

21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Grant Program



COLORADO
Department of Education

“The essence of our program: It is a hope-filled place for all students from diverse backgrounds to be accepted as they are, so that they can grow into their greatest potential.” - 21st CCLC School District

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.

Subgrantee Information

Federal Allocations:

- 2016-17: \$11,580,347
- 2017-18: \$11,633,559
- 2018-19: \$11,437,425
- 2019-20: \$11,499,014
- 2020-21: \$10,900,835

21st CCLC Grant Awards:

Cohort VII

- Funding years: 2015-2021
- 17 grants serving 36 centers
- \$3,605,966 (FY2020-21)

Cohort VIII

- Funding years: 2018-2023
- 38 grants serving 64 centers
- \$8,795,915 (FY2020-21)

RESEARCH SUPPORTS THE IMPORTANCE OF OST PROGRAMS

Previous research has indicated a link between student engagement in afterschool programs, such as 21st CCLCs, and positive outcomes. Students who engage in these extracurricular programs have shown better academic performance and behavior (Heckman and Sanger, 2013), and have shown to have statistically significantly higher test scores, bonding to school, and self-perception, with significantly lower problem behaviors when compared to students not in such programs (Durlak, Weissberg, and Pachan, 2010).

21st CCLC ATTENDANCE IN 2020-21

Colorado’s 21st CCLCs were affected by COVID-19 due to school closures and remote learning, so attendance in programs was greatly impacted during 2020-21. Even so, students and families most in need of services were able to access programs through 21st CCLCs whenever possible.

- Total number of student attendees: 11,862
- Total number of regular student attendees*: 3,816
- Total number of family members served: 2,066

*Regular attendees are students who attend a given center for 30 days or more during the reporting period.

13,928

STUDENTS AND FAMILY
MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN
21ST CCLC ACTIVITIES

CENTERS OFFERED ACADEMIC AND ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Students from all grade levels participated in 21st CCLC programming in the 2020-21 year. Data from the 2020-21 school year includes Cohort VII (2015-2021) and Cohort VIII (2018-2023) consisting of 55 subgrantees and 100 centers. The most popular activities in the 2020-21 school year included Physical Activity, Arts & Music, STEM, Literacy, Homework Help, Youth Leadership, and Postsecondary Workforce Readiness. Notably, 21st CCLCs across the state were able to offer valuable support and services to students and families disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

REFLECTIONS ON THE 21ST CCLC GRANT FROM PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Program directors for centers in both Cohorts VII and VIII were asked to provide success stories related to students' academic and enrichment experiences, family participation, and partner collaboration. Several program directors highlighted what the grant has meant for their students, families, schools, and communities:

“ We had a family referred to us that were newcomers from Afghanistan. We welcomed all three school age students into our program at one of our Cohort VIII sites. The students did not speak any English and were enrolled into Imagine Learning to help them acquire the new language. Fast forward to the summer of 2021. Two of those same students are in [our program] at one of our sites and are excelling! They no longer need Imagine Learning and have grown in the Lexile levels (+171, +227, +195) on myON significantly.

“ A grandmother raising five grandchildren struggled with remote learning. The oldest of the grandchildren was a 6th grader at our site. His grandmother was not letting him come to the Club or in person learning community because she was so afraid of COVID-19 and felt the extra time afterschool would put him and their family at risk. In November the staff and a member of the school faculty offered to help parents learn how to navigate google classroom. She was one of the first to sign up enthusiastically. When they started the session, she was shocked that her grandson was so far behind. She decided right then and there that not only would he be going back to the Club, but he would be attending our in-person learning community at the library. He was able to catch up on most of his missing work before the semester ended.

“ To expand workforce and college readiness, our program offers multiple career pathways to support engagement and credit attainment for graduation. A student that had a history of struggling to “sit still” in class benefited from a community partner’s firefighter pathway. We partner with the Colorado Fire Camp to provide practical, hands-on training at their campus which is in the mountains. The student attended three sessions and took a total of 8 courses and earned credit to support his on-time graduation from high school. A traditional educational format was not the answer, rather the opportunity to expand learning outside the classroom was.

POSITIVE IMPACT ON STUDENT PARTICIPANTS, ACCORDING TO TEACHERS

Despite COVID-19 disruptions and other impacts, improvements in academics and behavior were prevalent for students who participated in 21st CCLC programs. These improvements were assessed by teachers who completed a survey evaluating student growth outcomes for regular student attendees in the 2020-21 school year.

41%

OF STUDENTS
IMPROVED THEIR **BEHAVIOR**

67%

OF STUDENTS
IMPROVED THEIR **ACADEMICS**

WHAT PARTICIPATING STUDENTS SAY ABOUT 21ST CCLC

"This senior year was definitely a very hard year for me, I had to work a lot harder than some people because I slacked off in my beginning years of high school and didn't really try hard enough. But not being able to walk with all my friends at graduation made me really disappointed and made me really want to at least finish in my graduating class so I was determined to do the credit recovery work that was cut out for me. I am very thankful that I had this opportunity to try again because I did not have an easy four years. I had gone through a lot of issues with my family and life, that really tried to make me give up. But I am so grateful to my teachers who stuck with me and didn't give up because I really needed the support and it helped me get through the extra time in Credit Recovery."

21st CCLC Student

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

