Learning Acceleration Support Opportunities (LASO) 2023-2024

Additional Days School Year- Summer Learning Accelerator

Program Guidelines

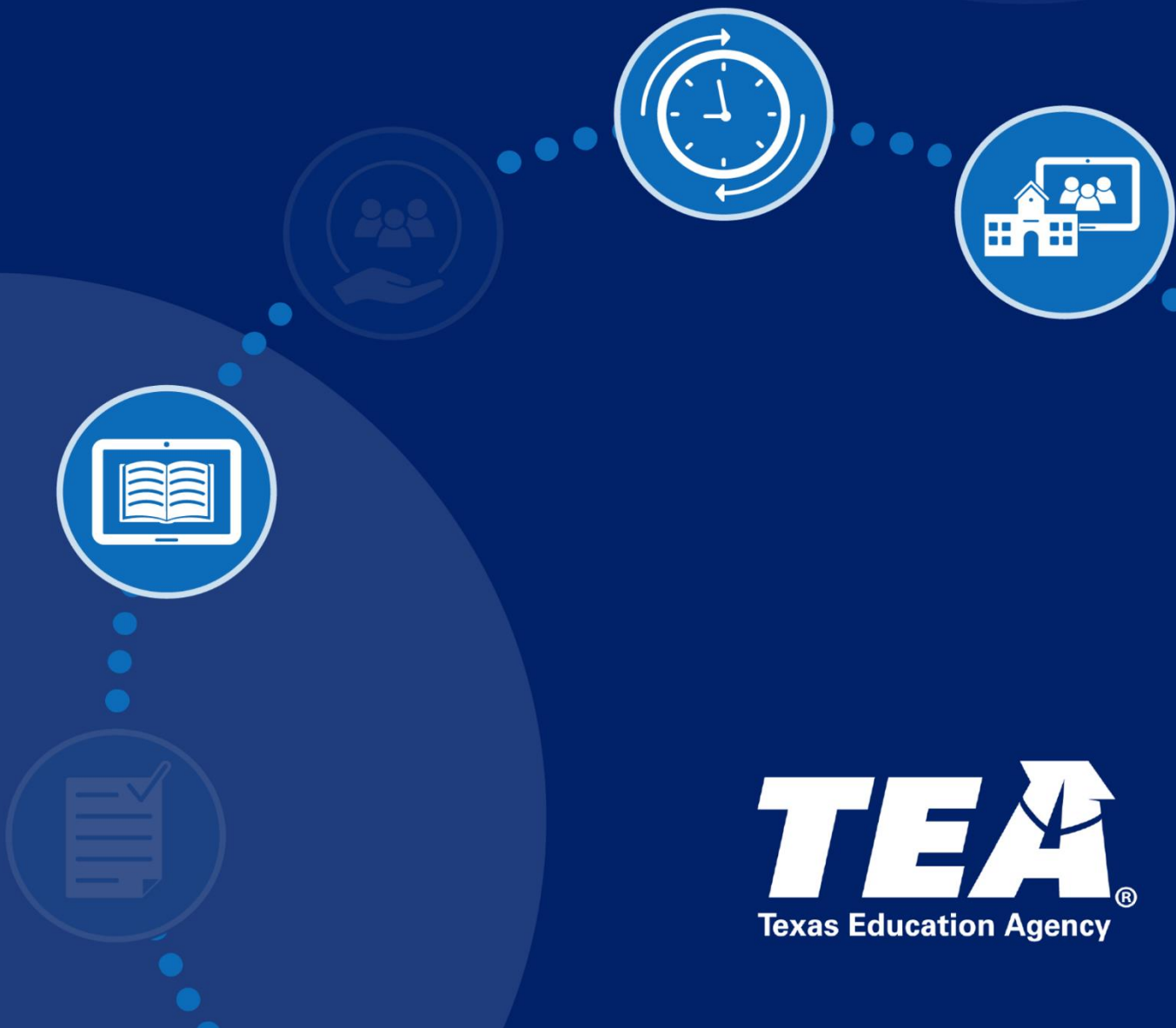Updated January 29, 2024

TEA
Texas Education Agency

Table of Contents

Grant Program Guidelines

Grant Name as it will appear on the TEA Grant Opportunities Page	Additional Days School Year – Summer Learning Accelerator
Application Due Date	5:00 p.m. Central Time, December 07, 2023
Program Authority	American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund

Introduction

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), as the pass-through entity[1], is the grantee[2] from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) and TEA awards subgrants to non-federal entities[3] such as local educational agencies (LEAs), including school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and education service centers, and to a lesser degree institutions of higher education (IHEs), and nonprofit organizations (NPOs) who are the agency's subgrantees[4]. These guidelines apply to all subgrantees of TEA, regardless of whether referenced herein as subgrantee or grantee. For purposes of this document, TEA may use the terms grantee and subgrantee synonymously for its subrecipients.

This document MUST be used in conjunction with the General and Fiscal Guidelines and the specific program instructions. The Standard Application consists of all forms to be completed in order for the applicant to be eligible for funding.

For applicants selected for funding, all guidelines and instructions will be incorporated by reference into the Notice of Grant Award (NOGA).

Reference to the General and Fiscal Guidelines

The Program Guidelines provide information specifically relevant to this grant program. The General and Fiscal Guidelines provide information relevant to all TEA grant programs. Throughout the Guidelines, cross-references are given to applicable sections of the General and Fiscal Guidelines. **It is critical that you review all referenced sections of the** General and Fiscal Guidelines **when preparing your application.**

---

[1] Pass-through entity is defined as a non-Federal entity that provides a subaward to a subrecipient to carry out part of a federal program. (2 CFR 200.74)
[2] Grantee is defined as the legal entity to which a grant is awarded and that is accountable to the federal government for the use of the funds provided. The term "grantee" does not include any secondary recipients, such as subgrantees and contractors that may receive funds from a grantee. (34 CFR 77)
[3] Non-federal entity is defined as a state, local government, Indian tribe, institution of higher education, or nonprofit organization that carries out a federal award as a recipient or subrecipient. (2 CFR 200.69)
[4] Subgrantee is defined by TEA to be the same as a subrecipient which is defined as a non-federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a federal program; but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such program. (2 CFR 200.93) Subgrantee is defined in 34 CFR 77 as the legal entity to which a subgrant is awarded and that is accountable to the grantee for the use of the funds provided.

Overview of the Process

The following steps provide a high-level overview of the process for responding to a grant opportunity, including submitting an application, and being selected for funding:

1. TEA publishes grant application and supporting documents on the TEA Grant Opportunities webpage.
2. Eligible applicants submit grant application via Qualtrics to TEA by the specified deadline on the TEA Grant Opportunities webpage.
3. Grant applications are reviewed and scored. Note: Applicants may be required to attend an oral interview or respond to additional questions regarding their application.
4. TEA announces applicants selected for funding on the TEA Grants Awarded Data webpage.
5. ***Awarded applicants, will be required to submit an eGrants application for funding.***
6. TEA staff conducts budget negotiations on the eGrants application.
7. The Notice of Grant Award (NOGA) will be issued upon successful completion of the negotiation process.

U.S. Department of Education and/or State Appropriations

The following is provided in compliance with the U.S. Department of Education Appropriations Act:

CATEGORY	AMOUNT
Total funds available for this project	$9,000,000
Percentage to be financed with federal funds	100%
Amount of federal funds	$9,000,000
Percentage to be financed from nonfederal sources	0%
Amount of nonfederal funds	$0

Applicant Assistance

The following types of assistance are available to applicants for this grant program.

Contact for Clarifying Information

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *TEA Contacts*.
The following TEA staff member should be contacted with questions:

Program manager name	Ruchamah Belizor
Program manager title	Summer Learning Project Manager
Program manager email	Ruchamah.Belizor@tea.texas.gov
Program manager phone	(512) 936-6066
Program manager name	Brian Doran
Program manager title	Expanded Learning Models
Program manager email	Brian.Doran@tea.texas.gov

Program manager phone   (512) 936-6066

Errata Notices

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Errata Notices*.

