



2024 Leverage Grants

Beyond School Bells (BSB), a program of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCF) and Nebraska’s Statewide afterschool and summer learning network, is committed to expanding and enhancing high-quality, locally sustainable, school-based and community-powered K-12 afterschool and summer or what we call Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) programs. In pursuit of this goal, BSB is excited to announce a new grant program to support afterschool and summer programming across the state, the **BSB Leverage Grants**.

The **BSB Leverage Grants** for Greater Nebraska Afterschool and Summer programs will be administered by Beyond School Bells for the 2024/25 school year and the summer of 2025.- The primary goal of this grant is to *help sustain new rural school-based ELO programs. Priority will be given to programs that were established in the last five years as well as programs serving high need communities*, including schools with high concentrations of students residing in low-income households or facing other educational challenges.

The BSB Leverage grant program will provide a select group of ELO programs with one-year grants that begin at \$7,500 and are up to \$50,000, with the possibility for additional years of funding in future years if funding is available. This grant requires local 1:1 matching funds*. BSB will be offering this grant support to cover staffing, programming costs, parent/family engagement, supplies and sustainability work (outreach, marketing). The BSB Leverage grant will give grantees the ability to design the composition of their grant based on their local needs and capacity. The application must identify the number of young people that will be served as well as demonstrate specific youth and parent engagement efforts that will be implemented as part of the grant.

The BSB Leverage Grant application will require ELO programs and/or school districts to apply within one of three tiers. The three tiers below are intended to provide structure while being flexible to accommodate individual site goals, capacity, and needs:

Tier 1	Afterschool Club/Summer Camp Model This tier is designed for school districts or community-based programs that intend to offer afterschool and/or summer programming at a smaller scale. -Due to lower capacity, after school programming may consist of 2-3 clubs that meet once or twice per week. Additionally, summer programming may be offered in lower doses of hours or shorter lengths of time than typical programs. -This tier is for school districts seeking to start a program or for those school districts who are seeking to maintain lower doses of programming.
Tier 2	Comprehensive Afterschool and Summer Model. This tier is designed to help ELO programs that were started with ESSER Collaborative ELO funds, as well as other new and existing ELO programs in rural communities not supported by federal funding, to maintain and develop a sustainable program of comprehensive, daily AS and Summer programming.
Tier 3	Full-Service Community School Model. In addition to supporting stand-alone afterschool and summer programs, the leverage grant can be utilized to support afterschool and summer programming within a larger, district-wide -service community school model. -Please see Attachment A for further information about Full Service Community Schools and this Tier 3 funding.

*1:1 Matching funds can be both monetary and in-kind contributions. Examples of possible matching funds include local program fees, Title I / Title IV school district funding, school district building usage, local business, Community / Public School Foundations, Extension programming.

BSB Leverage Grant Goals:

- Goal 1:** *Support rural Nebraska school-based and school-linked ELO programs to develop and maintain sustainable program models that meet the needs of their communities.*
- Goal 2:** *Support the development and maintenance of high-quality Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) programming in rural Nebraska communities, with a particular focus upon building local partnerships and developing/implementing sustainable staffing models.*
- Goal 3:** *Support efforts to develop and implement meaningful and effective student and family engagement within current and future ELO programming.- Additionally, to support efforts for community engagement tools, outreach strategies and events that promote greater ELO awareness and build support for high-quality, sustainable, community-based ELO programs across the state.*

BSB Leverage Grant Deliverables/Expectations from Grantees:

In addition to implementing the grant as outlined in your contract, if you agree to participate in this grant, BSB will expect the following:

- (1) Participate in monthly coaching and technical assistance provided by Beyond School Bells. -Additionally, participate in three BSB Regional Connection meetings throughout the year, including Sustainability Series virtual meetings, to share partnership opportunities, outreach/sustainability building strategies and to learn/share about programming best practices.
- (2) Participate in the grant evaluation and utilize BSB tools outlined in the grant contract to track and annually report on overall grant goals and objectives.
- (3) Develop and utilize new outreach strategies, materials, and data to market and illustrate to your community the impact of regular participation in high-quality programs on positive youth development in your community.

BSB Leverage Grant Timeline:

- Grant Application available November 30, 2023
- Grant Application due February 26, 2024
- Grants awarded March 2024
- Grant Contracts begin August 2024