

Colorado 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program

Program Summaries

Cohort IX Subgrantees (FY21-22 through FY25-26)

Program Summaries were taken from the Subgrantees' 21st CCLC grant program proposals and some have been edited for length.

Asian Pacific Development Center

Hinkley High School

Asian Pacific Development Center (APDC), the metro Denver area's only Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI)-serving community-based organization, leverages all of its available resources through its Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) to serve students at Hinkley High School. Each year, YLA will provide 375 academically at-risk students with core academic programs and enrichment services to reinforce and complement the academic programs that are available at the school. It will also provide family members of participating students opportunities for English literacy and language development.

Boulder Valley School District

Emerald Elementary School, Alicia Sanchez International School

Emerald Elementary School and Alicia Sanchez Elementary School are high-poverty schools that also enroll high numbers of English language learners, students of color, and children with disabilities. The schools are in the lowest-income neighborhoods in Lafayette and Broomfield, Colorado. Emerald and Sanchez' students come from neighborhoods with scarce resources for affordable academic support, enrichment, recreation, adult education, or family services. The schools have existing after-school and summer programs, which they hope to continue and expand with 21st Century Learning Center grants.

The Emerald and Sanchez Learning Centers will serve up to 400 students per year, which is about 60% of their enrollment. Partners, parents and students, and schoolteachers and staff have all been engaged in planning the Centers. The Centers will build on several significant community partnerships, including CU-Boulder, KidsHope, A La Carte Education Solutions, and Thorne Nature Experience, to provide academic tutoring, mentoring, academic enrichment activities, socio-emotional learning, and parent programming, through a traditional 21st CCLC model. The Centers also adopt a 'family-strengthening' philosophy that brings additional resources to the schools to support both parent and child well-being and skill- building. The Sanchez and Emerald Centers will be led and managed by professional staff with many years' experience working in youth programs and education.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver

Cole Arts and Science Academy

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (BGCMD) has continued support of the Cole Boys & Girls Club at Cole Arts & Science Academy. As a Cohort 7 site, BGCMD was able to establish and develop a strong youth development program at this location, which serves a community that faces many systemic inequities that have led to ongoing negative academic outcomes and other detrimental disparities. With a strong foundation in place, we are set to launch a new era of programming at this site that expands the impact we've seen in the last several years. As an organization with deep roots in the community and with high-quality programs that address these needs and more, we are determined to maintain our presence in Cole. We have expand our services to more robustly addressing the needs of Cole students and families, and have additional strong partnerships in place to enhance programming and provide funding.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County

Central High School, Minnequa Elementary School, Cesar Chavez Academy School

Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County (BGCPC) has a mission to enable young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Clubhouses are located in areas with high poverty and crime, and low educational levels, so we can be a nurturing safety net for young people who need us the most. This project is aligned with District #60 Unified District Improvement Plan's major strategies: curriculum assessment, with the development of new personalized instruction to meet each student at their personal level of learning; alignment for all district systems to promote positive growth and change; and a commitment to rigorous learning and high expectations for all students. Analysis of data, interviews with District #60 and the schools' administrations, focus groups with caregivers and caregiver/teacher/student surveys showed that all the schools are in need of academic improvement.

Boys & Girls Clubs of San Luis Valley

Guadalupe Elementary, Sierra Grande K-12, Haskin Elementary

Over a two year period, Boys & Girls Clubs of the San Luis Valley (BGCSLV), in partnership with three school districts in the San Luis Valley (SLV), facilitated a comprehensive assessment of student needs involving students, parents, teachers, school administrators and community stakeholders. From this analysis, academic support, enrichment opportunities and additional support services for students and families were identified as critical needs for elementary students. The majority of students in the three SLV schools that make up the target population for this SLV 21st CCLC program are at risk of academic failure due to unique, compounded stressors impacting their development, including elevated levels of poverty, high prevalence of migrant students experiencing disrupted learning, and a community ravaged by the opioid crisis, with the highest rate of overdose deaths in the state. In response to community needs, both the afterschool and summer program activities will include core academic support; academic enrichment; social-emotional development; cultural and arts; health, nutrition, fitness, and physical activity; and parental involvement, in addition to meals and transportation services. Key partnerships, including those with SLV Generation Wild, SLV Migrant Education Center, and Los Promotores, will help ensure a robust network of wraparound and support services for both students and families.

