

**FY 2022 American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief  
(ARP ESSER) Afterschool Program Competitive Award**



**Pre-Proposal Conference and Request for Proposal (RFP) Questions**

<b>Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
<b>General Request for Proposal Questions</b>	
<p>Page 10: Is the 2021 cohort of the Nita M. Lowery 21 st CCLC grantees eligible? The organizations that recently received Notice of Award letters for the 21st CCLC program.</p>	<p>Yes, former recipients of Out-of-School Time programs sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education that have not been debarred or terminated are eligible to apply for the ARP ESSER Afterschool program.</p>
<p>Page 37-41: There is no downloadable version of Exhibit 3 (cover page for the proposal) on the website. Please advise and thank you.</p>	<p>The ARP ESSER Afterschool Application (Exhibit 3) contains editable text boxes that allow information to be added directly on the application.</p>
<p>Will multiple applications from one entity be considered if each application is serving a different population (e.g., elementary vs. secondary)?</p>	<p>A lead agency may submit multiple applications that propose to serve different eligible schools/grade levels.</p>
<b>Section Specific Questions</b>	
<p>Section 1.5, page 8: The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Award provides a 15% advance to recipients to assist with start-up expenses. Will this grant award provide a 15% advance to assist with startup expenses?</p>	<p>The ARP ESSER grant will provide a 15% advance to non-local school systems to assist with start-up expenses.</p>
<p>Section 1.5, page 8: The Periods of Availability are 10/1/21 - 8/30/22; 10/1/22 - 8/31/23; and 10/1/23– 8/31/24. The month of September is not included in any of</p>	<p>The period of availability for the ARP ESSER Afterschool grant will be as follows: Year 1: October 1, 2021, through August 30, 2022.</p>

<p>these three periods of availability. Does this mean that our program will not be funded for September activities? If so, are we expected to have no programming in September?</p>	<p>Year 2: September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023. Year 3: September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024.</p>
<p>Section 1.7, page 9: Does the program have to take place in a school, or could it take place in a community center if it serves students from eligible schools?</p>	<p>A program can take place in a local school building or a community-based location.</p>
<p>Section 2.0.1, page 10: The required minimum dosage of programming is 8 hours each week. Within this timeframe, are their requirements or recommendations for the number of hours spent on academics vs. SEL curriculum?</p>	<p>It is strongly recommended that at least 50% of the 8 hours a week requirement be focused on one or more of the core subject areas (English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science, Technology).</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2, page 55: Regarding, “The afterschool program must include an educational component that aligns with the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards” component of the RFP, does this mean the afterschool program must include all of the standards in its programming specific to age group? For example, for a program that is serving students grades 9 through 12, must the program incorporate all the subjects: ELA, Math, Social Studies, and Reading and Writing Standards for Literacy in Science and Technical Subjects? Or can the afterschool program focus on one subject within the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards?</p>	<p>The ARP ESSER program must be directly aligned with at least one of the core academic subjects within the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards.</p>
<p>Section 3.2.2, page 55: Will the afterschool program need to assess student progress within the Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards?</p>	<p>Yes, the ARP ESSER Afterschool program must show progress in assisting students to meet or exceed state and local student standards in core academic subjects: such as reading and math and offer students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic</p>

	<p>programs. Programs must be developed and implemented in active collaboration with the school that the students attend.</p> <p>Refer to Section 3.3.1 and Exhibit 4 Performance Measures and Indicators for specific guidance regarding the alignment and evaluation expectations of the identified Maryland College and Career Ready Standards.</p>
<p>Section 5.02, page 24: Is there a maximum amount for a subcontract to a partner?</p>	<p>Individual partners can not exceed \$25,000 per year.</p> <p>Utilize the below resources to identify reasonable and allowable expenses aligned with the United States Department of Education (USED) Uniform Grant Guidance, <a href="#">2 C.F.R. Part 200</a>, (2 CFR § 200). The Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (E-CFR) is accessible at: <a href="https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl">https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl</a>. Utilize <a href="#">The Maryland Financial Reporting Manual</a> as an additional resource when categorizing allowable expenses. Utilize the <a href="#">Bureau of Labor and Statistics National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates</a> database to identify reasonable and allowable wages.</p>
<p>Section 5.0.6 page 27: Are student stipends allowable—not incentives but cost associated with employment for program (e.g. students conducting peer mentoring while in program or wages for internships part of program)?</p>	<p>Student stipends are not an allowable expense for the ARP ESSER Afterschool funds.</p>