

Colorado 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program

Program Summaries

Cohort X Subgrantees (FY23-24 through FY26-27)

For a list of contacts for these programs, please visit [CDE's 21st CCLC website](#).

Program Summaries were taken from the Subgrantees' 21st CCLC grant program proposals and some have been edited for length.

Adams 12 Five Star Schools

Federal Heights Elementary School, McElwain Elementary School, Rocky Mountain Elementary School

Adams 12 Five Star Schools, which serves schools in Thornton and surrounding areas, is a caring, inclusive, and engaging district that exists so the students it serves can attain the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue the future of their choosing and are equipped to navigate and thrive in our rapidly changing world. The 21st Century Community Learning Center Initiative supports this work. With previous experience implementing successful CCLC programs, Five Star Schools is able to make this project another success. Priority will be given to highly mobile, marginalized, and historically underserved students and their families. The combined poverty level at these sites is 83% and 49.6% of students attending Federal Heights, McElwain and Rocky Mountain Elementary Schools are chronically absent. Partnerships are leveraged from a variety of community-based organizations and vendors as well as The Department of Student Engagement Initiatives to craft a menu of engaging and culturally relevant activities. Continued supplemental afterschool supports strategically aligned to the school day and facilitated by loving and caring adults dedicated to creating safe spaces that foster an environment robust with respect, advocacy and community.

Asian Pacific Development Center

Aurora Central High School

Asian Pacific Development Center (APDC) will continue its successful partnership with Aurora Central High School (Central) in Aurora, Colorado, to offer culturally responsive after-school services through its Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) program. APDC is a community-based non-profit organization that has provided culturally and linguistically responsive services to the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI), and other minority refugee and immigrant populations across the state since 1980. Each year, YLA provides 125 academically at-risk students with core academic programs and enrichment services to reinforce and complement the academic programs that are available at the school. It also provides family members of participating students opportunities to learn skills to better navigate the school system and support students in their academic goals. Aurora Central has an urgent need to continue offering engaging and enriching out-of-school services for high-risk youth. YLA was first introduced at Central through its current 21st Century Cohort VIII grant (2018-2022), which served 80 unduplicated students each year. Through the continuation of this project, YLA enhances its partnership with the school staff, administration, students, and families to continue to engage 80 students each year to promote academic success and personal development.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver

Colorado Sports Leadership Academy, Hidden Lake High School, Josephine Hodgkins Leadership Academy, KIPP Northeast Denver Middle School, KIPP Sunshine Peak Academy, Tennyson Knolls Preparatory School

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver (BGCMD) continues to support six proposed sites. Two sites are in Denver Public Schools: KIPP NE Denver Middle School and KIPP Sunshine Peak Academy; and four sites are located in Westminster Public Schools: Colorado Sports Leadership Academy (CSLA), Hidden Lake High School, Josephine Hodgkins Leadership Academy, and Tennyson Knolls Preparatory Schools. The current 21st CCLC project will continue 21st CCLC programming within KIPP NE Denver Middle School and Hidden Lake High School; expand KIPP Sunshine Peak Academy into a full 21st CCLC site; turn the Colorado Sports Leadership Academy (CSLA) Boys & Girls Club into a 21st CCLC site; and expand to serve Josephine Hodgkins Leadership Academy and Tennyson Knolls Preparatory School through 21st CCLC. Each site provides core academic support; provides a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities; and offer families opportunities for active and meaningful engagement by providing programming in BGCMD's four core program outcome areas of: 1) Academic Success, 2) Character & Leadership, 3) Healthy Lifestyles, and 4) Mental Health.

Boys and Girls Clubs of Pueblo County

Pueblo Academy of Arts, Risley International Academy of Innovation

The mission of Boys and Girls Clubs of Pueblo County (BGPC) is to enable young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens through Pueblo County. Clubhouses are in areas with high poverty as well as crime and low educational levels, so BGPC can be a nurturing safety net for young people who need us the most. The current project is aligned with D60's Unified District Improvement Plan's major strategy that the district and schools will collaborate to support a common definition and understanding of instructional rigor. The project prioritizes students who have mobility rates of 22.6% and 17.5%, along with those who are marginalized (predominately Latinx and living at or below the poverty line). Juvenile crime statistics for these areas demonstrate the importance of a structured, supervised OST program in these neighborhoods. There is a need to get students involved in supervised programs, social-emotional and enrichment activities and to engage their families in meaningful ways to strengthen their relationships and alleviate community and family stressors. BGPC is well suited to ensuring the success of this 21st CCLC project. It has served Pueblo since 1972 and has experience launching and managing new Clubhouses including several in-school sites.