Canon City Schools

McKinley Elementary, Canon City Middle and High School

Canon City School District (CCSD) has implemented two 21st Century Community Learning Centers to improve academic achievement & growth, parent engagement, and student enrichment. These 21st CCLC sites address the needs of Canon City students who face significant opportunity barriers including poverty with a very high Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) qualifying population at 70% and significant challenges due to the lack of resources due to the floor formula funding and the imposition of the negative factor. CCSD works with local partners as well as develop new partnerships to bring desperately needed programming to students, who are eager to reengage with teachers and peers after the COVID upheaval in their education and social world. The leadership and staff are highly committed to student success and well-being to advance student achievement and empower students to set and reach their goals.

Clear Creek School District RE-1

Carlson Elementary, King-Murphy Elementary, Clear Creek Middle and High School

Clear Creek County has a strong sense of community and we believe that together, we can nurture empowered learners. Engaging Clear Creek families in this process is essential. We know that academics alone will not help students thrive. There is a foundational need for students to have shelter, food, and a caring environment. As a community we are providing these things as best we can, and the 21st CCLC grant brings a high quality enrichment to students, especially those who are furthest from opportunity. This grant helps us grow and improve our services and programming for students and families. Clear Creek School District has worked with partners to break down silos and collaborate because together we can do more. Our 21st CCLC grant is a consortium of entities, and it includes Clear Creek Metro Recreation District (CCMRD), Mountain Youth Network, Resilience1220, and 4-H Positive Youth Development. Together we support CCSD students and families. A big need for us is coordination between partners to leverage existing programs in the community, in addition to improving and expanding programs. We also continue to make connections and collaborations as a whole with other community organizations

Cripple Creek-Victor School District RE-1

Cresson Elementary, Cripple Creek-Victor Junior-Senior High School

The 21st CCLC program through Cripple Creek-Victor School District is designed to provide a range of creative, engaging, and educational out-of-school opportunities to both support and extend the academic and personal enrichment of the program's participants and their families. Courses are offered year-round, to include after-school, Fridays (outside of the 4-day school week), and summer. Students and families have access to all programs and are not charged for participation. The program goals are to: 1) improve the school district's low academic achievement in reading, math, and science; 2) fill gaps in learning associated with remote learning during COVID shutdowns; 3) promote college and careers after graduation; 4) increase fitness and healthy behaviors; 5) integrate creative expression and academic enhancement through arts and culture education opportunities, and; 6) improve parenting skills and literacy among adult family members through engaging workshops and volunteer opportunities.

Charter School Institute-Early College of Arvada

The Early College of Arvada has implemented a 21st Century Community Learning Center to improve academic achievement & growth, parent engagement, and student enrichment. The Early College of Arvada address the needs of ECA students who face significant opportunity barriers including poverty and scarcity of resources, in part due to the high number of non-english speaking parents and the fear associated with undocumentation limits involvement within the school and community. ECA works with local partners as well as develops new partnerships to bring desperately needed programming to students, who are eager to reengage with teachers and peers after the COVID upheaval in their education and social world. The leadership and staff are highly committed to student success and well being to advance student achievement and empower students to set and reach their goals.

Denver Public Schools

Dr. Martin Luther King Early College Middle School, Traylor Academy, Valverde Elementary

The goal of Denver Public Schools (DPS) is to provide every child in Denver with a joyful, rigorous, and personalized learning experience from preschool through high school graduation. The need to ensure all DPS students obtain the knowledge and skills to be contributing citizens in a diverse society is the impetus for the Denver Public Schools Extended Learning and Community Schools (DELCS) pursuance of the 21st-century grant. Through this grant, several goals will be achieved including: Increase opportunities for academic enrichment, including providing programming to help students. DELCS will prioritize these supports for students in high-poverty areas and those who attend low-performing schools to meet state and local student performance standards in core academic subjects such as reading, writing, and mathematics. The partnership with 21st-century will allow us to focus on these students in more school communities, remove barriers, and create experiences that are rooted in equity. With the support of 21st Century Grant funding, ELCS after school programming will provide a space that is constant, welcoming, fun, and enriching-to support students as they return from the pandemic and prepare for a future that creates a vision of them in it regardless of existing barriers.

