



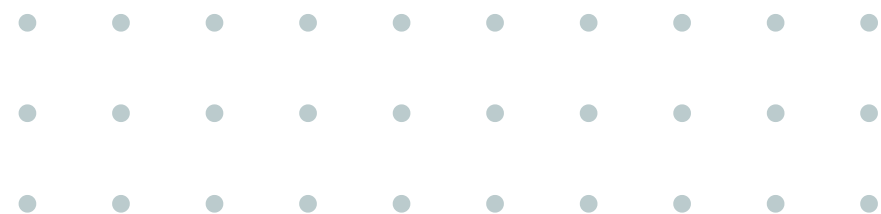
# CATALYST FUNDING

*2025-26 Funding  
Opportunity*



# IMPORTANT DATES

- Applications open **Friday, June 20**
- Applications due **Friday, August 15**
- Notification of selections by **Friday, August 29**
- Funding will run **October 1, 2025** through **August 31, 2026** (11-month funding timespan)



# DESCRIPTION OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- Catalyst Funding 2025-26
- One-time funding of up to \$30,000 for established K-12 afterschool and summer programs in Nebraska
- Looking to support established programs in greater Nebraska working to provide high-quality, locally sustainable learning experiences
- Funding will be provided to support program efforts in one or more of four goal areas

# ELIGIBILITY

Applicant **MUST** be:

- Elementary, middle, and/or high school afterschool, before school, and/or summer program in Nebraska
- School-based or community organization-based
- Outside of the Lincoln and Omaha metro areas
- Established program working to provide high-quality, locally sustainable learning experiences

Funding levels will be responsive to a program's needs, strengths, and capacity for innovation



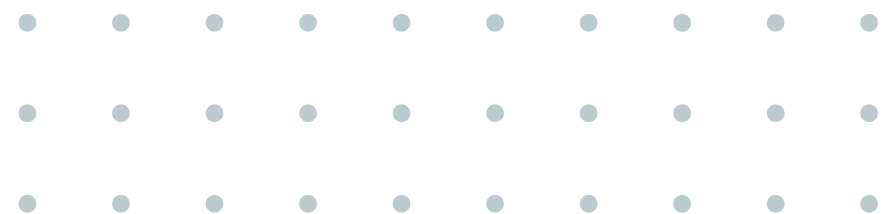
# GOAL AREAS

*Catalyst Funding  
2025-26*



# GOAL 1: PROGRAM QUALITY

Facilitate continuous improvement processes to support high quality Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) that engage relevant stakeholders.





# GOAL 1: PROGRAM QUALITY

Examples of allowable expenses include:

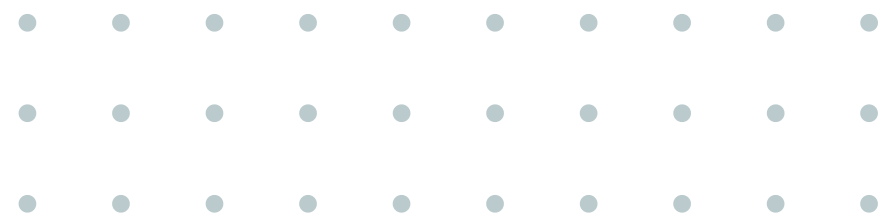
- Costs (wages, supplies, meals, travel, etc.) associated with:
  - Staff meetings, coaching, and trainings
  - Attending conferences
  - Youth advisory groups
  - Family engagement events
  - Community advisory teams
  - Connecting with neighboring programs around best practices in afterschool
- Director planning time
- Resources for aligning with quality frameworks





## GOAL 2: SUSTAINABILITY

Increase and enhance efforts that promote local sustainability of partner Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs).





## GOAL 2: SUSTAINABILITY

Examples of allowable expenses include:

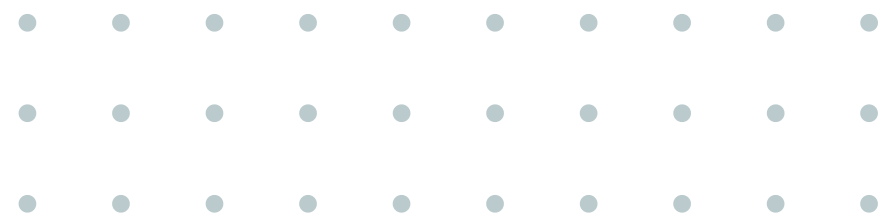
- Costs (wages, supplies, meals, travel, etc.) associated with:
  - Engaging district leaders, school admin, and teachers
  - Local partnership development and advisory groups
  - Development of a sustainability plan
  - Marketing and media campaigns
- Wages and trainings for high school and college-aged staff





## GOAL 3: LOCAL ADVOCACY AND POLICY

Enhance practices that build local stakeholder knowledge of ELO impact and contribute to supportive policy structures.





