



Illinois State Board of Education

Dr. Tony Sanders, State Superintendent of Education
Dr. Steven Isoye, Chair of the Board

100 N. First Street • Springfield, IL 62777 • isbe.net

April 10, 2023

Sent Via Electronic Mail

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

[Redacted] currently receives federal funding as part of the fiscal year 2019 cohort of grantees for the Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program. In anticipation of the FY 2024 school year, this letter is to inform you that [Redacted] five-year grant cycle concludes with FY 2023. Any funding previously available under the Cohort 19 grant opportunity will be concluded on August 31, 2023. We appreciate your ongoing efforts to provide quality afterschool programming throughout your grant cycle.

For the first time, ISBE allowed grantees to carry over the unspent balance from the previous year’s grant into the next fiscal year project. As a result of this approach and inaccurate forecasting as to how the carryover would affect total fund availability in future years, there are no available federal funds for a continuation for the FY 2019 cohort or for a new grant competition.

We recognize the late timing of this communication and ISBE’s error in not appropriately forecasting grant funding. We are committed to providing earlier notice going forward, so that grantees have ample time to plan and prepare for the conclusion of the grant cycle.

We understand that the closing of funding at the end of this grant cycle may present challenges to your organization and, consequently, the communities you serve. As you prepare for the next steps, we stand committed to working with you on your sustainability plans to continue programming as desired. Sustainability plans were included as part of each grantee’s 21st CCLC grant proposal, and staff at ISBE can provide technical assistance, guidance, and support as you revisit those plans. As noted in the grant application, sustainability plans take into account the resources available within the community and explain how grantees plan to maintain and continue the size and scope of funded programs. This plan includes any other sources of funding (e.g., grants received, donations, in-kind services, and fundraising efforts) to continue the program.

Should you have questions, please email us at 21stcclc@isbe.net. We stand ready to assist with any questions or concerns you may have and will offer our partnership in thinking about sustainability of programming outside of funded programming.

Sincerely,

Kim Barnes-Cummins
Director of Wellness
Illinois State Board of Education