

Nita M. Lowey
21st Century Community Learning Centers
(21st CCLC)
Navigating Newsletter

Issue 5

Dear 21st CCLC Leaders:



This is the fifth and final issue of the Navigating Newsletter. As a team we are reorganizing our COVID-19 technical assistance (TA) response with the next phase having your voice, the field at the center.

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is here to help answer your questions and find solutions to program implementation, fiscal, and program compliance issues, so please continue to reach out to your Education Program Specialist.

Thank you for your participation and patience over the past six weeks during the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your commitment and hard work on behalf of your students, families, and communities.

Have a wonderful summer!

The 21st CCLC Team



Inside this Issue:

- The Importance of 21st CCLC Programs
- Summer Programs: Questions & Answers
- Summer Learning Resources

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<http://www.azed.gov/21stcclc/>

Let's put things in perspective...

Arizona's 21st CCLC programs are needed more than ever

Our kids and families need us

21st CCLC programs give staff the opportunity to maintain and build relationships with students and their families over the summer. Staff contact is important in letting students know that they are missed and that their school cares about them. Teachers can find out how things are going with them, and through these connections learn about issues that students and their families faced under school closure.

Our schools need us

Dealing with COVID-19 means that none of us are operating with a “business as usual” approach.

In Arizona we have affectionately called our 21st CCLC programs the innovation playgrounds of our schools. In our programs, schools get to try out ideas, explore new ways of teaching and build a culture of practice for their school community. The importance of our programs as a testing ground for innovative practice and creative solution seeking hasn't changed. *Under these pandemic conditions, the ability of our programs to pilot new methods is arguably more important now than it has ever been.*

The lessons staff and program leaders learn from summer programs can be an important part of building a successful school year in these interesting times.

Our state needs us

We're all in this together.



The virtual learning dilemma

In our large, predominantly rural state, the 21st CCLC team had already realized the need to develop our capacity for virtual meetings and TA to make our conversations accessible to program leaders and stakeholders throughout Arizona. But we are now, all of us, forced into building our virtual muscles down to the student and family services level. We've done amazingly well as education professionals. We're feeling good about this.



At the same time, our concern for the economic and digital divide impacting our students and families (and many of our teachers) has grown exponentially as we are directly facing the reality of the limited resources our families have been facing all along. We hope to expand awareness of this situation and what our students need now and as we move forward beyond the pandemic.



We have a wicked problem

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a wicked problem for the world. This situation seemingly defies standard solutions. We are faced with incomplete or contradictory information. There are a great deal of varying opinions involved. There is a huge social and economic burden due to the impact of this virus.

Moving through these next days, weeks and months, it will take all of us doing our part. We all can do something. Sometimes we can do many things. Each of us has our own special insights, skills and strengths that will make a difference. It is important that each of us does what we can, communicates our good ideas, and shares our experiences and lessons learned. Remember that none of us has to figure this out alone. Many good minds are involved in developing solutions.

Can you be the leader?

At first, we looked around for someone else to provide leadership and guidance we urgently needed. But this is a situation which none of us has ever dealt with before. Definitive answers have not been quick to come. This is a situation that will take and is taking all our leadership, all of our voices, all of our best thinking together.

Our solutions today may not suit the needs of next week or next month. Our careful plans will have to be modified as more is learned. This is not and will not be the easiest thing we have ever done.

I have had to ask myself- Can you step up?

I have to ask you- Can you be the leader that others around you need you to be?

We are learning that we are stronger than we knew. That everyone can do something. It's okay to take baby steps. It's ok to make mistakes. It's the way we learn.

Be empathetic. Everyone is struggling with this, not just me! Breathe. Repeat.

We want your voice at the center.



We are planning some Lunch Conversations to be announced soon.

21st CCLC Lunch Conversations-

A chance to communicate with other program leaders who are working through the same issues you are.

- Timely discussion topics
- Breakouts into small group conversations



Summer Program Questions & Answers

On May 13th we discussed 21st CCLC Flexibility Guidance due to COVID-19 for Summer Programs in the final session of the Lunch & Learn series. Below are questions that came out of that session.

June/July Variation

When can Summer Programs be offered?

21st CCLC grant programs in Cycle 13, 14, or 15 can begin summer programs at any time after the last official academic school day, but no sooner than **May 26th**.

- If your program is in Cycle 13 (Year 5 of the grant) and electing to hold summer programming; you may offer programming until June 30th.
- If your program is in Cycles 14 and 15, Summer programs may be offered in June or July or both.

Your Summer Program plan must be communicated to ADE.

ADE does not dictate the specific weeks to offer summer programs. However, the minimal allowable numbers you can run for summer are: 2 hours per day, 3 days per week, 3 weeks total.

See Page 2 of the [21st CCLC Flexibility Guidance Due to COVID-19 For Summer Programs](#)

Summer Meals

Do we still need to provide breakfast and lunch for Summer Program participants even though it is distance learning?

