



Catalyst Funding Opportunity 2025-25

Allowable Activities

Goal 1 Quality: Facilitate continuous improvement processes to support high quality Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) that engage relevant stakeholders.

Quality Frameworks

- Time and resources for aligning program goals with statewide NAQCIS (Nebraska Afterschool Quality and Continuous Improvement System) quality framework and/or Whole Child Whole Life practices

Professional Development

- Meals for PD meetings
- Approved travel (coaching/PD opportunities, site visits)
- Approved PD course fees or contracted services
- Staff wages for engaged coaching hours
- Director wage/stipend for PD planning outside of regular hours worked

Youth Voice

- Resources for Youth Advisory Groups (meals, supplies, outreach)
- Meals and supplies for Youth Brainstorming Sessions

Family Engagement

- Events and meals
- Parent/Caregiver Advisory Group resources
- Resources for parent/caregiver led clubs or other programming (supplies, stipends, outreach)
- Resources for parent/caregiver feedback surveys, meetings, and/or focus groups

Community Engagement

- Community Advisory Teams (member appreciation, meals, activity supplies)
- Resources for participating Community Collaborative meetings (travel, resources to host meetings at program site, etc.)

Networking and Knowledge Cultivation

- Resources for developing partnerships and convening with other afterschool programs for knowledge cultivation around best practices for youth development

Goal 2 Sustainability: Increase and enhance efforts that promote local sustainability of partner ELOs.

Relationship Development

- Resources for engaging district leaders, school administrators, and teachers (meals and/or meeting supplies, outreach materials, compensation for planning time outside of normal work hours, etc.)
- Time allocated for development of a sustainability plan with district leadership

Partnership building

- Partnership development meeting resources (outreach to new partners, supplies, meals)
- Resources for innovative approaches to develop local support
- Program Management or Advisory team resources (outreach, meals and supplies for meetings, surveys, reports on activities, etc.)

Youth Staff

- Wages for youth staff (onboarding, wages)
- Resources for youth staff PD (access to PD materials, travel, meals)

Sustainability PD for Staff

- Resources for building portfolio of materials/resources around sustainability strategies
- Resources for development of local sustainability plans (funds for time, materials, in kind BSB coaching/TA)

Marketing

- Resources for regular marketing practices and targeted campaigns (media costs: one-pagers, news stories, videos, photos etc.)

Goal 3 Local Advocacy and Policy: Enhance practices that build local stakeholder knowledge of ELO impact and contribute to supportive policy structures.

Advocacy Capacity Development

- Resources for staff education and PD around advocacy efforts (familiarization with national and state resources and materials, attending BSB trainings or 1:1 coaching sessions)
- Development of annual program advocacy plan

Advocacy Activities

- Required: Lights On Afterschool events
- Required: Travel costs to attend advocacy day in Lincoln hosted by BSB

- Resources for media campaigns to reach state legislators, including legislator site visits and communications outreach

Goal 4 Innovative Programming: Facilitate and enhance use of high-quality programming that reflects youth interests and builds life skills.

Innovative Programming

May be clubs, programming strands, or camps

- Supplies and/or staff time for site-driven innovative programming based on locally relevant topics
- Supplies and/or staff time for youth driven innovative programming (Youth Advisory Group suggestions or Youth Brainstorming activity findings)
- Resources for co-Learning with families (family nights during beginning, middle, or end of programming sessions for families to engage in learning and meals together)

STEM Family Engagement

- Meals for STEM FE focused staff PD meetings
- Resources for engaging youth in family event planning
- Event supplies and meals
- Take Home STEM Backpack sets

Priority Programming Areas

BSB has chosen to invest in these priority program areas because each topic lends itself to quality programming standards, promotes student learning and engagement, and aligns with current national and state level educational and funding interests.

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
- Environmental and Conservation Action Program (E-CAP)
- Workforce Development and Career Exploration
- Service Learning and Youth Leadership
- Literacy

Field Trips

(prioritizes purpose driven field trips that enhance programming and youth development goals)

- Field trip resources (travel, admissions, planning and outreach, etc.)