

Funding Source Information

21st Century Community Learning Centers Program

What is the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program?

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is designed to provide opportunities for academic enrichment, including providing tutorial services to help elementary and secondary students, particularly students who attend low-performing schools, to meet state and local academic achievement standards in core academic subjects. Reading and mathematics are the key areas of focus. 21st Century Community Learning Centers offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities. Examples include youth development activities, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, art, music, and recreation programs, technology education programs, and character education programs, that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students.

What is the Definition of a 21st Century Community Learning Center?

A Community Learning Center is an entity *within a public elementary, middle or secondary school building* that

1. provides educational, recreational, health, and social service programs for residents of all ages within a local community, and
2. is operated by a local educational agency (LEA) in conjunction with local governmental agencies, businesses, vocational education programs, institutions of higher education, community colleges, and cultural, recreational, and other community and human service entities

Time Period

By statute, a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant cannot exceed three years. Grant renewal applications are due by March of the next fiscal year.

Federal Appropriation

Fiscal year 2003: \$993.5 million

States receive formula grants, then make competitive awards to school districts, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and other public or private entities for projects that would serve primarily students who attend schools eligible to operate a Title I school-wide program. States give priority to projects serving students who attend schools identified for improvement or corrective action under Title I, and projects emphasizing activities that prepare students to meet state and local student performance standards in core academic subjects. States may reserve up to 5 percent for state-level activities, including providing technical assistance and training and evaluating program effectiveness. State appropriations can be found at www.ed.gov/21stcccl.

Who is Eligible to Receive Grants from States?

Eligible entities include local educational agencies, community-based organizations, other public or private entities, or consortia of two or more of such agencies, organizations, or entities. States are required to make awards only to applicants that will primarily serve students who attend schools with concentrations of poor students. Also, States must provide a priority for projects that will target services to students who attend low-performing schools.

Education Level: Elementary, Secondary and Adult

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Kinds of Program Activities Required:

- Literacy education programs;
- Senior citizen programs;
- Children's day care services;
- Integrated education, health, social service, recreational, or cultural programs;
- Summer and weekend school programs in conjunction with recreation programs;
- Nutrition and health programs;
- Expanded library service hours to serve community needs;
- Telecommunications and technology;
- Parenting skills education programs;
- Support and training for child day care providers;
- Employment counseling, training, and placement;
- Services for individuals who leave school before graduating from secondary school, regardless of the age of such individual; and
- Services for disabilities education programs for individuals of all ages;

Possible Training/Product Solutions

Products: *eGuidanceCenter™*
Bridges-to-Careers
Career Futures™
Choices™
CX Online™
eChoices™
Paws in Jobland

Training:

- Best Uses Seminars
- Regionalized Open Enrollment or On-site Product Training
- Standards and Curricular Integration Training

Web Sites: www.ed.gov/offices/OESE
www.ed.gov/legislation/ESEA02/pg34.html
www.ed.gov/nclb



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