

21st Century Community Learning Centers After-school Programs: Coronavirus Update

ISSUED MARCH 20, 2020

During the ordered school-building closure period, school buildings are closed to students. The goal of this action is to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) to ensure the health and safety of our state and local communities. The governor, however, has directed that schools should work to provide education through alternative means to the extent practicable and based on each district and school's capacity.

21st Century Community Learning Centers program providers can be an important component to continuing to support students. However, it is likely that delivery of program activities will be different during this closure period. When making decisions about program activities involving students, providers should consider the following three questions. These considerations are designed to drive practical approaches that are sensitive to ensuring the health and safety of students, educators and the community:

1. Is the activity essential?
2. Can the activity be done virtually?
3. If there is no other choice, can the activity be done safely? This means individuals are separated by distance, not congregating in close proximity and the health of participants (students, educators and others) is protected.

Consulting the local health department is advisable and encouraged.

The information in this document is intended to help inform the actions of 21st Century Community Learning Centers program providers during this period. Please refer to Ohio Department of Education's [website](#) for up-to-date information. As we are practicing social distancing to flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19, there are ways to be flexible and creative in how we continue to support our students most in need.

WHICH PROGRAM ACTIVITIES CAN CONTINUE DURING THE ORDERED SCHOOL-BUILDING CLOSURE PERIOD?

A variety of activities that are part of 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs can continue. Activities must be in support of program goals and directly related to program effectiveness and student achievement. Allowable activities (permissible uses of funds) include:

- Academic support for students through remote/off-site learning opportunities (tutoring online) utilizing platforms to which students have access.
- Online or other remotely delivered programming for youth may be reasonable and necessary. If virtual programming is not an option, an attempt can be made to provide other activities and physical learning supplements to students.
- In the case where a school-age child care program licensed by the Ohio Department of Education and supported by 21st Century Community Learning Centers program funds continues to operate (at the discretion of school/district administrators), program activities may continue to be provided. In the case where a child care program licensed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and supported by 21st Century Community Learning Centers program funds continues to operate, program activities may continue to be provided. Parents should be encouraged to keep children home if possible. School-age child care programs that continue to operate should be limited in nature and serve only students for whom no other reasonable care alternatives exist. Steps should be taken to follow recommended social distancing as well as aggressive hygiene and disinfecting practices. If you have questions about this, please contact the Office of Early Learning and School Readiness at OELSR.Licensing@education.ohio.gov.
- School collaboration efforts (such as resource building, evidence-based math and reading support, etc.).
- Fiscal Year 2021 21st Century Community Learning Centers Continuation Plan preparation (CCIP deadline extended to May 29).
- Virtual staff meetings (for example, conference calls, Zoom meetings and Skype).
- Student and parent education and social-emotional and well-being support.
- Family education and engagement opportunities (including community supports, such as information about where meals are being provided, how families can support their children during the period of ordered school-building closure, etc.).
- Curriculum work (must be specific to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program).
- Lesson plan development (must be specific to the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program).
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers program data entry and validation.
- Online professional development for staff.
- Systems planning work (for example, summer programs, evaluation, sustainability, safety, budgeting).
- Online programming for youth that may be reasonable and necessary.
- Other expectations and associated job tasks listed in job descriptions that are reasonable and necessary during the closure period.
- Gathering virtual and off-site student materials and information to support families.
- Administrative costs associated with programs (for example, processing project cash requests (PCRs), budget adjustments, payroll and budget operations).

- If the 21st Century Community Learning Center program subgrantee is a sponsor of the Child and Adult Care Food Program, AND the location at which the subgrantee operates the Food Program remains open, the subgrantee may continue to operate the Food Program at the open location. The Department is awaiting meal service guidance from the federal government for Child and Adult Care Food Program sponsors if the location at which the Food Program is normally operated is closed. (Specific information for services in support of federally funded child nutrition programs including a list of schools operating as open sites and offering meals to all students ages 1-18 can be found on the [Ohio Department of Education's website](#).)

CAN PROGRAM STAFF BE COMPENSATED DURING THE ORDERED SCHOOL-BUILDING CLOSURE PERIOD?

Staff may continue to be compensated as normal using 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant funds for work performed consistent with the activities listed above.

WHAT ITEMS SHOULD SUBGRANTEES CONSIDER WHEN IMPLEMENTING ANY OF THE ABOVE ACTIVITIES?

Subgrantees should consider the following:

- Maintaining records of daily hours and general work type during the ordered school-building closure period.
- Tracking lost program time, lower attendance results, lower expenditure patterns and/or other outcome data as part of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program local evaluation.
- Continuing to meet federal supplement, not supplant, requirements.
- Proceeding with program and budget revisions as necessary, including as needed to support the purchase of appropriate online learning tools for purposes of supporting students and families enrolled in 21st Century Community Learning Center programs. A justification is required in the CCIP History Log when revisions are made as a result of the ordered school closures.

The Ohio Department of Education will make reasonable and fair accommodations to expected results within the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program goals due to the ordered school-building closure.

HOW WILL SCHOOL CLOSURES IMPACT THE GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD CURRENTLY UNDERWAY FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR?

The grant application period has been extended from April 24, 2020, at 5 p.m. to May 29, 2020, at 5 p.m. to allow additional time for application submission.

WHO CAN SUBGRANTEES CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ANSWERS TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

School, school district and community organization leaders interested in additional support may contact their consultants directly. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program team is listed below, and we look forward to assisting you.

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CCIP Budget Revisions, Fiscal Inquires

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