DATE	EVENT
October 18, 2023; 1:00-2:00 p.m. October 19, 2023; 9:00-10:00 a.m.	General Webinar schedule Webinar registration link can be found on the LASO website
October 23, 2023	Grant application available
October 31, 2023; 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. November 2, 2023; 3:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.	Program Specific Webinar schedule Webinar registration link can be found on the LASO website
November 10, 2023	FAQ deadline
November 17, 2023	FAQ Publishing The FAQs for this grant program will be posted to the TEA Grant Opportunities and LASO website site no later than the date listed on the Grant Timeline. Applicants may email their questions to the LASO central inbox at LASO@tea.texas.gov
December 7, 2023	Due date for the application. The application must be received by the TEA by 5:00 p.m. Central Time. LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on October 23, 2023. Please see the LASO website for more information. See *General and Fiscal Guidelines*, ***Application Due Date and Time***
January 2, 2024-January 25, 2024	Application review period, including interviews if necessary. See *General and Fiscal Guidelines*, ***Review Process***
February 8, 2024	Anticipated award announcement
March 1, 2024	Beginning date of grant (if selected for funding) See *General and Fiscal Guidelines*, ***Grant Period***
July 2, 2024	Final date to submit an amendment (if selected for funding)
September 30, 2024	Ending date of grant (if selected for funding) See *General and Fiscal Guidelines*,

Grant Period

For all dates related to the grant, including reporting dates, see the TEA Grant Opportunities page. If a due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the date will be on the following business day. All dates except the grant ending date may vary slightly as conditions require.

Grant at a Glance

This section provides fundamental information pertinent to the grant program.

Authorizing Legislation

This grant is authorized by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund.

Where to Submit the Grant Application

LASO individual application links will be emailed to Superintendents on October 23, 2023. Please see the LASO website for more information.

Purpose of Program

High-quality, evidence-based summer learning programs help to prevent summer slide, i.e., learning loss created by the lack of student engagement in rigorous content between academic school years. Prekindergarten through 5th grade campuses who meet Additional Days School Year (ADSY) eligibility requirements in the 2023-2024 school year are eligible for this grant. This grant program guides LEAs through a 3-month accelerated support planning process to design a summer learning program aligned with research-based best practices in academics, operations, and enrichment activities. Following the 3-month planning period, implementation of the summer learning program will occur in the summer of 2024. Participation in this grant program is not required to access ADSY funding itself, but rather is intended to strengthen ADSY summer program implementation through evidence-based planning and implementation practices.

Eligible Applicants

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Eligibility To Apply*
Any Local Education Agency (LEA) intending to utilize ADSY funding for a summer program that includes at least one grade level from PK-5 may apply. ADSY eligibility requirements, such as a 180-day instructional calendar, must be met during the execution year (2023-2024).

Note: First priority will be LEAs who have not participated in ADSY PEP Cycles 1-3. If funding allows, ADSY PEP Cycles 1-3 who meet eligibility requirements will be awarded based on the same priority and ranking listed under Grant Review and Funding Criteria in the Program Guidelines.

Education Service Centers (ESCs) are not eligible to apply.

Shared Services Arrangement

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, Shared Services Arrangements.

Shared services arrangements (SSAs) are not allowed for this grant program.

Application Attachments

This section describes the required attachments that must be included with the application.

Required Attachments

See the following section of the General and Fiscal Guidelines: *Required Program-Related Attachments*

There will be no program-related attachments for this program.

Application Requirements and Assurances

This section describes the types of requirements that applicants must assure adherence to in order to be eligible to be considered for funding:

- Statutory requirements (requirements defined in the authorizing statute)
- TEA program requirements (requirements defined by TEA program staff)

Statutory Requirements

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Statutory Requirements*.