Greeley 6

Dos Rios Elementary, Heiman Elementary, Scott Elementary, Salida Del Sol Academy, Greeley West High School

Weld County School District 6 (WC6) implements a Traditional three-year 21st CCLC (21C) grant with the overarching goal of increasing student achievement and engagement in five high-poverty, low-performing schools through innovative, project-based, out-of-school time (OST). We will serve at least 1,040 students each year (65% of whom are low-income). Our partners in this effort include two institutions of higher education, seven community agencies, and one WC6 program. Our partners have pledged significant contributions in the form of staff time and direct services to students and parents to ensure the success of 21C and innovative, comprehensive, high quality programs. WC6 Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Program Our four performance measures addressing core academics (math), essential skills/enrichment activities, attendance, and parent/family services will guide 21C and help us determine project progress and impact on mathematics and reading skills, graduation and college/career readiness, parent engagement in their child's education, school attendance, and essential skills. Key strategies include: (1) expansion of AVID in OST programming; (2) instruction and services that build on the school day; (3) project-based learning where students and teachers design projects aligned with the school day that include STEM and service-learning; (4) parent engagement opportunities to increase skills and involvement in their child's education; (5) graduation and college/career readiness activities; (6) strategies to improve student attendance; (7) high quality professional development and mentoring; and (8) monitoring and using results to inform the project.

Jefferson County Public Schools

Peak Expeditionary School at Pennington

Peak Expeditionary School at Pennington is a public elementary school in Wheat Ridge, Colorado that serves around 220 students, Kindergarten through Fifth grade. 62% of Peak families qualify for free and reduced lunch, of which almost 70% of those families qualify for the free status, living below the line of poverty for generations. 54% of our students are receiving Response to Intervention Programming, 18% of students are identified with learning disabilities qualifying for Special Education services through an IEP or a 504 plan, 17% are English Language Learners, and our mobility rate is 18% due to families being migrant workers or McKinney-Vento students. With these given obstacles, it is imperative that we continue to leverage different ways to support our students who are experiencing multiple risk factors. We recognize that innovative, targeted and specific programs need to be employed to maximize learning opportunities for our student population, and we believe that experiential learning is the best way to engage and motivate them. 21st CCLC programming at Peak Expeditionary School provide an Expanded Learning Day to all students in an effort to increase student academic achievement, close opportunity gaps and promote meaningful family engagement. Academic Enrichment opportunities will include outdoor adventure, healthy life-style activities, environmental literacy activities, integrated STEM, and hands-on learning experiences that teach social-emotional wellness -- all connected with the "Expeditionary Learning" (EL) curriculum that is already being implemented at the school. Peak Expeditionary School at Pennington has had a long history of successfully implementing an Expanded Learning Time Program and the model has become woven into the fabric of our school community and embraced by all. We have seen the benefits and growth that our previous Expanded Learning Time Program had on our community and in the lives of our students and families - and are ready to build on our momentum through Cohort IX. Peak's educational design through the Expanded Learning Time model both challenges and supports students to do their best work. ELT incorporates elements of adventure and discovery into the school day, grounds academic content in real-world issues, places an equal emphasis on character development and academic achievement, promotes learning as a community as well as self-efficacy, and provides opportunities for student leadership and demonstrations of learning.

Lake County School District

Lake County Intermediate School, Lake County High School

The Lake County School District (LCSD) received continued funding for 21st Century Community Learning Center for grades 3-6 at Lake County Intermediate School (LCIS) and for grades 7-12 at Lake County High School (LCHS), as separate sites. LCSD continues to build on its success during after school, fifth day Friday, and summer programming (collectively known as Project Dream) in the 2021-2022 school year. The programs provided bolster turnaround efforts by increasing opportunities for targeted, well-paced intervention throughout the year, and reducing summer learning loss. Programs address the whole child and give students the chance to pursue enrichment opportunities. Students that participate in programs benefit from meaningful intervention and enrichment opportunities, effectively increasing contact hours to improve academic outcomes and social emotional wellbeing. LCSD has proven success in implementing 21st CCLC programs through 100% teacher survey return rates (even in 2020), meeting or exceeding goals, and reliance on programs - especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when centers provided double the amount of hours to meet the needs of schools and families.

