

ESSA Plan Amendment

Dear Assistant Secretary:

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) requests approval to amend the State’s approved ESSA plan. The relevant information on the proposed amendments is outlined in the table below.

Plan Element(s) Affected by the Amendment	Brief Description of Element as Originally Approved	Brief Description of Requested Amendment	Rationale	Process for Consulting with Stakeholders, Summary of Comments, and Changes Made as a Result
6.2.E.ii. - Title IV, Part B: 21 st Century Community Learning Centers	Requires Title IV, Part B competitive funding process to adhere to Louisiana procurement law.	Title IV, Part B competitive funding process will be conducted as a Request for Application (RFA).	The revision will increase the rate at which the agency can allocate 21st Century Community Learning Centers funds to eligible recipients.	The agency consulted with the State Office of Procurement, which was amenable to the proposed revision.

Attached to this letter is a redlined version of the pages from our approved ESSA plan that would be impacted with strikeouts and additions to demonstrate how the request would change with approval of the proposed amendment[s]. Please contact Kenya Jenkins Kenya.Jenkins@la.gov or by phone at 225-342-3468 if you have any questions regarding these proposed amendments.

The LDE acknowledges that the U.S. Department of Education may request supplementary information to inform consideration of this request.

Chief State School Officer

Date

E. Title IV, Part B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

- i. Describe how the SEA will use its Title IV, Part B, and other Federal funds to support State-level strategies that are consistent with the strategies identified in 6.1.A above.

The LDE utilizes Title IV, Part B funds to support sub-recipients in the creation of 21st century community learning centers that:

- Provide opportunities for academic enrichment to particularly students who attend high poverty and low-performing schools, to meet the challenging state academic standards;
- Offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities; and
- Offer families of students served by community learning centers opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education.

Title IV, Part B funds are used to:

- Establish and implement a rigorous peer review process for subgrant applications;
- Award funds to eligible entities;
- Monitor and evaluate programs and activities;
- Support capacity building, training, and technical assistance;
- Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of programs and activities;
- Provide training and technical assistance to eligible entities that are applicants for or recipients of awards;
- Ensure that any eligible entity that receives an award from the state aligns the activities provided by the program with the challenging state academic standards;
- Ensure that any such eligible entity identifies and partners with external organizations, if available, in the community; and
- Work with teachers, principals, parents, the local workforce, the local community, and other stakeholders to review and improve state policies and practices to support the implementation of effective programs.

Louisiana currently has 38 sub-recipients that serve approximately 15,000 students. In addition to providing academic support in the areas of math, literacy and science that are aligned to the state academic standards, 21st Century Community Learning Centers programs also provide high quality afterschool programming in areas such as STEM, youth development, art, music, dance, theatre, entrepreneurial education, video/media services, service learning, and character education. The majority of Louisiana's sub-recipients serve all students, including English learners and children with disabilities.

- ii. Describe the SEA's processes, procedures, and priorities used to award subgrants consistent with the strategies identified above in 6.1.A. above and to the extent permitted under applicable law and regulations.

Competitive Process Background

Louisiana awards Title IV, Part B (21st Century Community Learning Center) funds to eligible entities through a competitive grant process. Eligible entities include local educational agencies, community-based organizations, faith based organizations, other public or private entities, or a consortium of such agencies. The competitive process will be conducted as a Request for Application (RFA). Proposers will submit applications, and those applications will be read, reviewed, and score by external reviewers. The awards from this competitive grant process will result in a grant allocation that will be fiscally administered through the agency electronic grants management system (eGMS). ~~must adhere to Louisiana procurement law which considers 21st CCLC programs as social services that must be contracted. In Louisiana, social services are defined as "work by a person, firm, corporation, governmental body or governmental entity in furtherance of the general welfare of the citizens of Louisiana." As a result of the state definition, projects can only receive up to three years of funding.~~ Louisiana's 21st CCLC program will have a minimum grant award of \$50,000 as stated in Section 4204(d)(h) and a maximum award of ~~\$1,200,000~~ ~~\$800,000~~.