



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

www.education.ne.gov
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987
TEL 402.471.2295
FAX 402.471.0117

DATE: December 27, 2016
TO: Patrick J. O'Donnell, Clerk of the Nebraska Legislature
FROM: Jan Handa, Grants Manager
RE: Report on Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program (Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-2509)

The Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program Act was created by the Nebraska Legislature to promote academic achievement in high-need schools during out-of-school time afterschool and during summer break. One percent of proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery began depositing into this fund on July 1, 2016. Several stakeholder input sessions were conducted in the spring and fall of 2016 to inform the eligibility criteria, competition timeline and development of policies and procedures for the administration of this grant program.

The postmark deadline of the initial competition for Two-Year Expanded Learning Opportunity Grants is March 15, 2017. Proposals will be reviewed and scored by external review teams who will make funding recommendations to the State Board of Education at their May 5, 2017 meeting. The grant period for funded proposals will be May 5, 2017-August 31, 2019. Grant amounts will range from \$10,000-\$30,000 per year. Eligible applicants must be either a school district or community-based organization that intends to collaboratively deliver services in eligible 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLCs), with at least 40% of students eligible for free or reduced price lunch. The list of eligible sites is available at <https://www.education.ne.gov/ELO/index.html>. Eligible sites must have been in operation at least five years, receiving funding from a 21st CCLC Continuation Grant for the 2016-2017 school year and be in good standing.

Applicants will be required to offer at least 15 student contact hours of expanded learning grant activities in both the Fall and Spring terms (summer is optional). All grantees must meet with the 21st CCLC statewide evaluator to develop an agreed upon evaluation plan that includes methods of monitoring and/or measuring the effectiveness of the proposed activities using 21st CCLC data collection regimens. Grantees must report on activities at the end of each term.

In a related development, the 2016 Nebraska Legislature appropriated \$250,000 to be awarded by competition using criteria identified in the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program. These grants were titled One-Year Opportunity Grants and have a grant period of August 5, 2016-June 30, 2017. Eleven One-Year Opportunity grants were awarded in amounts ranging from \$10,000-\$47,552 to provide activities in forty 21st CCLC sites across Nebraska. Evaluation data from the Fall 2016 term is due January 15, 2017 (Spring 2017 term data will be collected in June 2017). These state-funded grants allowed the Nebraska Department of Education to get a head start on refining the eligibility criteria, policies and procedures to administer the Expanded Learning Opportunity Grant Program.