21st Century Community Learning Centers

WHAT ARE 21st CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS (CCLCs)

21st CCLCs are the only large scale federal funding stream for expanded learning programs offered before and afterschool and during the summer. These programs provide students with meaningful and engaging opportunities that are different from, but aligned to the school day. They keep children and youth safe, inspire them to learn, and help parents keep their jobs.

A growing body of research shows these programs make a difference in supporting student academic and life success. Students in expanded learning programs attend school more often, do better in school, gain skills, and are more likely to graduate. In addition, these programs provide students with an opportunity to work collaboratively with adults and their peers in an environment that is welcoming and fits their needs.¹

21st CCLC programs also play a critical role in engaging communities and leveraging additional funding to support youth services. The federal dollars are supported by additional investments in expanded learning programs from cities, states, businesses, museums, libraries, and local private partners. Between 2006 and 2010, partner organizations contributed more than $1 billion to support 21st CCLC programs. There is a growing body of evidence that proves that afterschool and summer learning programs are effective.

THE GOALS OF THE 21st CCLCs INCLUDE:

- To establish community learning centers that support students in high-poverty, low-performing schools to meet academic achievement standards.
- To offer a broad array of additional services designed to complement the regular academic program.
- To offer families of students the opportunities for educational development.
- To offer high-quality expanded learning opportunities that lead to positive outcomes for participants.

FY2017 BUDGET REQUEST: SUSTAIN FUNDING FOR 21st CCLCs

As part of the FY2017 final spending bill, include the House LHHS funding level of $1.167 billion for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. At this level, which is equal to FY2016 spending, providers of expanded learning opportunities will be able to sustain quality programming for 1.6 million children nationwide and 15,000 children and youth in Washington.

An evaluation of Washington’s 21st CCLC programs found significant, positive program impacts on grades, school day attendance, and behavior among students attending the program for 60 days or more. Additionally, the research found that a majority of students who completed the Youth Motivation, Engagement, and Beliefs Survey reported a “positive, engaging, and supportive experience when attending programming.”

Our state findings align to longitudinal research conducted at the national level of expanded learning programs which found that high-quality offerings show positive effects not only on academics, but also on behavior, school attendance, and on student self-confidence and engagement in school.

Currently, Washington State receives approximately $16.5 million dollars annually to support community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children and youth who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. 21st CCLC programs serve over 15,000 students and more than 5,000 adults per year in urban, suburban, and rural areas across Washington state.¹

Many school districts, including Highline, Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, and Yakima, have intensive partnerships with expanded learning providers and have included high-quality expanded learning as a strategy to close the opportunity gap.

21ST CCLCs IN WASHINGTON WORK

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