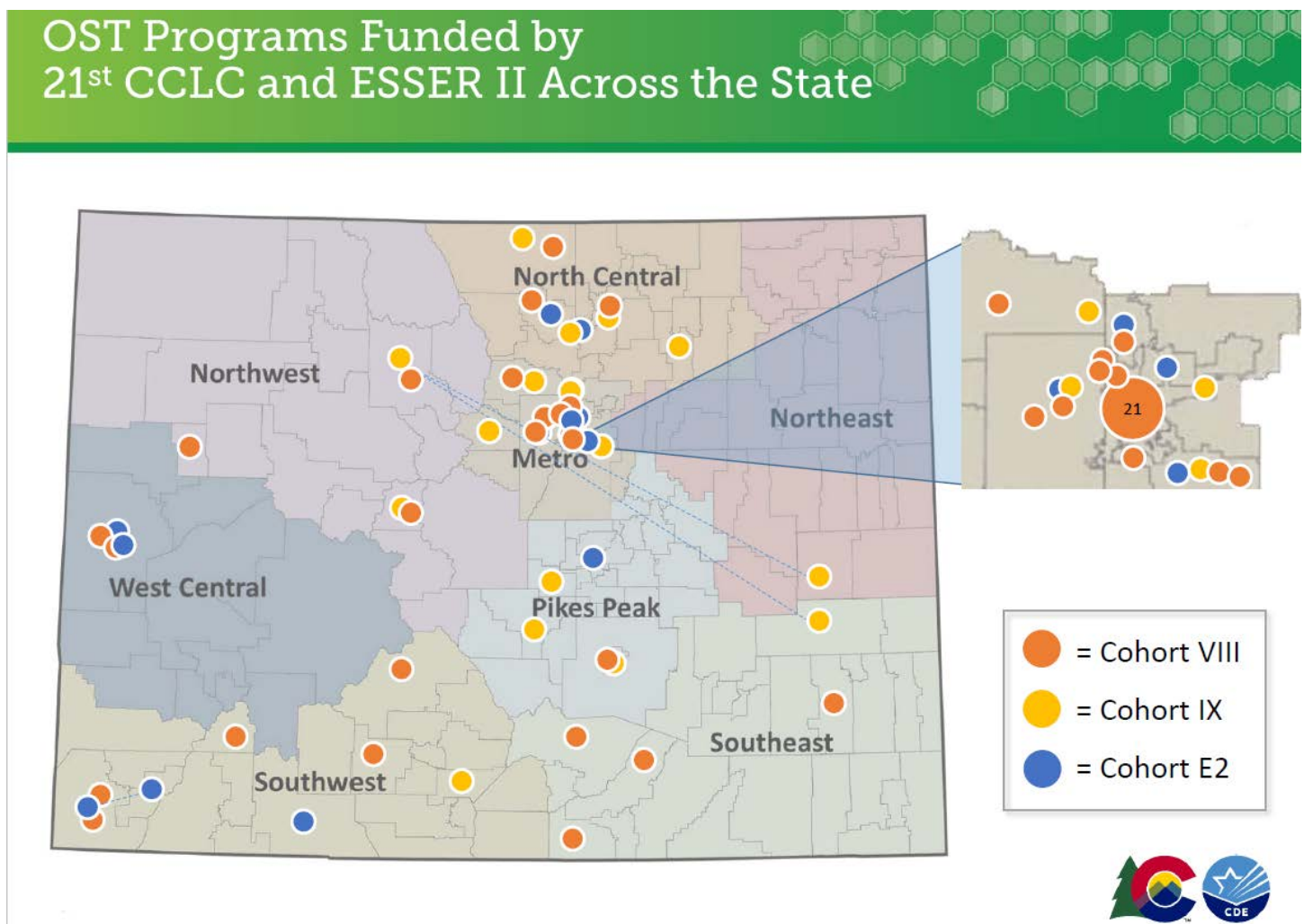
21st CCLC SUBGRANTS

In general, CDE releases new grant competitions every two to three years. In 2021, CDE released the 21st CCLC Cohort IX Request for Applications (RFA) and received 39 applications, of which 36 were funded with a combination of federal 21st CCLC funds (\$5.77 million) and CDE ESSER II funds (\$4.52 million) for a total of \$10.2 million.

In 2021-2022 CDE managed three cohorts of subgrantees, two of which started their grant cycle in 2021 (Cohorts VIII, IX, and E2 OST) for a **total of 70 subgrants and 131 centers across Colorado**. Subgrants were evenly distributed between community-based organizations (CBOs) and local educational agencies (LEAs) with some consortiums. Centers are funded between \$64,00 and \$150,000 annually. While E2 OST subgrants are limited to a three-year grant period due to ESSER funding timelines, all 21st CCLC funded sites in Colorado operate on a three-year grant cycle with the option to continue funding for up to two additional years of funding if they meet exemplar criteria.

