

Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Oklahoma Subgrantee 2020-21 Waiver Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) October 12, 2020

1. What does the waiver allow and where can I learn more?

The waiver allows the Oklahoma State Department of Education to approve a 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) subgrantee to provide supplemental activities when school is in session but students are not receiving in-person instruction, such as by permitting a teacher to provide additional academic supports during distant, virtual and blended learning opportunities. Information regarding the U.S. Department of Education waiver request can be found at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=ED-2020-SCC-0141>

2. How long is this flexibility allowed?

The flexibility allowed by this waiver is to address challenges this school year due to the impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The waiver is limited to the 2020-21 school year.

3. What kinds of activities can be provided under this waiver?

The ESEA specifies that the 21st CCLC funds are designed to support students attending high-poverty, low-performing school sites. The three main areas of focus for the funds are to:

- Reinforce and complement the regular academic programs of the schools attended by the students served;
- Target the students' academic needs and align with the instruction students receive during the school day, and;
- Offer families of students served by the center opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education.

Additionally, the law contains a list of allowable activities that should be consulted in the design of the waiver request.

4. What expenditure adjustments would be allowable within the budget narrative of the waiver application?

Title IV, Part B – 21st CCLC funds may be used to support additional staff hours and/or staff that will provide support to students during distant, virtual and blended learning opportunities. The funds may also support additional materials/supplies, contractual services, transportation, and other reasonable and necessary expenses associated with the approved program design. Grantees may be required to demonstrate that other sources of funding are not available to support the proposed expenditures.

5. Who can attend the program offerings?

Programs must continue to serve the select population of high-needs students these grant funds are intended to support. Grant funds may only be used to support a consistent group of students that attend funded school sites.

6. Can funds be used to support services for adult family members of the students enrolled in the program?

Yes, funds can be used to support services for adult family member of the students enrolled in the program. Due to the challenges of this school year, supports for the adult family members of students enrolled in the program will be a critical area of focus. Safe and supportive learning environments are essential to student learning. Technology, nutrition, employment, social emotional learning, and educational supports for families will be needed to ensure student learning can take place.

7. Will grantees be required to continue out-of-school time services outlined in their original application?

Yes, grantees will need to assure that the out-of-school time services outlined in the original grant application will still be provided. The waiver requires an assurance from the state and its subgrantees that the 21st CCLC funds will be used in accordance with all other provisions of Title IV, Part B of the ESEA and all applicable regulations, program plans, and applications.

8. How can my organization apply for this flexibility?

Oklahoma 21st CCLC subgrantees will complete an application for waiver. The application can be found on the OSDE website at www.sde.ok.gov/21cclc. Once completed, the application for waiver will be uploaded into the Grants Management System as an application amendment under the Supporting Documentation Tab. The OSDE will prioritize review and approval of these requests.

9. What is the deadline for application for this waiver?

The flexibility offered by this waiver is designed to provide a continuous plan to support students and families throughout the 2020-21 school year. Although learning methods may shift periodically throughout the year, services should be available consistently once applied. Taking into consideration that this flexibility is only allowable during the 2020-21 school year and in order to assure ample time for application review and approval, we would encourage subgrantees to complete the application by January 31, 2021. Subgrantees interested in applying for the waiver after this date should contact their 21st CCLC grant specialist for consultation.