



Beyond School Bells

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2020 ELO Innovation Grants

ATTACHMENT B: Centers of ELO Excellence grants

Beyond School Bells (BSB) is Nebraska's statewide network for Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO), high quality afterschool and summer learning programs. We believe that growing access to high quality ELOs across the state will help provide all Nebraska youth with the opportunities they need to develop their full potential and can help eliminate the achievement gap. Research supports this vision, showing that regular participation in high quality ELO programs allow low-income students to succeed academically on par with their more affluent peers. ELO programs, characterized by engaged, hands-on learning build on strong school-community partnerships, also help high-performing students stay engaged and achieve greater levels of understanding.

Starting in February 2020, Beyond School Bells will be facilitating the launch of the **Nebraska ELO Innovation Network**, to better connect, support and grow Nebraska's ELO community by providing support to new and existing programs and to promote innovative new programming options.

A key part of this Innovation Network will be supporting statewide **Centers of ELO Excellence**, a network of school- and community-based sites showcasing and sharing best practices in ELO programming, staffing and partnership development. Beginning in February, BSB will begin providing one-year grants supporting existing ELO sites / communities with new opportunities to further develop and share these best practices. Grants to these centers of excellence, selected to contribute to a portfolio of experiences of different size communities from across the state, will enhance all programs' ability to offer regular PD and coaching opportunities showcasing ELO Innovations to statewide audiences. All Centers of Excellence will be expected to contribute to a statewide tool kit of ELO resources that will be made freely available to all Nebraska communities.

Basic components of these Centers of Excellence grants include:

- Centers of Excellence grants are open to existing school-based afterschool and summer elementary and/or secondary ELO programs. Sites currently receiving 21stC CLC grants are eligible to apply.
- Grants will range from \$15,000 - \$30,000.

- Centers of Excellence applicants will need to identify an existing strength of their program that would serve a statewide audience and describe how grant funds would be used to further develop this strength.
- Centers of Excellence sites describe how grant funds would be used to host regular on-line and in person trainings to share best practices with audiences across the state.
- Programs awarded the grant must agree to share any resources produced on **BSB's online ELO Toolkit**.
- As part of the application process, identified programs will be required to participate in a 30 minute zoom meeting with BSB to discuss the your Center of Excellence vision and needs in greater detail. In addition to the project lead, the school district administration and potential community partners are required to participate in this Zoom meeting.
- Programs selected for the grant will fully participate in a data collection process using data collection tools that will be provided to you by Beyond School Bells. Additionally, BSB will make 1-2 site visits to the program.
- Two reports will be due over the course of the grant cycle, a six-month interim and a year-end final grant report. Reporting will include budget expenditure documentations and narrative reports.

Deadline: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, with priority given to programs prepared to start in the summer 2020.

Application Materials to be submitted:

- (1) 2020 Centers of ELO Excellence Application
- (2) Budget (Attachment C)