



Connecticut
State
Department
of Education



AccelerateCT Summer Program Grants

Informational Webinar

April 28, 2021

Agenda

1. Provide overview of the two AccelerateCT Summer Grant Programs: Expansion Grants and Innovation Grants
1. Discuss RFP details for each grant, including:
 - a. Eligible programs and activities
 - b. Program quality requirements
 - c. Data, monitoring, and implementation
 - d. Selection and notification
 - e. How to apply
 - f. Full details at portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/AccelerateCT/Summer-Enrichment
1. Answer your questions
 - a. Note: Please submit questions during the webinar using the Q&A function. We will do our best to answer them via chat and/or live during the Q&A section of the webinar.

Important notes before we begin

1. All grant applications must be submitted **online**. Please do not send in submissions via email. Applications are due by May 10th, 2021 at 5:00 PM.
1. A recording of this webinar will be available, and will include the link to the landing page containing both grant applications.
1. For any questions not answered during the webinar, including those that arise during the application process, please email SDE.SummerEnrichment@ct.gov.

Overview of two grant programs

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) in March, Connecticut has an unprecedented opportunity to improve learning and support for all students. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has partnered with the six Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs) to fund two grant programs with this federal stimulus, both designed to help Connecticut address unfinished teaching and learning and meet students' social, emotional and mental health needs as we move ahead and begin to advance from the disruption of the past year. **CSDE expects to award up to \$11 million in grant funding for summer program activities organized between June 1, 2021 and September 3, 2021.**

Expansion Grants

- Funding to expand existing programs or create new programs to serve students who would otherwise not have access to summer camp or programs.
- Awards will total up to \$25,000 per site. Applicants may submit up to three separate applications for different sites. A maximum of one grant will be awarded per site/location, with a maximum of three per organization
- The number of grants awarded will depend on the number of applicants, the quality of the proposals, and the amount of funds available. Awards will be made in all six RESC regions.

Innovation Grants

- Funding for organizations that can serve Connecticut children at scale, provide holistic learning opportunities that blend educational and enrichment components, and remove financial and other types of barriers that have typically precluded participation.
- Awards will range from \$50,000-\$250,000 per program site. A maximum of one application per program will be accepted.
- The number of grants funded will depend on the number of applicants and funds available. Applicants are highly encouraged to share sources of additional funding, including in-kind resources such as facilities, as part of their application.

Expansion Grants: Eligible Activities

Age Groups	Programs must serve school-age children who have completed kindergarten and are within the age group of 5-18, with the exception that programs may serve youth with special needs still enrolled in their school district up to their 22nd birthday.
Acceptable Use of Funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serve additional children or youth through existing programming (e.g., hire more staff/lifeguards, rent a larger facility, expand hours/weeks, expand ages served, etc.)• Subsidize enrollment costs for students, particularly those eligible for free or reduced-price school meals• Provide transportation for program participants (up to a maximum of 40% of the total grant award)
Prior Program Experience	Programs may be either expansions of existing programs or new programs that would not otherwise be able to operate without this funding, although additional points will be awarded to applicant organizations that have operated summer or after-school programs for school-age youth in the past three years.
Student Population	Programs should address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care).
Enrichment	Programs must provide enrichment activities designed to encourage “purposeful play,” which could include: sports, music, art, hands-on experiences, mentorship, teamwork, field trips, guest speakers, career/college exploration, cooking, food and nutrition, wellness, physical activity and physical education. Applications should describe what a typical daily/weekly activity schedule would look like. Enrichment activities should make up at least 50 percent of all structured programming

Additional detail regarding eligible activities—including # hours and weeks of operation—included in the RFP materials.

Innovation Grants: Evaluation Criteria

Ages Served	Programs must serve children within the age group of 5-18, with the exception that programs may serve youth with special needs, still enrolled in their school district, up to their 22nd birthday.
Student Population	Programs should address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care)
Scale	These grants are geared towards entities that can implement programs at scale, either regionally or statewide.
Enrichment Component	Programs must provide enjoyable, challenging, and engaging enrichment opportunities through which students can accelerate their learning, which could include STEAM projects, sports, music, art, hands-on experiences, mentorship, teamwork, field trips, guest speakers, career/college exploration, cooking, food and nutrition, wellness, physical activity and physical education. For programs that offer enrichment outside a traditional camp format, applicants must describe what a typical daily/weekly activity schedule would look like. Enrichment activities should make up at least 50 percent of all structured programming.
Record of Impact	Programs must be evidence-based and demonstrate, either through available research, past program data, or by other means, a superior record of improving student outcomes.
Accelerated Ramp-up	Programs must demonstrate an ability to quickly build and operationalize their program through existing partnerships with school districts, colleges, municipalities, and/or other educational and community organizations.
Minimal or No Cost	All programs must be provided to students at no or minimal cost to them and their families.
Time period	Programs should aim to serve students for the majority of the day, and as many weeks as possible throughout the summer. Programs with part-day participation are encouraged to partner with other programs to accommodate the remaining portions of the day.

Eligible applicants (both grant programs)

1. Non-profit orgs. with a current, valid child care center or youth camp license from Office of Early Childhood (OEC)
→ *Note: OEC licensed programs can only request funding for sites with existing licenses with school-age care endorsements. Sites licensed to serve only children ages five and under may not apply.*
2. License-exempt child care center/youth camp operated by a (A) municipal agency; (B) private or independent school; or (C) are organizations that are specifically exempted by name in the statute (Sec. 19a-77).
3. Local education agencies (LEAs) that received less than \$50,000 in Elementary and Secondary Emergency School Relief Fund II (ESSER II) funding.
4. License-exempt non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) for programs serving exclusively youth ages sixteen or older.
5. A partnership led by one of the above eligible organizations, working together with other non-profit organizations, municipal agencies, local and regional boards of education, Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs), charter schools, or magnet schools.