Per TEC §22.0834, any person offered employment by any entity that contracts with TEA or receives grant funds administered by TEA (i.e., a grantee or subgrantee) is subject to the fingerprinting requirement. TEA is prohibited from awarding grant funds to any entity, including nonprofit organizations, that fails to comply with this requirement. For details, refer to the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Fingerprinting Requirement*.
Does not apply to this grant.

TEA Program Requirements

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Program Requirements.*

In addition to the statutory requirements, TEA has established the following program requirements. Applicants must address within the application how they will achieve the following:
LEA agrees to meet the *General and Fiscal Guidelines* .

- LEA agrees to meet grant specific eligibility requirements to apply.
- LEA commits to Statutory Requirements, TEA Program Requirements and ADSY Summer Learning Accelerator Program-Specific Assurances.
- LEA currently operates a board-approved, ADSY-eligible calendar meeting the instructional day requirements (currently 180-day base calendar with 75,600 operational minutes).

In addition to the Statutory requirements, General and Fiscal Guidelines, and all program-specific assurances, LEAs must address within the application their status with the requirements below:

- LEA operated a board-approved ADSY eligible calendar meeting the instructional day requirements (currently 180-day base calendar with 75,600 operational minutes) during the 2022-2023 school year.
- LEA currently operates a board approved, ADSY eligible calendar meeting the instructional day requirements (currently 180-day base calendar with 75,600 operational minutes) during the 2023-2024 school year.
- LEA indicates plans to operate a board approved, ADSY eligible calendar meeting the instructional day requirements (currently 180-day base calendar with 75,600 operational minutes) during the 2024-2025 school year.
- LEA must agree to plan for and implement an evidence-based summer program in the summer of 2024, which includes a 20+ day summer with at least 6 hours each day.
- LEA indicates willingness to share OER-aligned enrichment for potential future OER-use. (Note: this does not impact grant prioritization)
- LEA indicates use of TEA Available Materials at the proposed ADSY eligible campuses.
- LEAs that indicate interest in applying for the School Action Fund Full Year Redesign action through LASO will receive priority for the ADSY Summer Learning Accelerator grant.
- As a key input for funding calculations- LEAs must indicate the number of ADSY eligible students the LEA anticipates serving in the ADSY Summer Learning Accelerator program. Awarded grantees will be expected to run a summer program with the indicated number of students.
- As a key input for funding calculations- LEAs must indicate the number of days the LEA anticipates running the ADSY Summer Learning Accelerator program. Awarded grantees will be expected to run a summer program for the indicated number of days.
- LEA must indicate the number of ADSY eligible campuses that will participate in the ADSY Summer Learning Accelerator program.
- LEA must indicate the ADSY eligible campus name(s) that will participate in the ADSY Summer Learning Accelerator program.

Program-Specific Assurances

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Provisions and Assurances*.
LEAs will be required to meet the following eligibility requirements for accessing Additional Days School Year funding during the 2023-2024 school year (TEC Sections 48.0051 and 25.085(j)).

1. Summer programs must serve at least one grade level within grades PreK-5.
2. Campus academic calendar(s) will have at least 180 instructional days, not including staff development waivers.
3. Campus academic calendar(s) will have at least 75,600 operational minutes.

4. Campuses will host ADSY days on separate days from regular instructional calendar days.
5. Student attendance for summer programming must be non-compulsory.

In addition to the ADSY eligibility requirements, TEA has established the following program assurances:

6. Summer programs must include at least 20 days (with a goal of 25 days), including a minimum of 360 operational minutes (6 hours) per day, of which, 180 minutes (3 hours) should be dedicated to math and reading instruction. The additional three hours should be dedicated to enrichment activities such as arts, science exploration, and sports.

