

Please do not contact Pat Rainey regarding this matter. Please contact Barb Meloy for questions at 619-718-6671.

2003-04 funding for 21st CCLC

Thank you for your continued patience regarding the uncertainty surrounding the next round of 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program in California. As promised, CDE will provide updates to the field when any pertinent information becomes available.

The Budget Conference Committee concluded its work concerning the K-12 Education budget on Monday June 9. The Committee did not make any final decisions about the funding structure of the 21st CCLC Program for 2003-04. Rather, they instructed the California Department of Education to work with the Department of Finance and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to develop an expenditure plan. We are currently working on this. However, this plan needs to be approved before we can finalize the next Request for Applications (RFA).

As a result, it now appears unlikely that the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program RFA will be released before fall 2003, and a start date of January 2004 or later is likely. Please keep in mind that nothing is final until the 2003-04 budget is submitted and signed by the Governor.

CDE believes that the RFA will most likely be similar to the one used last year, at least as far as funding for programs in elementary and middle schools are concerned. There is an uncertainty concerning the funding structure for programs to serve high school students.

In view of this continued uncertainty, it is best to advise potential applicants and interested parties as follows:

1. Continue to check the CDE Web site periodically. Like last year, CDE will post updates and, eventually, the downloadable versions of the RFAs at www.cde.ca.gov/afterschool/.
2. Use this time as an investment in your after school program. Begin building or strengthening partnerships and collaboration. The NCLB requires collaborative efforts in the development and ongoing operation of a 21st Century Community Learning Center Program. Identifying potential partners and developing plans that can lead to strong, results-oriented, sustainable programs would be worthwhile and appropriate activities during this time.

Please know that when there is additional information and, certainly, when the budget is final, CDE will release the time frame and other information as quickly as possible.

Thanks again for all your hard work and support of after school programs in California!

Pat Rainey, Administrator
After School Partnerships
California Department of Education
(916) 319-0923
(916) 319-0221 fax
prainey@cde.ca.gov