Yes. All 21st CCLC sites are responsible for offering students healthy food during the program that meet the nutrition guidelines of the USDA afterschool snacks and summer meals during the 21st CCLC summer program.

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) is working with schools to continue their meal service programs for children during the time schools are closed due to COVID-19. ADE is operating the child nutrition programs by utilizing nationwide waivers from the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. These waivers include the mealtime waiver, congregate meal waiver, parent pick up waiver, meal component waiver, and others that support school meal service programs. Your school may be eligible to offer school meals during closures even if it does not currently utilize the Summer Food Service Program.

Current Guidance for Operating a meal service program during COVID-19 school closures:

- [Summer Food Service Program](#) including how to apply and updated bus routes
- [Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)
- [Meal Delivery, Home-Delivery, and Distance Learning](#)

Summer Program Questions & Answers, Continued

Program Planning

What is the minimum number of students we can have for an online reading group?

Page 4 of the [21st CCLC Flexibility Guidance Due to COVID-19 For Summer Programs](#) explains that there is a minimum enrollment of 5 registered students per class and no less than 3 students actively participating. Reach out to your Program Specialist if you need further information.

If the state has not reopened schools- we cannot hold the hybrid option, right?

Correct. Our guidance is based on Federal/State information. Sites must check and follow their district policies and procedures, which will be based on state and federal guidance and local Fiscal Agent/LEA decisions.

Where do we put the summer option selected for summer school in the continuing/renewal application?

Page 3 and 4 of the [21st CCLC Flexibility Guidance Due to COVID-19 For Summer Programs](#) explains the 5 options for the summer program your site will be implementing.

- ☐ Select one of the flexibility options
- ☐ In the **FY21 Continuing Application** select 'yes' there are changes to programming in the narrative
- ☐ State the selected option in the program narrative for the **FY21 Continuing Application**.



Summer Program Questions & Answers, Continued

Fiscal/Accountability

<p>What funds are used to pay for 21st CCLC Summer Programs?</p>	<p>May/June 2020 summer programs use current FY20 funds.</p> <p>July 2020 summer programs use funds in the proposed FY21 budget due on June 5th, 2020.</p> <p>NEXT YEAR's June 2021 summer programs are included in the proposed FY21 budget due on June 5th and/or use the expected enhancement funds which will be released around October 2020.</p>
<p>Can we ask for capital funding to purchase Chromebooks and Hotspots for students?</p>	<p>Page 1 & 2 of the 21st CCLC Flexibility Guidance Due to COVID-19 For Summer Programs explains the use of 21st CCLC capital items during summer.</p> <p>ADE recognizes that expenditure patterns may need to be different than usual due to increased distance learning during the pandemic.</p> <p>Please reach out to your Program Specialist with your specific situation.</p>
<p>Please explain how we can pay summer schoolteachers for their planning time; as more planning is involved with distance learning.</p>	<p>Planning is an allowable cost. Please work with your Program Specialist to determine how much time is needed to best support your students' learning.</p>
<p>Can 21st CCLC funding be used to buy schoolwide subscriptions for summer programming classes/activities?</p>	<p>The ADE 21st CCLC grant funds targeted services based on the students identified in your original grant application. As long as these identified students are prioritized, additional students <i>may</i> be served. However, 21st CCLC is NOT a whole school grant. Where schoolwide use is intended, cost sharing must be explained in the budget narrative to ensure that 21st CCLC funds do not supplant other funding.</p>
<p>We are ordering materials for Summer Programs – What happens if they delay shipment and arrive after June 30th?</p>	<p>Any budgeted items not expended by June 30th are not allocable to the FY20 grant. Materials and equipment must be received before the end date of the grant to demonstrate there was a benefit to the grant for that program year.</p> <p>If you have further questions, please call Grants at: (602) 542. 3901, option 2.</p>
<p>Can an email be use as an electronic signature for Time and Effort (T/E)?</p>	<p>Please consult with your internal auditors to see if an email can be used for this purpose. Time & Effort logs have specific federal requirements. Additional information can also be found on the 21st CCLC webpage under: Federal and State Regulations.</p>

Summer Learning Resources

Corona Virus (COVID-19) and 21st CCLC Programs

Guidance and technical assistance are found here:

<https://www.azed.gov/21stcclc/2020/03/12/corona-virus-covid-19-and-21st-cclc/>



The Wallace Foundation provides free evidence-based research and resources to enhance your summer learning programs.



Link:

<https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/summer-learning/toolkit/pages/default.aspx>

Sample COVID-19 Summer Program Toolkit. Denver's summer programs model best practices, protocols, and policies for in-person and virtual programming for youth.



Link:

https://www.denvergov.org/content/dam/denvergov/Portals/713/documents/provider-tools-summer-planning_covid-19/DAA_SummerProgramToolkit_COVID-19_2020.pdf

Arizona Department of Education (ADE)

Virtual Resource Hub



Link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jSYo9IJ6jTU8866xNyriSj8Sf3A3k0AJFWjw_M4lj0o/edit#gid=0

ADE
WIFI and Broadband Resources for Families



Link:

<https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/>