The applicant must comply with each of these assurances in the application to be considered for funding:

7. Create a comprehensive, cross-departmental Strategic Plan utilizing the planning resources and templates provided in the grant program and submit the Strategic Plan on time before the start of the Summer 2024 program (anticipated submission in May 2024).
8. Identify a project manager who has appropriate autonomy and direction to manage the 3-month planning process and a cross-departmental steering committee, which includes a representative from the finance team, to facilitate strong planning.
9. Add 20 to 30 additional half days of instruction (ADSY days) to the 180 instructional days in a campus's academic calendar.
10. Have teachers who meets the LEA's certification requirements deliver at least three hours of academic instruction specific to math and reading on dedicated ADSY days.
11. Utilize high quality instructional materials (HQIM) during summer programming. TEA defines high quality instructional materials as those that: 1) are aligned to research-based instructional strategies in the content; 2) support all students in accessing grade-level content; 3) include embedded assessments/progress monitoring aligned to the materials; and 4) include implementation supports that are educative for teachers. Any materials included on TEA's Available Materials page are treated as HQIM.
12. Grantees agree to conduct an ADSY Summer Learning Accelerator approved pre- and post-summer assessment and agree to share program effectiveness data with TEA, including student outcomes and projected and final student attendance during summer program.

Program Elements

This section provides detailed information about the grant.

Description of Program

High-quality, evidence-based summer learning programs help to prevent summer slide, i.e., learning loss created by the lack of student engagement in rigorous content between academic school years. Prekindergarten through 5th grade campuses who meet Additional Days School Year (ADSY) eligibility requirements in the 2023-2024 school year are eligible for this grant.

This grant program guides LEAs through a 3-month accelerated support planning process to design a summer learning program aligned with research-based best practices in academics, operations, and enrichment activities. Following the 3-month planning period, implementation of the summer learning program will occur in the summer of 2024. Participation in this grant program is not required to access

ADSY funding itself, but rather is intended to strengthen ADSY summer program implementation through evidence-based planning and implementation practices.

Awardees will receive access to a suite of research-based planning tools to guide their work.

Any LEA, whether participating in ADSY Summer Learning Accelerator or not, can utilize Additional Days School Year funding for eligible campuses

Supplement, Not Supplant

For supplement, not supplant guidance, see the Supplement, Not Supplant Handbook on the Grants Administration Division's Administering a Grant page.

The supplement not supplant provision
- ☐Applies
- ☒Does not apply

The following sections designated by an asterisk (*) are not required and may be skipped by entering a NA if not applicable.

*Qualifications and Experience

The applicant agrees to provide data on the qualifications and experience of the existing or future staff members, as required per the program guidelines as follows:

LEAs must select a project manager who is able to navigate across departments in the LEA to facilitate strong planning processes.

*Performance and Evaluation Measures

The applicant agrees to collect data and report on the following mandatory performance and evaluation measures:
- Grantee agrees to submit summer program strategic plan prior to start of Summer 2024 program.
- Grantees agree to conduct an ADSY Summer Learning Acceleration approved pre- and post-summer assessment and agree to share program effectiveness data with TEA, including student outcomes and projected and final student attendance during summer program.

Limits on Contracted Evaluators

Applicants should make every effort to ensure that contracted evaluators be independent and objective.

Application Funding

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines: *Continuation Funding, Fund Management, and Use of Funds*

It is anticipated that approximately 25 grants will be awarded ranging in amounts from $25,000 to $400,000.

Selection of Applicants for Funding

Applicants will be selected in:

- ☒ Rank order
- ☐ Click or tap here to enter text.

Cost Share or Matching Requirement

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Cost Share/Match Requirement*.
TEA requires a:

- ☐ X% cost share/match
- ☒ There is no cost share or matching requirement.

Limitation of Administrative Funds

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Administrative Costs*.

Direct Administrative Costs

- ☐ TEA/The authorizing statute limits the amount of direct administrative costs to no more than X% of the total award.
- ☒ TEA does not permit direct administrative costs.

Indirect Costs

For Federal Grants Only

- ☐ If supplement, not supplant applies | The grantee may claim a maximum for indirect costs equal to its current approved restricted indirect cost rate for this federally funded grant.
- ☒ If supplement, not supplant does not apply | The grantee may claim a maximum for indirect costs equal to its current approved unrestricted indirect cost rate for this federally funded grant.