Both Grants: Program Quality Requirements (1 of 2)

- All camp/program staff that supervise children must have participated in a **minimum of two (2) hours of training on supporting student social-emotional learning** at some point between August 15, 2020 the start of their work with children. Free online training opportunities will be made available through the Connecticut After School Network to meet these requirements.
- In addition to safety training (e.g. first aid/CPR/medical certification), **all staff must receive training on safe operations** including COVID-19 social distancing and infection control requirements, CDC and state guidelines
- There shall be a **designated staff person in charge who is eighteen years of age or older on site at all times** the child care program is in operation.
- If any program/camp includes activities at a waterfront or swimming area, whether as a regular part of their location or as a field trip, each separate water location must have an **appointed on-site director who shall be at least twenty years of age and shall possess an American Red Cross Lifeguard Training current rating or its equivalent.**
- Staff acting in a lifeguard capacity shall meet the requirements of **section 19a-113a-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.**
- Staff-to-student ratios when students are in or on the water is **one staff person to six students.**

Both Grants: Program Quality Requirements (2 of 2)

- Staff acting as counselors shall be at least sixteen years of age. Youth acting as counselors-in-training shall be at least fourteen years of age. **Each staff member shall meet the age requirements prescribed in this section** on or before the date such staff member commences employment at the program/camp.
- Programs must maintain a ratio of at least **one staff to ten children under age six, one staff to twelve children under age eleven, and one staff to fifteen children over the age of eleven**. The ratio of staff to children shall be maintained at all times. When there is a mixed age group, the lower required ratio for the age of the youngest child shall prevail. The ratio of staff to campers, as specified in this subsection, shall be maintained at all times, including during all outings and trips except for structured activities offered exclusively for school age children.
- Prior to the start of the program/camp, **administrators shall develop a written emergency management plan** for matters that include, but are not limited to: fire, crisis response, medical incidents, weather related incidents, man-made disasters, natural disasters or acts of terrorism. The plan shall address
 - 1) The evacuation and removal of children to a safe location
 - 2) Lock-down procedures
 - 3) notification and reunification of parents with their children
 - 4) process for notifying emergency personnel,
 - 5) any necessary methods and procedures for the evacuation and relocation of children with special needs, developed in consultation with the parents of such children. All staff shall be trained on the details of the plan and a copy shall be maintained on-site and available to all staff.

Both Grants: Data, Monitoring, and Program Implementation

- Comply with all state and federal statutory and regulatory requirements as detailed further in the program assurances sections, including but not limited to all legal requirements regarding oversight of youth programs and access to minors.
- Engage with other community stakeholders including the school district to ensure the proposed program is enhancing and not duplicating services.
- Participate in any data collection that is required by the state or federal government for the use of this funding.
- Permit visits at any time during the summer program for quality advising and/or monitoring.
- Agree that the organization applying maintains full responsibility for the operation of the program, regardless of any partnership, volunteer, or subcontract arrangements.
- Ensure program accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Additionally, all materials should be made available in accessible formats (e.g., printed, digital and web based information).
- Provide a final report, in such format provided by the CSDE, no later than October 30, 2021.

Both Grants: Selection and notification

- Grant applications will be read and scored using the rubrics found in the Appendix of each RFP document.
- The CSDE will notify applicants via email of the acceptance or rejection of their proposals by May 24. If a proposal is selected for funding, the CSDE will initiate a grant award letter.
- Notes and disclaimers:
 - The CSDE will retain all proposals submitted and such proposals will become part of the public domain.
 - The CSDE reserves the right to award in part, to reject a proposal in its entirety or in part, and to waive technical defects, irregularities or omissions if, in its judgment, the best interest of the state would be served.
 - All awards are subject to availability of federal funds. Grants are not final until award letters are executed.

Appendix A: Scoring Rubric

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	MARGINAL	WEAK	INADEQUATE
	(well-conceived and thoroughly developed)	(clear and complete)	(requires additional clarification)	(lacks sufficient information)	(information not provided)
Questions 1 + 2. NEED FOR PROJECT (15 points max)					
Provides a description of the children/youth to be served and makes a strong case for the specific needs of this community, focused on the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care).	15	10	5	0	0
Question 3. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN (35 points max)					
Program provides at least half of the time spent in variety of enrichment activities programming designed to encourage "purposeful play"	15	10	5	0	0

Both Grants: How to apply

Application Access	Applicants may apply using this link: https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/AccelerateCT/Summer-Enrichment . Please do not submit applications via email!
Deadline	Applications must be submitted no later than May 10, 2021 at 5pm ET.
Questions & Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please send questions regarding the application process to SDE.SummerEnrichment@ct.gov.• Common questions will be addressed in a Frequently Asked Questions document here: https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/AccelerateCT/Summer-Enrichment
Application Template	Detailed instructions found in the “Application Template” section of each grant’s RFP document. Sections include Organization Type, Contact Information, Proposal Narrative, and Budget Narrative.
Other	Programs should respond to students’ academic, social, and emotional needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student subgroups (each major racial and ethnic group, children from low-income families, children with disabilities, English learners, gender, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care).

Reminders and Questions

1. Applications are due by May 10, 2021 at 5pm ET
1. Applications must be submitted online; do not send in applications via email.
1. Applicants will be notified of decision by May 24, 2021
1. Answers to FAQs can be found on the CSDE website; additional questions may be sent to SDE.SummerEnrichment@ct.gov.

What questions do you have for us?