



Beyond School Bells, Nebraska’s statewide afterschool network, is excited to announce our 2021 Summer of Innovation grant program for Nebraska school-based and linked summer programs. We know that many school districts will be offering services designed to “accelerate and renew” learning this summer and we want to complement these efforts with expanded learning opportunities providing youth with exciting, engaging and inspiring experiences. These *Summer of Innovation* grants, which will be part of the Nebraska ELO Innovation Network that Beyond School Bells facilitates, will provide summer programs with resources to supplement core learning with learning components that reflect youth interests and build skills helping youth thrive in these challenging times.

There are three categories of grants available, as outlined below. In an effort to spread this grant funding across the state, Beyond School Bells will only be administering one grant per community / school district. Grant awards will be up to \$15,000.

Applications are due by April 1, 2021. Programs will be notified if their applications have been approved by April 9, 2021.

- (1) ***Environment / Conservation Programming*** – programming that allows youth to engage in outdoor, hands-on, COVID safer activities.
 - Gardening (*Sample proposal and budget—Attachment A*)
 - Outdoor Classrooms (*Sample proposal and budget—Attachment B*)
 - Community-generated ideas for environmental activities (this could include programming partnerships with local organizations)

- (2) ***Youth Driven Programming*** – engage youth to identify engaging, inspiring programming that they want to do this summer (*Sample proposal and budget—Attachment C*)

- (3) ***Service-Learning / Civic Engagement programming*** – get young people involved in identifying, addressing and documenting an issue that they want to help solve in their community (*Sample proposal and budget—Attachment D*)

Grant applicants should incorporate the following in their programming proposal:

- Align your ELO program with your school district’s goals for summer experiences, that complement but not duplicate these experiences
- Include a letter of support from superintendent or principal

- Engage youth in community-based learning – bringing community expertise in and/or getting youth out in the community
- Programming should include, where possible,
 - STEM, including Tech and other tool-rich experiences
 - connections to future learning / careers

Ideas for a successful application:

- Utilize the BSB Toolkit, specifically accessing resources in our “Centers of Excellence” for guidance / advice / strategies regarding your summer programming proposal and implementation <https://bsbtoolkit.com/improving/centers-excellence/>
- Utilize BSB Curriculum to facilitate programming and in your communications with potential partners <https://beyondschoolbells.org/curriculum/>
- Use a blended learning approach:
 - HS Students as in person facilitators (BSB grant dollars can support this)
 - College students as on-line content experts (BSB grant dollars can support this)

If you have any questions or need assistance developing your programming ideas, please contact Dakota Staggs (email below).

Applications are due by 5:00 PM CST on April 1, 2021. Completed applications include:

- (1) Grant Application**
- (2) Proposed Budget included in application**
- (3) Letter of Support from School Superintendent or Principal.**

Email completed application to Dakota Staggs at dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org.