

## **FY13 Iowa 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers**

### **FAQs**

#### **Fall 2012**

##### **How many grants will be awarded?**

The total number of grants awarded will depend on each application's scope of need, or what they request. Minimum awards are \$50,000 per application per year. Maximum awards will be limited to \$150,000 per site per year and \$300,000 per application per year.

##### **If a school is Title 1 eligible but does not accept the funds, are they still eligible to apply?**

Yes.

##### **If a school has 37 percent free and reduced price lunch eligibility, can it be included in the application?**

No. All schools targeted for 21CCLC funds in the grant application must meet the 40 percent free and reduced price lunch eligibility.

##### **Is there a place in the application to document any in-kind or other financial support the program may be receiving?**

Yes. In-kind and other support can be documented in the management plan or partnerships sections. The budget section documents how 21CCLC funds will be expended.

##### **Are there any restrictions on staff training and travel in and out of the state?**

Staff travel will vary depending on the particular needs of your program and availability of training. Applicants should budget for *at least* two meetings in Des Moines each year and at least one staff person to attend the annual 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Summer Institute held nationally. Locations of the Summer Institute have included Washington, D.C. and New Orleans.

##### **Will a grantee who is finishing their first five years be applying for a three year continuation grant at 75% percent?**

No. Continuation grants from THIS application will begin in 2015. In fiscal years 2012-2014, all applicants will be considered new applications. We are following the original grant agreements for awards that occurred before 2012.

##### **How long do we have to complete the application and when will the award announcements be made? Funds allocated?**

You will have about 60 days to complete and submit this application. The Iowa Department of Education hopes to announce awards in January 2013. Funds will be allocated upon signing of contracts.

##### **Last year service learning projects were stressed heavily. Is that the case again this year?**

Service learning will not be a priority this year; rather it can be used as a strategy to close the achievement gap. Our state priorities are aligned with federal priorities that focus on helping students with critical achievement needs.<sup>2</sup>

**Will feedback be provided to those who were not awarded a grant?**

Yes. All reader scoring and comments will be provided upon request.

**If a community organization is applying, does the application need to have both the director's and principal's signatures?**

Yes, the application needs to have both signatures. If the application is a joint submission, signatures should be provided as documentation. Principals of each site must sign the assurances to be considered for funding.

**Should the application be single or double spaced? Are tables and charts allowable?**

It is your choice if the application is single or double spaced, but **12-point font must be used** and the application must meet the page limitations for each section. Tables and charts are allowed and encouraged when appropriate.

**Can DE provide some examples of what successful applications have provided for a sustainability plan?**

There are a multitude of things an applicant could mention based on different communities including, but not limited to: engaging volunteers, reaching out to other community groups, local business involvement, quarterly meetings with partners, and contacting city departments. This section should reflect that the applicants have knowledge of the sustainability process and that they are thinking of ways to sustain the program.

**What materials will grant readers be given? How is the grant reviewer session organized?**

Grant readers will receive all the same materials that are given to applicants. They will individually score the grants and then come together to discuss their scores, deciding on a consensus score that will ultimately be used to rank the applications. Awards are given based on the ranking of applications.

**Applications must arrive at the Iowa Department of Education by 4:30 pm on the closing date of the application.**

**Can a community-based organization and district apply separately for sites within the same district?**

Yes, as long as different buildings and students are being served.

**In Iowa, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century CCLC program is NOT a GED program.** We strongly encourage you to partner with your local community college to address your adult literacy needs (there is special federal funding for this) and most of them offer free or low cost services.

[http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2040&Itemid=2131](http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2040&Itemid=2131) Adult Literacy Site Iowa Dept of Education

Map of Iowa Community Colleges with Adult Literacy Programs

[http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2042&catid=182](http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2042&catid=182)