

High-Quality Afterschool and Summer Learning Program

Informational Webinar

October 13, 2021



OKLAHOMA
Education

ESSER Overview

ESSER Introduction

- American Rescue Plan's (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)
- Purpose of Preventing, Preparing for and Responding to COVID-19
- 90% of funds directly to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) based on Title I formula
- Allowable activities included afterschool and summer learning
- sde.ok.gov – May 19, 2021 FAQs
- Of funds not otherwise allocated to LEAs, the State Education Agency (SEA) may reserve remaining funds with expenditure requirements set forth in the law
- Each SEA required to submit State Plan, Oklahoma's approved July 15, 2021

State Education Agency Funds

- Not less than 1% to address **evidence-based summer enrichment** programs
- Not less than 1% to address **evidence-based comprehensive after-school** programs
- Must, at a minimum, respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs
- Programs and interventions must address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student subgroups, including students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care
- Directly, through grants, or contracts

SEA Reporting Requirements

- SEA must report to the Secretary of Education
- Detailed accounting of use of funds that includes how the SEA is using funds to measure and address learning loss among students disproportionately affected
 - Low income students
 - Children with disabilities
 - English learners
 - Racial and ethnic minorities
 - Students experiencing homelessness
 - Children and youth in foster care
- Funds will be reported through the Grants Management System (GMS)

Initiative Overview

Introduction

- Investing in community and school partnerships that provide evidence-based, comprehensive afterschool and summer learning and enrichment
- Stabilize services during the summer of 2021 by investing in statewide summer learning models
- Strategize comprehensive plan for remaining funds based on decades of research and considering quality and consistency of services
- Organize investment to support local level partnerships that can sustain past the life of these emergency funds and are designed for unique local needs

Key Principles

Expanding Learning to Support Student Re-Engagement

- Nine principles identified as essential to helping young people reach their full potential; aligning opportunities will ensure quality and consistency
 - School-Community Partnerships
 - Active and Engaged Learning
 - Family Engagement
 - Intentional Programming
 - Diverse, Prepared Staff
 - Participation & Access
 - Safety
 - Health & Well-being
 - Ongoing Assessment & Improvement

([Afterschool Alliance, March 2021](#))

Competitive Grant Opportunity

- 3-year period, based on performance
- \$21 million in investments
- Includes technical assistance and professional learning
- Support for fiscal and data collection and evaluation

Grant Opportunity

Eligible Applicants

Agencies and organizations eligible to receive funds include, but are not limited to:

- Non-profit agencies
- City or county government agencies
- Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Faith-based organizations (FBOs)
- Institutions of higher education
- Private schools
- Local educational agencies (LEAs), i.e. school districts support school site-level applications

Target Population

- Student groups disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, most in need
- Students with chronic absenteeism/lack of school attendance
- Consider highest priority needs for students from each of the following groups:
 - Students from low-income families
 - Students from each racial or ethnic group
 - Gender
 - English learners
 - Children with disabilities
 - Students experiencing homelessness
 - Children and youth in foster care
 - Migratory students
 - Other students identified by the State

Application Structure

- All applicants, both district and non-district, will be asked to provide the school-site code from which students participating in the program attend
- School site codes are posted on the OSDE website at sde.ok.gov/state-school-directory
- School-site codes will assist the SEA in evaluating applications for
 - Duplication of student populations
 - Coordination of services
 - Applications developed based on local need
- An applicant is not limited to the number of site-level applications it can submit
- Applications will be evaluated and funded at the site-level

Award Types

OSDE will award two types of grants through this initiative

Ignite Award

- Amount: \$50,000 - \$75,000 per year
- Purpose: Demonstration Program

Expand Award

- Amount: \$75,000 - \$150,000 per year
- Purpose: Development Program

Ignite Award

Demonstration Program

- Pilot long-term design solutions to improve out-of-school time offerings
- Support communities in addressing a single gap in service from COVID-19
- Designed for afterschool only, summer only, or year-round

Expand Award

Development Program

- Strengthen, broaden, and/or rebuild a comprehensive long-term design solutions to improve out-of-school time offerings
- Support communities in moving out-of-school time program plans to scale
- Designed for year-round programming

