



**Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community  
Learning Centers, Cycle 13, Year 1  
Informational Webinar  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

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Note: Questions that cannot be answered before the release of the application have been recorded for response after the application opens.

## Program Alignment & Eligibility

1. Is this Texas ACE program complementary to the School Action Fund ACE model?

No, Texas Afterschool Centers on Education (Texas ACE) is funded by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning and is separate from the Accelerating Campus Excellence (ACE) model within the School Action Fund.

2. Can current Cycle 11 or Cycle 12 Texas ACE grantees apply? What are the eligibility requirements for this grant?

The entity and campus eligibility requirements can be found in the Cycle 13 Informational Webinar PDF. Eligible Entities that are current Cycle 11 or Cycle 12 grantees may apply for Cycle 13. However, campuses currently served by the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, Cycle 12 are ineligible. More details will be available in the Program Guidelines when the application is opened.

3. Is a childcare provider with a large OST program (licensed through DFPS) considered a Community-Based Organization (CBO) for eligibility purposes?

Yes, if the childcare provider is a non-profit organization. Non-profit status must be confirmed at the time of application. Private organizations are also eligible to apply.

4. Are after-school programs operated off-site eligible for this grant? If so, can transportation costs be included in the proposed budget?

Yes, if the off-site location is safe and is as accessible as the school campuses or campuses it is serving. School system leadership and campus principals must express agreement to operating at an off-site location in the letter of support attachment. Transportation costs are allowable, and off-site locations require the provision of transportation.

5. Would Texas ACE be an appropriate fit for a school district transitioning to a 4-day instructional week? Specifically, could the grant support programming for the non-instructional day under “non-school hours”?

Schools operating a 4-day instructional week are qualified to apply. However, they are required to operate 5 days per week during afterschool hours.

Programming that occurs on non-instructional days must meet all compliance and quality requirements. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC cannot be used to fund an additional traditional school day or as a drop-in childcare program on non-school days.

6. Will the age ranges or grade levels served by this program change particularly in light of the increasing number of Pre-K enrollments in LEAs?

Texas ACE programs may serve PK-12 grade students, however PK only campuses are not eligible. More details will be available in the Program Guidelines when the application is opened.

7. Does each site need to serve grades K-12, or can programs focus on specific grade bands (e.g., elementary only)?

The applicant decides which grade levels to serve based on the needs of the campus community or communities. The determination must be justified as part of the needs assessment completed when applying.

8. If approved as a qualified site, would the organization be required to be open even on school holidays?

No, however all centers will need to be open for the minimum number of days that will be outlined in the Program Guidelines.

9. If an approved site, would a nonprofit be required to serve individuals with disabilities? And if so, to what degree?

All students must be provided equal access to the program and eligible entities must comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations including, but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act

(ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). If awarded, the nonprofit must collaborate with the partnering school system and parents or guardians to determine and implement appropriate accommodations and supports that are in the best interest of each student with a disability.

10. If an approved site, would a nonprofit be required to serve suspended/expelled students from the local school districts?

All students must be given equal access to the program. If awarded, the nonprofit must work with the partnering school system to determine local program policies.

## Program Purpose & Funding

1. Is evaluation an allowable or required activity under this funding opportunity?

Yes, it is allowable if the evaluation is not duplicative of evaluation services provided by the state. We are aware that there are entities that seek to provide grant writing services in exchange for paid evaluation services if the program is awarded – this is not allowable.

2. Is the current federal funding climate expected to affect this grant's funding levels or required timelines?

At this time, the federal allocation anticipated to fund Cycle 13 is unknown. If the funding is delayed, it will impact the timeline for issuing awards. If the funding is not received, TEA will not be able to fund Cycle 13.

3. Will you be discussing the point system or scoring process for this grant competition?

The scoring process will be included in the Program Guidelines when the application is released.

4. What is the expected turnaround time for reviewing and awarding applications after the RFP is announced?

Information about timelines will be released when the application opens.

5. Will the names of awarded grantees (“winners”) be publicly posted?

Yes. You can find a list of previously awarded 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant at [Grants Awarded Data | Texas Education Agency](#).

6. Would a community-based organization (CBO) or private entity apply directly to TEA or to their local Education Service Center (ESC)? If we are required to apply directly to TEA, would our organization be in competition with our ESC?

CBOs, private entities, and ESCs are all eligible entities to apply directly to TEA. All applications are scored using the same process and rubric. Note that if TEA receives two applications with the same eligible campuses, both applications will be disqualified.

7. We understand that general program income is not allowed and there will be no tuition chargers. However, if donations are made to our organization outside of the grant, would that funding have to be reported and deducted from the amount awarded?

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC/Texas ACE programs are not allowed to generate income or charge fees to participants. However, it is not required to report on income generated by activities outside of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC/Texas ACE program.

8. 7. If our organization is currently involved with partnerships regarding food, would those partnerships have to be dissolved?

No. 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC/Texas ACE programs are encouraged to form partnerships and use a variety of resources to provide high-quality experience for participants.

## Application Process & eGrants System

1. Will the application be available only in eGrants, or will a PDF version also be posted on TEA's Grant Opportunities page?

The application will only be available in eGrants.

2. If an organization is new to TEA but already has an eGrants account, do they still need to complete all the initial setup steps described in the webinar?

If an applicant already has a TEA eGrants account, then they are not new to TEA and do not need to follow the setup steps described in the webinar.

3. Will potential Project Directors need their own eGrants access, or will access only be required for the authorized district representative submitting the application?

eGrants access is granted at the discretion of the authorized official. Please refer to the eGrants roles and privileges shown in the webinar when making eGrants access decisions for your organization.

4. If a district already has TEAL and eGrants access, how can they add new users so that each person has their own TEAL account and appropriate grant access?

The new user will need to apply for a new user account on the TEAL log in page and then eGrants access once the new TEAL account is approved.

5. Will eGrants replace the TX21st system for grant management and reporting?

No, TX21st within TEAL will continue to be the attendance and outcomes reporting system for awarded grantees.

6. Is the act of certifying and submitting the grant application two separate steps within eGrants?

This is a single action in eGrants. Once the application is complete, the Grantee Official clicks on the "Certify & Submit" icon above the blue bar on the Table of Contents page to submit the application to TEA.

7. If a district previously participated in Texas ACE but that leadership team has changed, how can the new staff determine if accounts (eGrants or TX21st) are already set up?

A new staff person can check for eGrants access via their TEAL account. If they have an eGrants account, it will be listed as an available application in TEAL.

TX21st is the attendance and outcomes reporting system for current Texas ACE grantees. Grantees that need support with TX21st should reach out to their assigned Team ACE performance coach or the Texas ACE Help Desk.

## Timeline & Future Communications

1. When will the Request for Application (RFA) or grant opportunity be released?

We anticipate releasing the application this fall and will be announced broadly, including through a TEA To the Administrator Addressed letter ([posted here](#)) and through the [Texas Partnership for Out-of-School Time \(TXPOST\)](#) upon release.

2. When can applicants expect to receive more detailed information about the application opening and submission window?

This information will be provided on the [TEA Grant Opportunities page](#) when the application is released.