



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

Office of Public Instruction
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March 5, 2015

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is pleased to announce the opportunity for schools, districts, and community-based organizations to apply for a 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Afterschool Program grant. The 21st CCLC is the result of the No Child Left Behind legislation passed by the U.S. Congress. The funding for this new grant cycle is contingent upon the availability of federal funds.

The federally-funded 21st CCLC supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during nonschool hours for children, particularly for students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. As well as helping students meet state and local standards in core academic subject areas, such as reading and math, these programs held during nonschool hours can offer a broad array of enrichment activities such as socio-emotional learning, technology, recreation, and educational services to families of participating children. The programs are designed to be a local collaborative effort where schools, community-based organizations, towns, counties, and business partners come together to provide academic support, enrichment, and a safe, healthy environment during nonschool hours for children at the elementary, middle and high school level.

Eligibility Requirement: Applications for 21st CCLC grants under the No Child Left Behind Act, 2001, Title IV, Part B must be a partnership between:

- ✓ One or more schools that are Title I school-wide eligible and/or targeted assistance schools whose free and reduce counts are 40 percent or above.
- ✓ One or more nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, public agencies, area or regional education agencies, or private agencies that primarily serve students who attend eligible schools.

Application Deadline: The application for 21st CCLC grants are tentatively scheduled to open on **March 9, 2015**. Applications must be submitted through the E-grant process, due **May 4, 2015**. All nonprofit organizations and private schools will need to obtain an LE number; and submit the following information early: Intent to Apply, Commitment to Partner, and Taxpayer Disclosure Statement. In addition, nonprofit organizations will need to submit a 2015 E-Grants Security Form to the "IT Security Officer" in order to receive a login to complete the E-Grant application. The above forms may be downloaded from Montana's 21st CCLC website: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/TitlePrgms/SafeSchools/21Century/index.html>.

Minimum and Maximum Grant Award

The minimum grant awarded will be \$50,000 per application per year (including continuation grants). Maximum grant awards will be \$150,000 per applications per year and \$300,000 per organization per year.

Award Duration

New Applications: Montana will offer five year grant awards. The funding level will remain 100 percent for the first three years of the grant. Grantees demonstrating sufficient compliance will be eligible for continuation funding for two years (fourth and fifth years of award) at 75 percent (fourth year) and 50 percent (fifth year) of original funding request. Sufficient compliance is meeting all the required compliance items in the Montana 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS ON-SITE MONITORING DOCUMENTATION (see guidance). Following the fifth year of funding, all programs must submit a new application for continuation.

Steps to Apply: All forms listed below can be obtained from the 21st CCLC website listed above. All grantees must upload the forms below onto their E-grant application and mail original copies to Mary Ellen Earnhardt, The OPI, and P.O. Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620. Nonprofits must mail in forms by April 5, 2015

- 1). **Intent to Apply: Mail copy to Mary Ellen Earnhardt at the OPI and upload a copy on to the E-grants application.**
- 2). **Commitment to Partner: Mail copy to Mary Ellen Earnhardt at the OPI and upload a copy on to the E-grants application.**
- 3). **Principal Superintendent Agreement: upload this to the E-grant application.**
- 4). **Taxpayer Disclosure Statement: Mail copy to Mary Ellen Earnhardt and the OPI (non-profits only)**

Opportunities to Learn More: The 21st CCLC website will have information on funding, grant overview, and webinar information on their site. The first webinar is scheduled for March 19, 2015 at 1:00 pm. You are strongly encouraged to read through these documents before writing your grant. For more information, please contact Mary Ellen Earnhardt at mearnhardt@mt.gov or call 406-444-3519.

Conclusion: The 21st CCLC programs have grown. Since 2003, the number of students served in the 21st CCLC programs has risen from 6,628 students to 16,148 students in 2014. Grantees from the 21st CCLC program have worked with community members, the university system, and Montana Ambassadors to assist them with their programming. These programs have changed the lives of many communities through their collaboration and enrichment programming. Rural and small districts are encouraged to collaborate with other small districts in applying for this grant.

Mary Ellen Earnhardt

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"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men"

By: Frederick Douglass