

**Questions Answered During January 15, 2010, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Pre-Proposal Workshop.**

**1. Please explain the last bullet on page 37- Student Incentives**

**Answer:** We do not pay our students to come to our programs. Funds for 21<sup>st</sup> Century programs are to be used primarily for services that are provided directly to the students. We are not looking for programs that are putting large amounts of money in administrative costs and salaries. This is a program for our students. You can't give kids money, but you can do things within your program to reward students. These things should not exclude the \$25 amount. There are increased federal accountability guidelines that we (PDE) are subject to, and we don't want our programs to be deemed as doing something inappropriate. You can't use 21<sup>st</sup> Century funds to provide services that are already being provided. You can't use 21<sup>st</sup> Century funds to provide training if a training of same caliber and content is being offered free of charge.

**2. Could you elaborate on the guidelines for services to prekindergarten/kindergarten students?**

**Answer:** Guidelines from the non-regulatory guidance document from the federal government are very specific. You can provide services to kindergarten students at your afterschool site. However, services to three and four year olds are limited to the six month period prior to their enrollment in kindergarten. The key to this is having knowledge of your district and when they accept children into kindergarten. The district must also have an established kindergarten program for four and five years old. You can't establish a new program. This information is detailed in section G-3 of the Non-Regulatory Guidance document.

**3. Explain the guidelines for requesting funds beyond the \$1200 threshold per student.**

**Answer:** Submit an explanation with your grant budget document of why you are asking for more than the predefined amount. I have given a few examples. These include: transportation costs, higher rates of special need students, or higher than average rates of poverty in the community. Currently, we have programs that serve only special needs students. We expect these programs to incur increased costs. **We will not go above the \$500,000 ceiling. This is the maximum.**

**4. Where do community colleges fall in terms of their eligibility?**

**Answer:** They are considered institutions of higher education and they must submit the additional documentation required of these organizations.

**5. Does use of stimulus funding qualify as taking advantage of tutoring funds or federal and/or state program funding, question 8 under "Program Design" in the e-Grants application.**

**Answer:** Stimulus money could possibly be considered. You would have to describe the funds that you are utilizing. Obviously, the stimulus funding is federal. It is also allocated through the states as well. So, stimulus funding could be identified in the answer to question 8. It is very important for all applicants to remember that you can't

supplant other money with 21<sup>st</sup> Century money. If you are running a program with other money, you should create something new with 21<sup>st</sup> Century funds. You must target a different age or population from what you are currently serving. 21<sup>st</sup> Century funds must be used to provide academic enrichment if you are partnering with other funding streams to provide your program.

**6. Should charter schools offer services to private schools in the area?**

**Answer:** Yes, you need to provide equitable services to private school students. You need to talk with private schools in your area. You should get them onboard. There is no guarantee that these students will come, but they should be made aware of the services. You always want to extend services out into the community. This is a community learning center. If someone in the community or a private school does not want to partner with you, this does not preclude you from applying.

**7. In terms of meeting AYP, should charter schools reference the home district?**

**Answer:** Yes, you should reference the district in which your charter was established.

**8. Please elaborate on the "Branding Requirements".**

**Answer:** This refers to the Stevens Amendment, a federal Law that dictates that programs who are receiving, in this case 21<sup>st</sup> Century funding, need to give credit at programs or on materials that they are providing to the public that the program is supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. It is always important to acknowledge your funding source. Also, if you are going to a workshop or providing a presentation, you need to make PDE aware of that intent prior to submitting the proposal and receive approval.

**9. In year one, do we have to serve the same number of students that we propose to serve in each of subsequent years?**

**Answer:** Not necessarily. It is a shorter time period. When you are doing the grant budget formula worksheet, you are going to put the number of proposed students to be served on the form, do all the calculations and then cut that calculation in half. We do anticipate that after the first year there will be the possibility of the carry-over of funds, but we are not promising anything. You are calculating Year 1 funding requests at 50% of what is derived using the form. As your program gains support in your community, you may find that your numbers increase in additional program years. We have many programs that have waiting lists.

**10. Is the \$500,000 max per year, or is it for the entire grant term?**

**Answer:** It is per year.

**11. Is the \$1200 max per student, per year, per session or per hour?**

**Answer:** It is per student per year.

**12. Will we be able to count students twice? Can we count students once during the summer and once during the school year?**

**Answer:** No, not theoretically, but on the grant budget worksheet there is a way for you to differentiate between the numbers of students served in the summer and the regular school year. When you define these numbers in the worksheet, it will automatically perform your calculation.

**13. If a CBO is partnering with an LEA is it necessary to submit separate applications?**

**Answer:** No, the only reason you would submit a second application is if you would like to apply to provide services to middle and/or high school populations and receive secondary funding priority points. If you propose to also serve elementary students, or an additional population such as elementary or Pre-K you will need a second application.

**14. Is it possible to get letters of agreement from individual schools instead of the school district?**

**Answer:** No, letters of agreement must be from the school district. The letter of agreement must reach PDE offices by February 8, 2010.

**15. Can the budget forms that need to be printed out and sent into PDE separately be obtained on PDE's website or the e-grant system?**

**Answer:** The forms are on both the PDE and e-grant websites.

**16. When calculating the projected number of students, do we use the 30 day criteria?**

**Answer:** We are requiring 4 days a week, 3 hours a day. That is the criteria that you should use for your target population. The 30 days is what is required for reporting regularly attending students in PPICS.

**17. Can we still apply if we are going to be unable to get a program up and running during the 3 month period between March 1, 2010 and June 2010?**

**Answer:** If you are applying you need to be ready to get the program up and running from the moment that you get your acceptance letter. If you get awarded and do not get a program up and running then you will be required to return funds. (or won't receive them as this is a reimbursement grant)

**18. If you submit separate elementary and middle/high school applications, will the \$500,000 maximum be considered by grantee or by application?**

**Answer:** By application.