To calculate the maximum indirect costs that can be claimed for a grant, complete the Maximum Indirect Costs Worksheet, posted on the Administering a Grant page, under the Handbooks and Other Guidance section.

Pre-Award Costs

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Pre-Award Costs*.

Pre-award costs:

- ☐ are permitted
- ☒ are not permitted

Activities and Use of Funds

See the Administering a Grant page for general guidance on allowable activities and use of funds.

Allowable activities and use of funds may include but are not limited to the following:

General Allowable Activities and Use of Funds

Any expenses required to plan for and implement an ADSY Summer Learning Accelerator program for the summer of 2024. This might include operational expenses, payroll for summer program staff and technical assistance through approved vendors

General Unallowable Activities and Use of Funds

In general, refer to the Budgeting Cost Guidance Handbook on the Administering a Grant page for unallowable costs.

- Field Trips
- Advisory Council
- Cost of Membership in Any Civic or Community Organization
- Hosting or Sponsoring of Conferences
- Out-of-State Travel
- Non-employee cost of conferences
- Stipends for non-employees
- Travel for students to conferences
- Travel costs for officials such as the executive director, superintendent, or board members

In addition, unallowable activities and use of funds for this grant may include but are not limited to the following:

- ☒ Debt service (lease-purchase)
- ☐ Audit services for state-funded grants
- ☐ Click or tap here to enter text.

Federal Grant Requirements

Equitable Access and Participation

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Equitable Access and Participation*.

This requirement
- ☐ does apply to this federally funded program.
- ☒ does not apply to this federally funded program.

Private Nonprofit School Participation

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Private Nonprofit School Participation*.

This requirement
- ☐ does apply to this federally funded program.
- ☒ does not apply to this federally funded program.

Maintenance of Effort

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Maintenance of Effort*.

This requirement
- ☐ does apply to this federally funded program.
- ☒ does not apply to this federally funded program.

Scoring And Review

This section provides information on the scoring and review of grant applications.

Grant Review and Funding Criteria

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Review Criteria*.

Eligible Applicants:
All LEAs with Pk-5 campuses operating a 180-day calendar in the 2023-2024 school year.

Award Prioritization:
Priority will be given to LEAs that apply to and receive ADSY FY through SAF. Eligible applicants will then be prioritized based on the following criteria:

> **Tier 1:** LEAs who are currently operating an ADSY-eligible calendar in the 2023-2024 school year **and** who agree to assurance that proposed campuses will operate an ADSY-eligible calendar in the **2024-2025** school year (currently 180-days)

Tier 2: All other LEAs who are currently operating an ADSY-eligible calendar in the 2023-2024 school year (currently 180-days)

Within tiers, applicants will then be sorted by highest percentage of economically disadvantaged students to determine prioritization.

In the case of a tie with two districts falling in the same tier with the same economically disadvantaged numbers, it can be determined to break the tie by awarding the LEAs with the highest needs, as indicated from 2021-2022 STAAR scores.

Note: First priority will be LEAs who have not participated in ADSY PEP Cycles 1-3. If funding allows, ADSY PEP Cycles 1-3 who meet eligibility requirements will be awarded based on the same priority and ranking above.

Funding Criteria:
Planning Grantees will be funded using the following formula:

$25 x ADSY eligible participating students x Summer 2024 program days (minimum of 20 and up to 30 days)

There is a maximum award of $400,000 per grantee.

For LEAs that opt-in to participating in ADSY FYR through School Action Fund, the following funding criteria will be applied:

$35 x ADSY eligible participating students x Summer 2024 program days (minimum of 20 and up to 30 days)

There is a maximum award of $500,000 per grantee.

Updated January 29, 2024
After allocating available funds using the above formulas, awards may be increased proportionally to allocate any remaining funding (if any). All additional funds are subject to availability and necessary adjustments.

Oral Interviews for Funding

See the General and Fiscal Guidelines, *Oral Interviews for Funding*.
Does not apply to this grant program.