## GOAL 3: LOCAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Examples of allowable expenses include:

- Costs (wages, supplies, meals, travel, etc.) associated with:
  - Development of annual advocacy plan
  - Staff education and PD around advocacy efforts
  - Media campaigns to reach state legislators, including site visits and communications outreach





## GOAL 3: LOCAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Required of ALL funded  
programs:

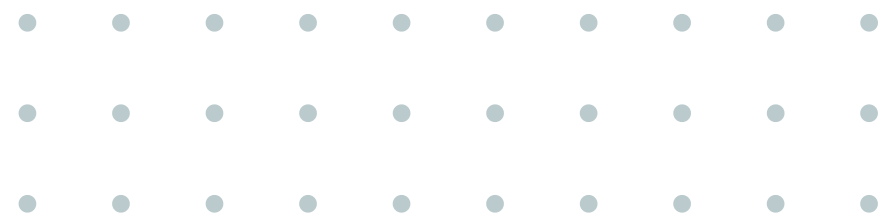
- Lights On Afterschool  
event(s)
- Attending advocacy day  
in Lincoln hosted by BSB





## GOAL 4: INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

Facilitate and enhance use of high-quality programming that reflects youth interests and builds life skills.





## GOAL 4: INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

Examples of allowable expenses include:

- Costs (wages, supplies, meals, travel, etc.) associated with:
  - Conducting a Youth Brainstorming Session
  - Facilitating and implementing club/activity ideas from a Youth Brainstorming Session
  - Family engagement events connected to programming
  - Planning and implementation of innovative clubs/activities
  - Field trips related to what students are learning in clubs/activities





## GOAL 4: INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING

Preference in this goal area will be given to programming that aligns with BSB priority areas:

- Workforce development/career pathways
- Environmental education (gardening, hydroponics)
- Service-learning and youth leadership
- STEM family engagement
- Literacy

Additional ongoing funding may be available to support these priority programming areas

- Contact Alison O'Toole  
([aotoole@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:aotoole@nebraskachildren.org)) if interested





# FUNDING SPECIFICS

*Catalyst Funding  
2025-26*



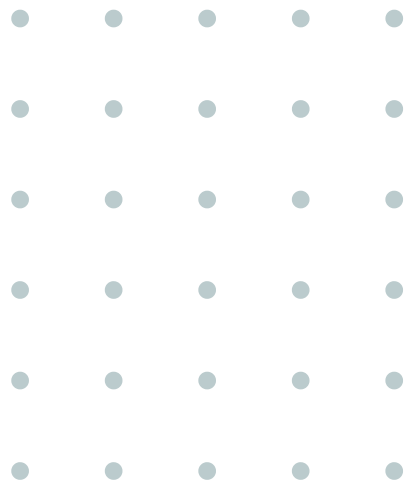


# BSB WILL PROVIDE:

- Up to \$30,000 in funding
- Relationship-centered, goal focused coaching and technical assistance (TA)
  - Coaching plans will be co-created with each program receiving funding based on their unique goals and needs.
- Access to regular professional development opportunities and quality resources to learn about best practices
- Resources to support long-term sustainability and alignment with statewide goals including workforce development, literacy, and attendance
  - We will continue to develop and deliver relevant resources in an ever-changing Afterschool environment

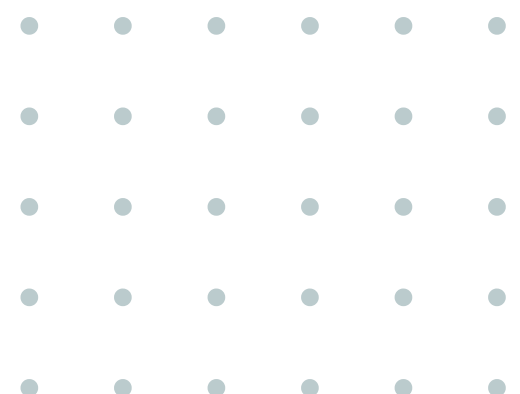
# REQUIREMENTS OF THOSE RECEIVING FUNDING:

- Attend virtual quarterly network meetings
- Agree to timely and clear communication with BSB team
- Host a Lights on Afterschool event
- Attend Advocacy Day in Lincoln hosted by BSB (spring 2026)
- 5-month and 11-month expenditure reports submitted via WebGrants
- 5-month and 11-month progress reports submitted via Qualtrics
- Depending on the goal area applied for, additional requirements may be included, such as: additional one-on-one coaching, development of a PD, sustainability, and/or advocacy plan, youth brainstorming session, etc.



# APPLICATIONS

- Successful applications will be **well thought out** and **strongly aligned** with one or more of the goal areas (Quality, Sustainability, Policy, and Programming)
- We recommend collaboration with several members of your team (admin, directors, coordinators, parent councils, and other community stakeholders) to ensure 1) buy-in and alignment to your district/organization's goals and 2) capacity to execute plans
- If applying for the full \$30,000, we recommend applying for two or three goal areas
- Applications will be available on our website June 20<sup>th</sup> at <https://beyondschoolbells.org/projects/>



# WRAP-UP

## Reminder of dates:

- Apps open **June 20** | Apps due **August 15**
- Notifications **August 29**
- Funding will run **Oct 1, 2025** through **Aug 31, 2026**

## Application will be posted to our website here:

- <https://beyondschoolbells.org/projects/>

**If you have questions, please reach out to any BSB team member!**

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