Colorado AeroLab

East Grand Middle School, Granby Elementary School, Middle Park High School, West Grand Elementary-Middle School, West Grand High School

Colorado AeroLab (CAL) designs experiential out-of-school-time learning opportunities for K-12 students, families and educators. CAL has a strong history of successful 5th Day programming across Colorado school districts through the 21st CCLC Cohort VIII and IX grants, serving West Grand, South Routt, North Park, Eads, and Kit Carson School Districts in recent years. CAL has set up and supported eight K-12 learning centers using a 5th Day model in these four-day school week districts, growing enrollment across sites to 1,000 students with an overall student impact rate of 63%. Through this funding, CAL added three new innovative programs in two different school districts in northwestern Colorado: East Grant and West Grand. CAL's prior experience with 21st CCLC grants are key attributes for the success of these new and innovative programs, which feature Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)-focused, skills-based experiential learning and career exploration opportunities.

Colorado UpLift

East Middle School (APS), Lake Middle School (DPS)

Since 1982, Colorado UpLift (UpLift) has supported Denver youth in improving their academic performance and career achievement through in-school, after school, adventure, post-secondary, and advanced leadership programming. UpLift's out-of-school-time program, the Afterschool and Adventure program, engages low-income youth of color in structured out-of-school time programming that fosters long-term, authentic relationships between youth and caring adult mentors. Programming provides supervised out-of-school-time activities and outdoor adventures at no cost to families, with a focus on supporting students' academic growth, developing social-emotional skills, and building positive character and leadership traits. Youth voice is key, with student participants driving decision-making and many program alumni returning years later as UpLift staff mentors. UpLift is significantly expanding its Afterschool and Adventure program to the middle school level at two Denver Public Schools 21st CCLC priority schools: Lake Middle School and East Middle School. Through the Afterschool and Adventure program, UpLift supports the wellbeing, safety, and academic success of Metro Denver's most vulnerable students, filling a crucial gap by using evidence-based Positive Youth Development practices.

CSI - Charter School Institute – Vega Collegiate Academy

Vega Collegiate Academy

Founded in 2017, Vega Collegiate Academy Charter School is a Title I, elementary and middle school located in northwest Aurora, Colorado. Vega provides a rigorous academic and character education program to students who represent Colorado's most vulnerable populations. Within a structured and joyful school community, and with an absolute focus on academic achievement, Vega is committed to preparing every student for success in college and a life of opportunity. At Vega, 96.5% of families qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch, 89% of families have immigrant/refugee status, and 70% of Vega students are English Language Learners (over 20 home languages are spoken within the community). Past participation in 21st CCLC has helped Vega follow through on its mission

and commitment to students and families. Renewed support helps Vega capitalize on the momentum it has created and continue to provide high-quality afterschool services to families.

Denver Public Schools – Department of Extended Learning & Community Schools (DELCS)

Cowell Elementary School, DCIS at Ford Elementary School, Maxwell Elementary School, Munroe Elementary School

The Denver Public Schools Department of Extended Learning & Community Schools (DELCS) proposes after school programming, known as "Discovery Link," at Cowell, DCIS at Ford, Maxwell, and Munroe Elementary Schools. The sites operate in high-poverty areas and will serve large numbers of underserved youth, including English language learners. Across the four schools, the average Free and Reduced Lunch rate is 95%. The schools are in two low-income neighborhoods: Montbello in northeast Denver and the Westwood and Barnum neighborhoods in southwest Denver. According to READ data from December 2022, on average, 35.5% of students in the four schools are reading at grade level. In alignment with Denver Public School's priorities, Discovery Link programs will support students with academic enrichment opportunities and provide a safe and welcoming environment for students to learn and grow after school and during the summer. DELCS will serve 700 students annually across the four sites. Soliciting student and family voice is a priority, and DELCS included these stakeholders in the planning and implementation of Discovery Link programs. The 21st CCLC model allows the department to expand its reach into more underserved communities, hire more qualified staff, and provide opportunities to increase service capacity at existing sites.

EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum R-5 Learning Center (Mesa County Valley School District)

R-5 High School

The EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum is collaborating with R-5 High School on the Western Slope to develop a unique, field-based Learning Center for at-risk high school students. Through this collaboration, the Learning Center provides skills-based outdoor learning opportunities with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) principles, leadership development, social-emotional learning (SEL), and cooperative learning to support academic achievement and positive youth development. EUREKA! is a Science Education Nonprofit that has been serving the students and families of Mesa County since 1999. EUREKA! was founded to address deficiencies in youth STEAM education through inquiry-based, hands-on activities. The organization has been successfully providing after school and out-of-school- time programming for K-10th grade students for the past 20 years, solidifying a strong partnership with the local school district (D51), and establishing trusted relationships with parents and students. R-5 is an alternative high school serving the district's most disadvantaged, impacted, and underserved youth. It is historically a "last stop" option for students who have been expelled from other schools, it is centrally located in Grand Junction and serves students from across Mesa County. This learning center features an alternative approach to reach Mesa County's most at-risk students using Positive Youth Development practices that incorporate academic support and hands-on STEAM learning with unique outdoor adventure education as well as skill-building. As one of the largest youth-serving organizations on the Western Slope, EUREKA! is committed to providing a safe and engaging space for families and children in the community within EUREKA!'s own facility, in local schools, and outdoors.