Initiative Guidelines

Application Development

- Released the Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO) to encourage this time for consultation with relevant **community stakeholders** to develop a plan based on unique local needs
- Community stakeholders may include
 - Families
 - Students
 - Community leaders
 - Community-based organizations
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Tribal partners
 - School leaders

School-Community Partnership

- School districts applying should provide evidence of a minimum of one community partnership
- Community-based organizations should provide evidence of partnership with the school site representing the students who will receive services
- Partnership demonstrates substantial role in services
 - Share grant resources
 - Carry out delivery of services
 - Involvement in the management, oversight and evaluation of the program
- Evidence may include MOU, letter of support, meeting minutes or other documented partnerships

Grant Period

Awards may be renewed annually through Summer 2024 based on performance

- Stated program goals and objectives are met
- Participation goals for students targeted for services are met
- Attention is given to timely submission of reports, budgets, claims and evaluation data
- Consistent participation in technical assistance, professional learning and continuous quality improvement opportunities is met

Reimbursable Grant Award

- Grant funds will be reimbursed based on approved documentation of expenditures
- Expenditures must be documented using the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System (OCAS)
- Submitted to the OSDE on a monthly basis through the Grants Management System (GMS)

Allowable Expenditures

- All expenditures must be reasonable and necessary, allowable, and allocable to the program
- Majority of funds should be to provide staffing-related needs such as salaries, benefits and/or contracts
- Reasonable and necessary materials, supplies, curriculum and associated expenses
- **Final budget approval will be negotiated at the time of award**

Non-Allowable Expenditures

- Bonuses or incentives – student and staff
- Entertainment
- Food
- Facilities or vehicles
- Construction, capital Improvements, permanent fixtures
- Religious activities
- Lobbying
- **Final budget approval will be negotiated at the time of award**

Continuous Quality Improvement

- ESSER initiatives funded at the SEA level will include technical assistance, professional learning and evaluation components
- Continuous Quality Improvement Process
 - Assess – Plan – Improve Model
- Awarded applicants will participate in evaluation activities which may include
 - Professional learning
 - Technical assistance coaching
 - Program observation
 - Data collection and planning

Preparing the Application

Application Preparation

- Identify preliminary partners and stakeholders to explore community needs
- Build consensus regarding which entity will serve in the grantee role and which will serve as partner(s) to the work
- Begin to develop an MOU, letter of agreement, or letter of support between partner organizations, considering
 - Data sharing
 - Space agreements
 - Transportation and food service
 - Staffing and advisory functions
 - Shared or in-kind funding and resource supports
- Submit credential request form (non-district applicants)
- Register at sam.gov

Grants Management System

- Applications and all documents related to this competitive grant process will only be accepted through the online Grants Management System (GMS)
- Guidance will be available to support applicants with accessing and navigating the GMS at sde.ok.gov/expanded-learning
- Applicants are encouraged to plan accordingly to complete the application prior to the deadline, as extensions to the deadline will not be available

Application Review

- Applications will be internally reviewed at the Oklahoma State Department of Education
- Evaluation Criteria will be contained in the application, with consideration to
 - Identification of student populations most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Evidence of community partnership
 - Level of program dosage (days/weeks/hours of service)
 - Record of impact, evidence-base
 - Design consideration for quickly building, operationalizing, and then sustaining the program beyond the life of these grant funds

Application Timeline

- Purpose of the NGO and this informational webinar is to give applicants time to prepare for the application
- Official communication regarding the opening and subsequent deadline for submitting applications will be communicated on OSDE Expanded Learning webpage at sde.ok.gov/expanded-learning
- Once the application is open, applicants will be given 30 days to complete the application process

Application Communication and FAQs

- All information, deadlines, guidance and FAQs will be disseminated at the OSDE Expanded Learning webpage at sde.ok.gov/expanded-learning
- Inquiries must be submitted in writing to the grant administrator at Paige.Johnson@sde.ok.gov
- FAQs will be regularly updated during the application process