Poudre School District

Irish Elementary School

Poudre School District (PSD) is an accredited mid-sized school district serving 52 schools and 30,100 students in an area of more than 1,800 square miles in northern Colorado. The District's educational program centers on four District Ends (aspirational and visionary goals) including goals that all PSD students attain milestones to ensure academic success (Foundations for Success); all PSD students are prepared for college and workforce success (Success in a Changing World); all PSD students are challenged, motivated and inspired to reach personal excellence (Above and Beyond); and all PSD students academically and socially connected to their school and community (Connections). All means all for Poudre School District, and the ability to provide services to the most vulnerable students after three o'clock on school days and during key summer transition points is essential to meeting PSD's desire to continue as a high performing district. As the District has grown, and more recently with the COVID-19 pandemic, schools have been presented with unique challenges for student success. Irish Elementary has been challenged by several obstacles that qualify them as a priority site for 21st CCLC funding. This enriching program that helps them with specific academic needs through tutoring and forward-looking STEM programming that builds their confidence and capacity to learn. Poudre School District currently has a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant at two other Title I school sites, and previously had a 21st CCLC at Irish Elementary. The District is experienced in providing programs that students need and want to attend, complemented by parent program offerings that encourage families to connect with staff at Irish. Connections are included as a success measurement in this proposal and PSD and Irish staff will build those relationships through a quality program that serves all students equitably.

Summer Scholars (Scholars Unlimited)

Park Lane Elementary

Scholars Unlimited, a provider of comprehensive out-of-school-time programs with over twenty-five years of experience, expanding programming at the 21st Century Community Learning Center at Park Lane Elementary School, located in North Aurora's Morris Heights neighborhood. Scholars Unlimited will provide this programming in partnership with Aurora Public Schools. The core academic programming will support the development of foundational literacy skills, reading fluency and comprehension using multiple evidence-based instructional strategies to provide balanced literacy instruction. The after-school program also will provide a personalized blended-learning approach using Lexia Reading to provide adaptive instruction to meet the needs of each individual learner. Enrichment will enable students to participate in hands-on learning and explore a wide variety of activities that are not currently accessible to this student population. In addition, the summer program utilizes Project-Based Learning for all students, and 4th and 5th graders will participate in PBL during the after-school program. Project-Based Learning provides highly personalized learning that will deepen student knowledge, increase engagement, and support the development of essential skills.

Summer Scholars (Scholars Unlimited)

Farrell B. Howell ECE-8 School, Florida Pitt-Waller ECE-8 School

Scholars Unlimited, a provider of comprehensive out-of-school-time programs with over twenty-five years of experience, funded to expand programming at 21st Century Community Learning Centers at Farrell B. Howell ECE-8 School (Montbello) and Florida Pitt-Waller K-8 School (Green Valley Ranch). Both schools are located in Denver's Far Northeast region. Scholars Unlimited will provide this programming in partnership with Denver Public Schools. The core academic programming will support the development of foundational literacy skills, reading fluency and comprehension using multiple evidence-based instructional strategies to provide balanced literacy instruction. Our program design aligns to the most recent Unified Improvement Plan from each school. This commitment to literacy skill development will be further supported by Scholars Unlimited's new Family/Community Book Reading Campaign. A variety of other community resources will support enrichment programming, including more in-depth clubs. Enrichment will enable students to participate in hands-on learning and explore a wide variety of activities that are not currently accessible to this student population. In addition, the summer program utilizes Project-Based Learning for all students, and 4th and 5th graders will participate in PBL during the after-school program. Project-Based Learning provides highly personalized learning that will deepen student knowledge, increase engagement, and support the development of essential skills.

Summer Scholars (Scholars Unlimited)

Alice Terry Elementary School

Scholars Unlimited, a provider of comprehensive out-of-school-time programs with over twenty-five years of experience, is funded to establish a new 21st Century Community Learning Center at Alice Terry K-2 School, located in southwest metro-Denver's Sheridan community. Scholars Unlimited will provide this programming in partnership with Sheridan School District 2. The core academic programming will support the development of foundational literacy skills, reading fluency and comprehension using multiple evidence-based instructional strategies to provide balanced literacy instruction. The after-school program also will provide a personalized blended-learning approach using Lexia Reading to provide adaptive instruction to meet the needs of each individual learner. Scholars Unlimited uses Lexia Reading to determine individual learner needs, to inform instruction and develop personalized learning plans, to measure the individual progress of each student, and to evaluate overall program effectiveness. This commitment to literacy skill development will be further supported by Scholars Unlimited's new Family/Community Book Reading Campaign. To further enhance literacy instruction and align our work to the school's curriculum, Scholars Unlimited will work in tandem with Alice Terry to train and implement the 95% Group curriculum in both the afterschool and day school program. We will have dual training with the curriculum and meet as a team to discuss the implementation of the curriculum. We anticipate this dual approach to reading intervention will lead to greater gains in literacy skills for the Alice Terry scholars. A variety of other community resources will support enrichment programming, including more in-depth clubs. Enrichment will enable students to participate in hands-on learning and explore a wide variety of activities that are not currently accessible to this student population. In addition, the summer program utilizes Project-Based Learning for all students to provide highly personalized learning that will deepen student knowledge, increase engagement, and support the development of essential skills.

