



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

November 27, 2006

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants

The fiscal year 2007 appropriation for Title IV, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, includes funds to be distributed through a competitive grant process to local education agencies as well as faith-based and community organizations for 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grants. A community learning center offers academic, artistic, and cultural enrichment opportunities to students and their families when school is not in session. The activities are designed to provide students with academic enrichment opportunities as well as additional activities designed to complement their regular academic program. The allocation to Michigan for this purpose is expected to be \$31.5 million in 2007, of which approximately \$22.3 million will be used for continuation grants, \$7.6 million for new competitive grants, and \$1.6 million for administration, training and technical assistance. Approximately \$5.3 million will be allocated from FY 06 continuation funds for re-competing grants.

This is the sixth year that the appropriation for ESEA has included funds allocated to state education agencies for 21st CCLC grants. The U.S. Department of Education guidance regarding the allocation and use of 21st CCLC funds requires state education agencies to target local education agencies (and faith-based and community organizations serving the same children) whose schools primarily serve students who attend schools with high concentrations of poor students, giving priority to applicants serving children in high-priority schools. Priority is also given to applicants that will serve children in schools designated as in need of improvement under Title I and that are submitted jointly by school districts receiving Title I funds and community-based organizations.

The attached "Criteria for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants" provide background information and the proposed criteria for the distribution of the FY 2007 appropriation.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Criteria for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 27, 2006.

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Criteria for 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students." In addition, the State Board has adopted the following five Strategic Initiatives to implement the goal:

Ensuring Excellent Educators
Elevating Educational Leadership
Embracing the Information Age

Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy
Integrating Communities and Schools

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will include priority consideration of the Strategic Goal and the Strategic Initiatives.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

Competitive Formula New Continuation (*check all that apply*)

Nationally, it is estimated that 24 million school-age children have working parents, including many who receive no adult supervision during their out-of-school time. Further, too many school-age children are not achieving at the level necessary for their future success. A community learning center offers academic, artistic, and cultural enrichment opportunities to students and their families when school is not in session. The purpose of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Grants is to create community learning centers for those times when school is not in session. Programs must provide students with academic enrichment opportunities as well as additional activities designed to complement their regular academic program. Limited programming may also be provided for the families of enrolled students. The 21st CCLC Grants began with an appropriation in the United States Department of Education budget in 1997 of \$1 million with the first programs opening in 1998. Programs were direct federal-to-local funding. Fiscal year 2007 is the sixth year of state management of the program as part of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. In federal FY 2007, it is anticipated that Michigan's allocation will be approximately \$31.5 million. Michigan will have approximately \$12.9 million available for new and re-competing local grants. The legislation requires states to make awards only to applicants who will primarily serve students who attend schools with a high concentration of poor students, giving priority to applicants serving children in high-priority schools. States must also give priority to applicants that will serve children in schools designated as in need of improvement under Title I and that are submitted jointly by school districts receiving Title I funds and community-based organizations.

LEGISLATION

President Bush signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, into law on January 8, 2002. This legislation focuses on improving student achievement for all students, especially children in the nation's most disadvantaged schools and communities. Title IV, Part B, authorizes the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants.

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

The 21st CCLC program further assists the State Board of Education with the goal of prioritizing service to high-priority schools. The program addresses the Strategic Initiative of Integrating Communities and Schools because priority is given to applicants that propose collaboration between schools and community-based organizations. Programs in elementary schools may also address the Strategic Initiative of Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy.

CRITERIA

Defined in Legislation Defined in Department's Grant Proposed by Staff

Criteria for eligible applicants are defined in the federal legislation. The Department must assure that the target population will meet federal requirements and priorities or the State application will be defunded. A competitive application in rubric format has been developed to differentiate between proposals that have a high probability of creating and sustaining community learning centers to meet the purposes of the program. The purposes of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants are to:

- provide opportunities for academic enrichment, including providing tutorial services to help students' performance standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and mathematics;
offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as youth development activities, drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs, art, music, recreation programs, technology education programs, and character education programs that are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students; and
offer families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for literacy and related educational development.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Federal guidelines state that eligible applicants may be Local Education Agencies (LEAs) or Faith-Based and Community Organizations (FBCOs), and other public or private organizations. A joint application of two or more such agencies, organizations, or entities is also eligible. The statute encourages eligible organizations to collaborate in applying for funds.

A community organization is defined as a public or private for-profit or nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness that (A) is representative of a community or significant segments of a community; and (B) provides educational or related services to individuals in the community. Grantees whose state 21st CCLC funding is continuing **may not apply** for duplicate funding for the same project and group of students. However, current grantees **may apply** for expansion of services. The application should clearly show how new funds will be used for new programming. An applicant may apply for more than one grant, if the services are proposed for different groups of students who attend different schools.

Grantees whose previous state funding has expired (Cohort A, originally funded in FY 2002) may apply to serve the same schools/sites for an additional three years. Any application indicating any sites/schools that were previously funded in Cohort A will be considered part of this three-year competition. MDE will award a maximum of \$125,000 per site with a \$25,000 per site cash or in-kind match in the first year of funding. The award will decrease to \$75,000 per site with a \$75,000 cash and in-kind match per site in the second year. The final year award will decrease to \$50,000 per site with a cash and in-kind match of \$100,000 per site. A budget narrative must be submitted that describes an increased cash and in-kind match of \$75,000 in the second year and \$100,000 in the third year for the program. New grantees with a five year grant will not be required to have cash or in-kind match.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

The allocation to Michigan for this purpose is expected to be \$31.5 million in 2007, of which approximately \$22.3 million will be used for continuation grants, \$7.6 million for new competitive grants, and \$1.6 million for administration, training and technical assistance. Approximately \$5.3 million will be allocated from FY 06 continuation funds for re-competing grants. By statute, no individual grant will be less than \$50,000 per year, renewable for up to five years based on continuation funding and adequate progress.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

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Preschool and Early Elementary Programs
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