

After School Grant Program 2013 Competition

Questions and Answers

GRANT BASICS

How many grants will be awarded?

The After School Grant Program funding is not entirely finalized, but it is expected to award approximately 20-25 grants to community based organizations and school districts in Connecticut. It is expected to be a competitive process with more than 90 applications expected.

How many STEM grants will be awarded?

At least 10% of the grants are expected to be from option C, STEM programs.

How many middle and high school grants will be awarded?

At least 10% of the grants are expected to be from option B, Middle and High School Programs, but the exact number will depend on the quality of the grants received. All grants compete against each other on an equal basis, and if there are many well-written middle grant proposals, for example, there could be a significantly higher percentage of the total that are from middle schools.

Are K-8 schools considered elementary or middle schools?

The option selected for the proposal should depend upon the intent of the program. If it is aimed at serving the needs of all students in the school, it will serve a majority of elementary age students and should apply under option A. If a program is targeting 6th-8th grade students, it will serve middle school age students and should apply under option B.

How many applications can one organization submit at one time?

For this competition, each lead agency is limited to three applications, although this does not preclude its participation as a partner on any other grant application.

PROGRAM DESIGN

Is there a requirement for a summer component?

No. There is not a requirement for a summer component, but programs are strongly encouraged to offer some summer programming between the first and second years of the grant if they can do so within the budget guidelines.

Do the kids in the summer program have to be the same exact students as are served during the school year?

No, as long as they are from the same school(s) and grade level(s) as are served during the after school portion of the grant.

Does a program have to start on the very first day of school to be awarded full points?

Because some districts begin with a partial day or late in the week at the start of the year, as long as the program is operational within the first week of the opening of school, they may be awarded full points for the length of program operation.

Does summer programming count towards the number of weeks for length of program operation?

No. Summer programming will not count towards the total number of weeks operating. A program must operate a minimum of 25 weeks during the regular school year, and additional points will be awarded for additional weeks during the school year, with maximum points awarded to those programs that begin in the first week of school and end the last week of school.

Can the funds be used to provide a before school program?

Yes if the program meets all of the other program criteria. For example, it cannot be used to provide a breakfast program alone that does not provide academic, enrichment and recreational programming. Because most before school programs are open for fewer hours than after school program, it is allowable to combine a before and after school program into a single grant application.

What are acceptable incentives to encourage youth participation?

It is allowable to spend a small portion of the grant budget on youth incentives. Educational field trips tied to program goals for students with greater than 90% attendance at the end of the year are one common example. Programs should be creative if they wish to include incentives. The creation of an after school store with good attendance rewarded with “store cash” or monthly recognition or prize drawings are also possible.

PARTNERS

Can a for-profit agency be a lead grantee or a lead partner?

For-profit organizations cannot be a lead grantee, nor can they be a lead partner. .

Can letters of support be in Spanish?

Yes, but please call Dr. Quinones at 860-807-2126 by 6/24/13 prior to submitting the grant to ensure a bilingual grant reader. For languages other than Spanish, please provide a translation into English with the letter.

BUDGETS

Is there a maximum cost per student that is allowed?

Yes. There is explicit maximum. The average amount spent per student allowed is between \$1200 and \$1500 for high school students and between \$1500 and \$2000 for middle and elementary school students.

For the Fiscal Health section of the proposal, how does a municipality or school district demonstrate this?

A letter of support must be included from the District Superintendent or chief elected official (for municipalities) that states that the programs have the capacity to invest time and resources to support program start up and implementation as specified in the grant proposal notwithstanding a delay in funding.

DATA

Where is the State Department of Education data found for the Program Need section?

On the CSDE website, the Quicklink on the right column includes “Collections, Data and Research” There you can choose CEDaR – Connecticut Education Data and Research. You directly access the site here:

http://sdeportal.ct.gov/Cedar/WEB/ct_report/CedarHome.aspx

For health related data, please see the 2010 School Health Profiles here:

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&pm=1&Q=333570>

What is the different between the total number of students served and the target number of students to be served with minimum dosage?

The proposal abstract asks for two data items.

1. The total number of students served includes the total number of students expected to participate in programming supported by these grant funds, including before school, after school, school vacation and summer programming. A hypothetical program might serve 175 students after school and 50 students during a summer component, for a total of 225.
2. The target number of students who will receive a minimum dosage, as defined:
 - Elementary school: number expected to attend a minimum of 60 percent of all program activities during the school year;
 - Middle school: number expected to attend at least 45 days of programming during the school year; and
 - High school number expected to attend at least 30 days of programming during the school year.

While for some programs these two numbers will be the same, a hypothetical program might expect some students to not participate as regularly as others for any number of valid reasons, and so might show a lower number for the target than for the total number.

To be eligible for second year funding, programs must show at the end of the first year, that they have met 80 percent of their target number for minimum dosage. Additional hours from field trips and special events can be included. Any of these activities planned for students, or any major difference between the target and the total numbers should be thoroughly described in the proposal.

GRANT DEADLINE

Grant deadline: June 28th, 2013 at 4:30 pm. Please submit an original and three copies to:

Dr. Agnes Quinones

25 Industrial Park Road

Middletown, CT 06457

Additional Questions: Contact Dr. Agnes Quinones at agnes.quinones@ct.gov or via phone at 860-807-2126.