

Summer of Discovery 2024 Grant Overview

The Summer of Discovery 2024 will be a launching point for students and programs across Nebraska! Summer grants will be provided to pique student interests, explore exciting local careers and partnerships, and discover new paths for the future of summer learning. This year builds on the Summer of Youth 2023 by incorporating an update on what Nebraska youth say they value: Experiential learning, Sports and Movement, and STEM. We encourage programs to build programming on what students have expressed they'd like to experience. To this end, Summer of Discovery grants will be offered in three grant categories:



- (1) **Experiential Learning and Local Partnerships** – engage local organizations, initiatives, and/or projects and provide opportunity for youth to impact local community.
 - Partnerships with local businesses, professionals, and parents (ex. Grocers, Bankers, Chefs...)
 - Entrepreneurship projects like [Venture Labs](#) or student businesses
 - Field trips that offer experiences of local resources, careers, and new skills

- (2) **Movement and Outdoor Learning** – programming that allows youth to engage in outdoor, hands-on, experiential activities. Some examples include:
 - Sports and movement-based activities like [Marathon Kids](#)
 - [Outdoor Classrooms](#), school gardens, and wildlife projects
 - Environmental service projects like [Civic Nebraska's "Environmental Playground"](#)

- (3) **Think Make Create and STEM** – engage youth to identify exciting, engaging, and inspiring programs that they want to do with hands-on, minds-on projects and experiences.
 - Science camps like [Edgerton STEAM Camps and Lessons](#) and Kiewit Luminarium
 - STEM projects like [City Build, Mission to Mars, and Wind Energy](#)
 - TMC Labs field trips and projects



Summer of Discovery 2024 Grant Request for Proposal

Summer Grant Details:

- **Applications up to \$15,000 due to BSB by March 29th without exception**
- Required evidence of Youth Voice criteria
 - All awardees are required to utilize a BSB Youth Brainstorming form to collect Youth Voice during the grant period – BSB will provide a packet with all materials
- Applications will require a detailed budget
 - Budgets will need to break down items like Staffing, Student staffing or stipends, Field Trips, Supplies, Events and Outreach, etc.
 - Applicants with ESSER funding must **prove** that ESSER funds will be fully spent in order to apply for Summer of Discovery funds.
 - Partnerships to support budget items are strongly encouraged
- Eligible applicants
 - 21st Century Community Learning Center sites
 - School-based Summer ELO programs
 - Community-based Summer ELO programs
- Required letter of support from superintendent or principal
 - Superintendent letter strongly preferred
- Grants will be administered on a monthly reimbursement basis (exceptions will be permitted on a case-by-case basis)
 - Awardees will be required to provide a general ledger along with expenditure reports on a monthly basis

Grant applicants should incorporate the following in their programming proposal:

- Plan for Youth Brainstorming sessions to be facilitated, reported on, and incorporated into programming
- Details aligning your ELO program with your district's goals for summer experiences that complement but not duplicate school-year activities
- Engagement in community-based learning – bringing in community expertise and getting youth out into the community for civic service projects and activities
- Should include, where possible, STEM, including Tech and other tool-rich experiences; connections to future learning / careers; support for student and staff wellbeing; activities that get youth outdoors and moving

Ideas for a successful application:

- Tap into BSB Centers of Excellence for guidance / advice / strategies
- Use BSB Curriculum / Toolkit to facilitate programming and engage your community
- [Wallace Foundation Summer Learning Toolkit](#)
- Engage older youth as leaders and mentors in programming, HS Students as club facilitators, College students as content experts; CTSO clubs as partners
- Use our sample proposal templates to jump start your program.
- Reach out to BSB for questions, collaboration, or advice

Evaluation Requirement

- Before the end of programming, student and facilitator/educator surveys must be administered one time to participating students and facilitators/educators
- Required progress and narrative reports due to BSB on or before September 31st, 2024. Qualtrics links will be shared directly with awardees.
- At least one evaluation storytelling project around a summer experience at your program
- At least one youth-directed evaluation such as Youth Videography, Student-authored summer story book, Youth Voice Brainstorming sheets, etc.

Reach out to Dakota Staggs, dstaggs@nebraskachildren.org, or your BSB point-person with questions or concerns. We look forward to hearing from you!