Cohort VIII	Cohort IX	Cohort E2 OST
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded 2018-2023 34 subgrants 56 centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded 2021-2026 21 subgrants 43 centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded 2021-2024 15 subgrants 32 centers

The map below shows the geographic distribution of funded centers across all regions of the state. The area pulled out in the upper right corner shows the distribution of programming in the Denver metro area.





21st CCLC ATTENDANCE IN 2021-2022

CDE requires all subgrantees propose participation targets for each center and monitors their progress in meeting approved participation targets throughout the grant period. The table below summarizes 2021-2022 outcomes for three of the four participation targets required by CDE (Average Daily Attendance outcomes are not included below).

Unduplicated students

- 20,377 students attended programming at least once during the 2021-2022 program year.
- 56% were grades PK-5, 20% were grades 6-8, and 25% grades 9-12
- 51% females and 49% males
- 66% identified their race as white and 53% identified their ethnicity as Hispanic.

Regular attendance

- 7,880, or 39%, of students participated on a regular basis, defined by CDE as 75 hours or more.

Family members served

- 3,604 family members participated in at least one activity during the 2021-2022 program year.

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS OFFERED ACADEMIC AND ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

21st CCLC provides opportunities to establish or expand out-of-school time (OST) or extended day activities that focus on improved academic achievement, enrichment services that reinforce and complement the academic program, and active and meaningful family engagement. These programs may offer a broad array of services and activities, including youth development activities, service learning, nutrition and health education, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, art, music, physical fitness and wellness programs, technology education, environmental and financial literacy programs, STEM, career and technical programs, internship or apprenticeship programs, and other ties to an in-demand sector for participating students.

The most popular activities during the 2021-2022 program year were well-rounded education activities, including credit recovery (attended by 7,342 students), academic enrichment-focused (6,861 students), and healthy and active lifestyle (6,508 students). Many students also participated in activities related to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), including computer science (5,282 students), and literacy education (3,624 students).

21st CCLC SUCCESS STORIES

CDE requires all subgrantees to provide stories of success in the areas of students' academic and enrichment experiences, family participation, and partner collaboration in an annual end-of-year report. The following success stories were pulled from end-of-year reports across all cohorts:

- // Our program provides opportunities for students to attend post-secondary schools by exposing them to the college experience on the annual college tours. One of our students was so impressed with the academic programs at Colorado State University that she applied. Not only did the student get accepted into the school but also received an academic scholarship.
- // We had a very quiet and reserved student who, through working with our partner Mirror Image Arts, really came out of their shell. Slowly, but surely, each week they were sharing more about themselves with teachers



and peers and expressing their feelings more often. The SEL that this student took from this enrichment class was invaluable.

// One of our second-grade families shared with us the value of the family celebrations. They loved how intentional we were in creating moments for families to connect, play, and eat together. She also loved the how we shared with families what their students were doing during programming that month. She said that she didn't feel as connected to what is happening in her child's regular classroom and that she really appreciated knowing what was going on. She also appreciated the way we celebrated the accomplishments of the students during our family celebrations.

// We have established a partnership with a local video game designer who volunteers 1 hour of time each week to teach 3rd through 5th graders coding basics as a means of designing a video game. Embedded in this instruction includes high level, algebraic math and trigonometry, college and career readiness, mentorship, and other relevant 21st Century skills. The opportunity to leverage after school time as well as a highly qualified, vetted volunteer has provided an additional education-based opportunity allowing our program to better serve learners who are identified as gifted and talented. Every student who participated in this activity raised their MAPS math score. 50% of those students raised their math score more than 5%.

POSITIVE IMPACT ON REGULAR STUDENT PARTICIPANTS, ACCORDING TO TEACHERS

Improvements in academics were evident for students who regularly participated (defined by CDE as attending 75 hours or more) in 21st CCLC programs. These improvements were assessed by teachers who completed a survey evaluating student growth outcomes for regular student participants at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. In the 2021-2022 day-school teachers submitted surveys for 5,387 regular student participants.

50%

IMPROVED PAYING ATTENTION
IN CLASS

50%

IMPROVED COMPLETING
HOMEWORK SATISFACTORILY

57%

IMPROVED THEIR CLASS
PARTICIPATION

WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

- Visit the 21st CCLC website: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/21stcclc>
- All CDE fact sheets: www.cde.state.co.us/communications/factsheetsandfags

