



Power on Afterschool

Funding for an Afterschool Appreciation and Advocacy Event April 2026

Request for Event Reimbursement

Deadline: February 20, 2026

Beyond School Bells at Nebraska Children and Families Foundation is pleased to provide reimbursement to afterschool sites for expenses associated with hosting an afterschool program event during the month of April as part of *Power on Afterschool: Keeping the Lights on Afterschool All Year Long*.

April's Power on Afterschool activity is a people-centered, low-lift advocacy opportunity that celebrates staff (in conjunction with Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week), youth, families, and partners while showing why afterschool matters right now! This effort also keeps the momentum going towards October's Lights on Afterschool.

Application Information

"Power on Afterschool: Keeping the Lights on Afterschool All Year Long" Goal and Learning Community

- The goal of Power on Afterschool: Keeping the Lights on Afterschool All Year Long is to provide an ongoing advocacy and storytelling effort with year-round strategies that celebrate program success and impact.
- The Power on Afterschool: Keeping the Lights on Afterschool All Year Long Learning Community is held monthly via Zoom and focuses on extending October's **Lights on Afterschool** (LOA) into a year-round movement within afterschool programs each month! Please indicate in the application below if you'd like to participate in these monthly learning sessions.

Purpose of the April Power on Afterschool Event

- April serves as a mid-year advocacy boost that keeps afterschool visible and engaged until October's Lights on Afterschool. Activities should help answer the question: **Why does afterschool matter right now?**

April events may include:

- Staff recognition and appreciation activities
- Youth leadership spotlights and testimonials
- Family and community partner appreciation
- Storytelling and social media highlights
- Sharing America After 3PM data
- Opportunities for stakeholders to visit programs and see impact firsthand
- Events should be low-lift, celebratory, and inclusive, with a focus on elevating youth, family, and staff voices.

Funding Type

- Recipients may receive up to **\$1,500** through a reimbursement of direct expenses.
- Payment will be made after submission of an invoice and required supporting documentation for approved expenses no later than May 31, 2026.

Funding Period

- Recipients will be notified of their selection by email no later than February 27, 2026.
- Reimbursement is available for eligible direct expenses incurred between March 1, 2026, and April 30, 2026.
- The event must be held during the month of April.

Event Funding Outcomes

Funded events should aim to:

- Increase awareness of afterschool program impact
- Strengthen community and partner engagement
- Elevate youth, family, and staff voices
- Celebrate afterschool professionals
- Share compelling stories that demonstrate the value of afterschool
- Build momentum toward October's Lights on Afterschool

Eligibility

- School-based or community-based afterschool programs
- 21st CCLC Grantees
- Nonprofit organizations providing afterschool programming

Allowable Expenses

- Programs may be reimbursed for event supplies, materials and costs, food/refreshments, guest facilitators, event coordinator wages or stipend, recognition items, printing, storytelling tools or partnership activities

Reporting Requirements

- 2-5 photos of event with media permissions
- Attendance counts of event
- Funding recipients will be required to complete a narrative report via Qualtrics within 10 days of event. Completion of narrative report needs to be completed before expenses can be reimbursed. Questions of final progress report can be found in resource section of this application.

Submission of Application and Questions

- Submit the application by email to Patricia Sanchez-Stewart at **psanchezstewart@nebraskachildren.org** no later than Friday, February 20, 2026.
- Questions may be directed to Patricia by email or by phone at 308-325-5438