

Request for Tydings Waiver for Title IV Part B Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Program

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is requesting a Tydings waiver for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2022 of the Title IV, Part B Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) grant program, which is a program authorized under section 4201 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). If the waiver is approved, FFY 2022 funding for the grant program will be extended through September 30, 2025. Maryland is requesting the waiver considering the unexpected adjustments in the educational environment from face-to-face to virtual and hybrid instruction that 21st CCLC grantees experienced as a result of COVID19 pandemic-related school closures. The shift in the out-of-school time programming and the instructional environment led to a reduction in planned budget expenditures. Approval of the waiver to extend the grant period for FFY 2022 funds would allow MSDE to expand the number of 21st CCLC programs operating in Maryland. MSDE implemented a three-year grant competition in Maryland that began programming in July 2023. An additional 21st CCLC three-year program was implemented in July 2024. The two grant competitions will operate simultaneously to: (1) increase the number of students served through the grant program; and (2) create new 21st CCLC programs for students. Maryland will continue to support community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities for children who attend high poverty and low-performing schools, to meet the State and local student academic standards in core academic subjects.

If the waiver request is granted, MSDE will ensure that the fidelity of the 21st CCLC funded programs continues and that the targeted students meet success in achieving the established goals. MSDE will monitor and support programs from start to finish to ensure successful implementation.

As required under ESSA section 8401(b)(3)(A), prior to submitting a waiver request for any program authorized under ESSA, the State must provide the public with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment and provide input on a proposed waiver request. This communication serves as notice of MSDE's intent to submit a Tydings waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for FFY 2022 of the 21st CCLC grant program, and as an

invitation to the public to provide feedback on the proposed waiver request. Please submit your comments by **September 23, 2024**, via email to doss.msde@maryland.gov. Copies of all public comments received will be included as part of the waiver request submission to USDE.

If you have any questions, comments, or input regarding the proposed waiver request, please contact Mary L. Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support and Federal Programs, by email at mary.gable@maryland.gov or by telephone at 410-767-0472.