



Frequently Asked Questions
21st Century Virtual Spring Symposium 2020

Questions	Responses from NYSED
<p><u>Summer</u></p> <p>What is NYSED guidance/ expectations around summer programming if school buildings remain closed for the summer?</p> <p>At this point as far as 21st Century grant recipient summer plans go, is virtual summer camp programming the only allowable form of program we can offer our students?</p> <p>If we address our program objectives, can 21st Century Summer Camp and After School Programming be considered “Child Care” from the standpoint of the Governor’s phased re-opening plans? Or is it more an education program which comes under Phase 4 of the governor’s Plan</p>	<p>Virtual programming is allowed, as are all of the activities that were mentioned in Guidance #1. Child care, summer camp (if not overnight) and programs for students with special needs are permitted to provide in-person programming but schools are not allowed to provide regular in-person summer school. While we initially struggled to determine how 21st CCLC programs fit into this guidance, we now feel comfortable with the following interpretation of those edicts. Current SACC registered programs, either not operating on school grounds or have permission by the district to operate on school grounds, you will be permitted to have in-person summer programming if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you provide programming that supports your original goals and objectives, including serving the same target population. <p>And</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you follow the stringent requirements for child care programs and summer day camp programs that has recently been released by the Office of Children and Family Services and the Department of Health.
<p><u>Attendance Targets and Impact</u></p> <p>If we are allowed to hold summer sessions, but with social distancing, will there be an allowable adjustment to our attendance targets?</p> <p>If we have to do virtual summer programming, how will this impact attendance? Many students are not consistently attending regular school virtually; this may be an issue in an elective program?</p> <p>If we are allowed to hold summer sessions, but with social distancing, will we be permitted to add additional sites to accommodate smaller class sizes?</p>	<p>We hear your concerns - and if we need to seek another waiver for adjusted participation targets next year we will do so.</p>
<p><u>Waiver</u></p> <p>Do sub-grantees pick which choice for the target population guidance from NYSED. Can this be clearly stated NYSED?</p>	<p>Sub-grantees pick whichever is to their best advantage, either 95% of target participating for 15 hours or 45% of target participating for 30 hours.</p>

<p><u>Funding</u></p> <p>Can we continue with our temporary plans submitted to SED that include funding of some positions including those for partnerships/providers?</p>	<p>Yes. Generally, a subgrantee may continue to charge the compensation (including but not necessarily limited to salaries, wages, and fringe benefits) of its employees who are paid by a currently active grant funded by the Department to that grant, consistent with the organization's policies and procedures for paying compensation from all funding sources, Federal and non-Federal, under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances, such as a public health emergency like COVID-19.[1] Thus, if the organization pays, consistent with its policies and procedures, similarly situated employees whose compensation is paid with non-Federal funds during an extended closure, those paid with grant funds from the Department may also continue to be paid.[2] However, an employee who is being paid with Department grant funds while the program grant activities are closed in whole or in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic may not also be paid for the time during which the program is closed by the organization or another organization for working on other activities that are not closed down. Recipients should consider ways that employees paid with grant funds can support continuing activities, including distance learning opportunities for students served by the grant.</p>
<p><u>Unspent Funds</u></p> <p>Will there be carryover of unused funds or extension of the grant beyond the expiration date?</p>	<p>Yes, we are happy to share that carryover funding will be allowed. We will provide more information about this in the coming days. This decision was made based on the survey results requesting information from all of you about whether you were able to spend all of your funds this year with the reduction in services that many of you experienced. The survey indicated that about a third of you said that you would be spending all of your funds and two thirds would have unspent funds.</p>
<p><u>Enrollment</u></p> <p>Can we start to enroll students now for our summer programs because parents and students are asking about this?</p>	<p>Yes, you may start to enroll students now for summer programming. this is regarding 2020-2021 new money.</p>
<p><u>Enrollment Forms</u></p> <p>If we are still providing virtual programming in the Fall, can we create a shortened online enrollment form with electronic signatures for parents?</p>	<p>Yes, if you are still providing virtual programming, whether this summer or in the fall, you may create a shortened online enrollment form with electronic signatures for parents.</p>

<p><u>Fall Programming</u></p> <p>How much flexibility will SED allow in program modifications for the Fall 2020, in terms of program schedule? We are anticipating that if our schools open, it will be in some staggered schedule with half days, or some grades going virtual, and some grades in-person education, etc. The needs of parents and families will be significantly different if their children attend for half days or alternate days, etc. We project that we may need to complement the students' school schedule to help provide a full day of balanced education.</p>	<p>There will be significant flexibility to try to make all of this work for students and their families. Right now, we can only speculate what school reopening will look like.</p>
<p><u>Lack of Access</u></p> <p>Programs need support and alternatives to continue providing programming. Rural areas have internet constraints even with hot spots because of lack of towers.</p>	<p>I would like programs in rural areas that are experiencing this issue to come together and share ideas for how to still provide meaningful experiences for students.</p>
<p><u>Evaluation</u></p> <p>What will be expected regarding Evaluators completing their contracts. Are "virtual" site visits acceptable?</p>	<p>MI distributed some "suggestions" (explicitly not formal "guidelines") about this for this spring. This included a <i>recommendation</i> that they conduct virtual site visits (both for activity observation as well as advisory meetings and the like) if in person isn't possible. As far as going forward this fall, we will have to wait and see how "open" things are next fall, but if they are limited, we can probably use similar strategies. I would say let's wait and see. It may be that things are relatively back to normal in late fall, If not, we will revisit this.</p>
<p><u>ELT</u></p> <p>Many schools no longer have traditional hours of 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. Some teachers are ending instruction as early as noon, and CBOs are starting virtual enrichment. For grants or sites that don't have approval to do ELT, can we consider this after-school if the virtual school day is ending earlier? Do we have to wait until 3:00 PM to start remote enrichment even if the regular instruction is ending so early?</p>	<p>The simple answer is no, you don't have to wait. The actual guidance that was provided states "While schools are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a sub-grantee could offer programs that supplement the local education agency's continuity of education plan, as long as the 21st CCLC programming is offered outside of the schedules outlined in the local continuity of education plan(s).</p>
<p><u>Budget</u></p> <p>Can NYSED provide an update on the status of payments for FS-25s?</p>	<p>The Division of the Budget issued Budget Bulletin B-1223 on April 28, 2020. The subject was FY 2021 Spending Controls. The Bulletin placed a hold on all grant payments at the time. During the first week of June, funds were released to pay claims that were in the queue. It appears that the state will pay claims periodically in this manner for the time being. Subgrantees are still encouraged to submit their FS-25's on an ongoing basis. They will be placed in a queue and paid as funds are released.</p>

