



## Beyond School Bells

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### 2020 ELO Innovation Network Grants

#### ATTACHMENT A: ELO Incubator Grants

Beyond School Bells (BSB) is Nebraska's statewide network for afterschool and summer learning programs, what we call Expanded Learning Opportunity (ELO) programs. We believe that growing access to high quality ELOs across the state can help provide all Nebraska youth with opportunities they need to develop their full potential and can help eliminate the achievement gap. Research supports this claim, 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 built on strong school-community partnerships, also help high-performing students stay engaged and achieve greater levels of learning.

BSB's new **ELO Incubator Grants** are funded by a combination of public and private resources with the goal of helping jump start new after school and summer programs that, supplemented by local resources, can be locally sustainable. It is envisioned that these programs will result in new opportunities for exciting, engaging and inspiring programming during the non-school hours for youth in underserved areas across Nebraska.

Grant amounts will range from \$15,000-\$30,000 and applicants are required to identify matching funds to help build local sustainability. Grant funds can be used for program development, staffing, program expansion, technical assistance, capacity building and local partnership development.

While there are many facets to quality afterschool and summer programs, the Nebraska Department of Education's experience has shown the following eight elements are critical to program success:

1. The program has a combination of academic, enrichment, cultural, and recreational activities that promote hands-on learning and engage students in critical thinking and problem-solving
2. Planning for long-term sustainability
3. Quality after school management and staffing
4. Attention to safety, health, and nutrition issues
5. Local partnerships
6. Strong involvement of families
7. Strong linkages between school-day and afterschool programming
8. Evaluation of program progress and effectiveness

### **Basic components of this grant include:**

Greater Nebraska school-based afterschool and summer programs are eligible for two categories of eligible applicants:

- (1) Non-urban school districts that currently do not have an afterschool or summer program.<sup>i</sup>
- (2) Existing non-urban school-based afterschool and/or summer programs that are experiencing significant barriers to sustaining their programming. School districts that are currently receiving 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs are not eligible to apply for incubator grant programs.

- Programs can be elementary and/or secondary programs.
- Programs must secure a local community partner/s willing to provide matching contributions (can be in-kind and/or cash contributions) for the designated grant award. School district in-kind contributions can be included (facility use, transportation, etc.), and should be structured towards long term sustainability. It is strongly encouraged that programs use this as an opportunity to build a sustainable partnership with local organizations, businesses or community foundations into the proposed administration, instead of a one-time program specific partnership.
- Programs awarded the grant should utilize **BSB's online ELO Toolkit** for program resources and curriculum in the development of your grant application.
- Programs will have access to a new "Centers of Excellence" network of ELO sites located across the state and other networking opportunities for professional development and technical assistance throughout the grant year.
- As part of the application process, identified programs will be required to participate in a 30 minute zoom meeting with BSB to discuss the application, vision and partnerships 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. These meetings will be organized following submission of completed applications.
- Programs selected for the grant will fully participate in a data collection process using an easy to implement site observation and other data collection tools (to 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 starting in February 2020, with priority given to programs prepared to start programming in the summer 2020.

### **Application Materials to be submitted:**

- 2020 ELO Incubator Grant Application (New Program or Existing Program Application)
- Budget (Attachment C)

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<sup>i</sup> Programs that currently participate in Beyond School Bells Statewide Coalition of Community-wide ELO Systems are ineligible for incubator grant support.