Weld RE-5J

Knigh Learning Center at Milliken Elementary School

Milliken Elementary is a Title I school in the rural school district of Weld RE- with a rich history in a small community. However, MES is overcrowded and understaffed and the teachers go above and beyond in their work to provide a quality education for students. We need our families to partner with us and support their students at home, but many of our students can not receive support from

family. Many families work tirelessly to provide for their children and don't have the capacity for intervening with their student at home. Therefore, there is a need for the Knight's Success Lab after school program that will help our struggling and ELL students fill their literacy gaps and social emotional gaps through targeted intervention, mentoring, and PBL based enrichment. Students receive literacy support using researched based instructional tools and interventions from caring qualified staff members. All students who attend the Knight's Success Lab have the goal of reading at grade level by the end of the year. They achieve milestones by creating SMART goals for themselves during their time in the Lab and share those goals with their families. Research shows that supporting struggling students goes beyond providing intervention. Providing struggling students with enrichment opportunities is a key element to academic success. Therefore, the Knight's Success Lab will offer PBL based enrichment for students that attend. These opportunities will include robotics, coding, engineering, service learning, and STEM based projects like drones, flight, claymation, and more. Success Lab students have the opportunity to meet with a mentor weekly. These mentors, both adults and local high school students, are partnering with us to provide care, joy, and social emotional support. Students and mentors participate in weekly activities that build a positive relationship and emotional health. Families of students are encouraged to participate in the Knight's Success Lab. We have monthly family events that will provide a meal, share their student's progress, and provide a learning activity that family and student(s) can do together. Finally, part of the program will include organized recreation time for students and help them build new experiences and background knowledge. Recreational activities will range from learning exercise movements on the Warrior Course, disc golf, fishing, and organized sports. The Knight's Success Lab is a simple program but we believe that simple is the most effective. Our goal is to provide our struggling and ELL students with Literacy support, enrichment, movement, and mentoring. These pieces, done well, can be instrumental in positively affecting Knight's Success Lab's student outcomes.

Wiggins School District RE50-J

Wiggins Elementary School, Wiggins Secondary School

Wiggins School District RE-50J's 21st Century Community Learning Centers improves academic achievement & growth, parent engagement, and student enrichment. Addressing the needs of Wiggins students who face significant opportunity barriers including poverty and scarcity of resources, significantly due to WSD's remote rural location. WSD works with local partners as well as develop new partnerships to bring desperately needed programming to students, who are eager to reengage with teachers and peers after the COVID upheaval in their education and social world. The leadership and staff are highly committed to student success and well-being to advance student achievement and empower students to set and reach their goals.

YMCA of Metro Denver

Swansea Elementary, Highline Community School, Village East Community Elementary

Over 165 years in existence, the YMCA is collectively the largest nonprofit community service organization in the United States. At the YMCA, strengthening community is the cause. Every day, the YMCA works side by side with our neighbors to ensure that everyone, regardless of age, income or background, has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

The goal of this proposal is to support the Y's work in providing high quality OST care that incorporates a robust combination of academic, health, and social-emotional development into afterschool and summer curriculum. As a result, programs will focus on program models that prioritize the whole child, with rich elements that prepare the child for success in all areas of future development. Students attending the proposed sites face a number of academic and community challenges that place them at an extraordinary risk for negative outcomes, more so than even their peers of equal representation. Each school serves a diverse population. Combined, these schools have more than 85% of students eligible for free-and-reduced lunch; more than 75% of students identifying as non-white or of a minority background; and more than 40% of combined student populations enrolled as an English Language Learner. The Denver Y will utilize both historical expertise in best engaging and serving underserved families, as well as best practices to ensure that student and family needs are effectively met and that ultimately students receive critical academic support needed to succeed.
