



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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DATE: December 27, 2018  
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 the education proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery began depositing into this fund on July 1, 2016. Several stakeholder input sessions conducted in the spring and fall of 2016 informed the eligibility criteria, competition timeline and development of policies and procedures for the administration of the Two-Year Opportunity Grant program. Per statute, these grants require 1:1 matching funds. Applicants were required to offer at least 15 student contact hours of expanded learning grant activities in both the fall and spring school terms (summer is optional).

Eligible applicants must be either a school district or community-based organization that intends to collaboratively deliver services in eligible 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs), with at least 40% of students eligible for free or reduced price lunch. Eligible sites must have been in operation at least five years, be in good standing and receiving funding from a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Continuation Grant.

The inaugural competition was conducted in the spring/summer of 2017, and resulted in the award of thirteen grants totalling \$286,121. Proposals were reviewed and scored by external review teams, which made funding recommendations to the State Board of Education. Grant amounts range from \$10,000-\$30,000. The grants have a two-year grant period that concludes August 31, 2019.

After award, all grantees met with the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC data collection regimens. Grantees report on activities at the end of each term.

In year one, these 13 projects provided an expanded learning opportunity club at forty three 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites across the state. The programming provided additional hands-on learning and positive youth development experiences for students. There were 2,043 students served during the 2017-18 school year. Of these students, 84% were eligible for free or reduced lunch, 16% were English learners, 72% were an ethnic minority and 1% were migrant students. A final report will be submitted at the conclusion of the grant period.