Greeley-Evans Weld County School District 6

Maplewood Elementary School, Martinez Elementary School, Health Middle School, Prairie Heights Middle School

Greeley-Evans Weld County School District 6 (D6) in northern Colorado seeks to increase student achievement and engagement in four high-poverty, low-performing schools. The district will serve at least 788 students each year (87% are low-income). Activities will be broad and well-rounded across all four sites to ensure students and families receive the support and services they need, including newcomer immigrant, refugee, and migrant students and families. To carry out these new and innovative 21st CCLC services, project funds will support three key staff as well as part-time positions including an intern to support staff. Ongoing, needs-based professional development and mentoring will ensure that 21st CCLC staff effectively and appropriately implement the project and provide explicit data-driven services and progress monitoring using results from valid and reliable assessments (e.g., NWEA MAP, CMAS). An external evaluator with decades of experience evaluating 21st CCLC and other State/federal programs will conduct a rigorous goal- and objective-based formative and summative evaluation to assess the impact of the project, respond to State reporting requirements, and ensure program improvement through a cycle of continuous improvement.

Lake County School District

Lake County Elementary School

The Lake County School District (LCSD) out-of-school time programs in Leadville, Colorado, are referred to as Project Dream, the official title of the department. LCSD Project Dream programs will continue and build on success during after school, fifth day Friday, and summer programming in the 2023-2024 school year and beyond. The programs bolster academic achievement efforts by increasing opportunities for targeted, well-paced enrichment throughout the year, and reducing summer learning loss. This is especially true for historically underserved populations such as Latinx immigrant families. Project Dream programs address the whole child and give students and families the chance to pursue an array of opportunities. Students that participate in programs benefit from meaningful intervention and enrichment opportunities, effectively increasing contact hours to improve academic outcomes and social emotional wellbeing. Project Dream is proud to say that the Lake County Elementary School is no longer on the Targeted Support list thanks to many of Project Dream's enriching programs for students. Project Dream has proven success in implementing 21st CCLC programs through 100% teacher survey return rates (even in 2020), meeting or exceeding 21st CCLC performance measures, and being an essential program provider for families, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic when centers provided double the number of hours to meet the needs of schools and families. The need for high quality out-of-school time programs is greater than ever as the Lake County School District continues to recover from learning loss during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lake County's community and schools have come to rely on Project Dream programs as a safe and enriching place for their students to be during out-of-school time hours.

Mapleton Public Schools – Trailside

Trailside Academy

Trailside Academy is a low performing Expeditionary Learning (EL) Education school located in Thornton, Colorado. The school enrolls a significant number of English language learners, students of color, and children with disabilities. Unfortunately, these students face challenges with academic achievement and growth, as evidenced by lower grades, CMAS, and Read Act scores compared to the state's average. Many of Trailside's students reside in a neighborhood with limited resources for affordable academic support, enrichment, recreation, adult education, and family services. Therefore, Trailside Academy seeks to enhance its programming with the 21st Century Community Learning Center grant. The school will provide tutoring, academic enrichment activities, socio-emotional learning, and parent programming to as many of about 430 students through a traditional 21st CCLC model. School leadership has engaged parents and teachers in planning possible new programming, which is scheduled cooperatively with the school, using Positive Youth Development approaches, and offering opportunities for multi-generational learning.

Mapleton Public Schools – York

York International School

York is a K-12 school located in a north Denver suburb, with a Free and Reduced Lunch rate of 75%. York is identified as a Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school, as York is "consistently underperforming" for any group of students, as defined by the state. Within one building, York serves elementary, middle, and high schools with a dropout rate of 2.5% and a chronic absenteeism rate of 45.7%. York is part of the Mapleton Public Schools district, which runs 5 school days a week. York, and the district as a whole, has a higher-than-average percentage of disadvantaged and marginalized students with a history of underserved youth for 21st CCLC programs prior to 2018. York has programs that have been traditional to its culture, and over the past five years, these programs have shown to help students to "connect to school in profound ways" which is the mission of York's 21st Century Learning Center.

Poudre School District

Blevins Middle School, Centennial High School, Poudre Community Academy

Poudre School District (PSD) serves several urban and rural communities across Northern Colorado, with 55 school sites welcoming 30,000 students. PSD provides academic support, credit recovery, after-school programming, community and family engagement, and social-emotional support in its 21st CCLCs. Attendance rates have been on a steady decline for the past several school years, from 93.4% in 2017, to 88.2% in 2022. The mobility rate for the 2021-22 school year was 8.8%, higher than the district total of 5.8%. PSD is confident that 21st Century Community Learning Centers at these three schools will support increases in student test scores;

re-engage students' connections with teachers, peers, and their learning; and provide families and caregivers stronger opportunities to connect with their students, schools, and community resources.

Silverton School District

Silverton Elementary School, Silverton Middle/High School

Located deep in the heart of the San Juan Mountains in southwest Colorado, the Silverton School District is one of the most rural and isolated school districts in the state. It is also one of the smallest with a yearly average of 80 K-12 students enrolled in any given year. In 2018, the Silverton School District was fortunate to receive a Cohort VIII 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, which helped to transform the entire school community as Silverton built several new programs and structures for the elementary and middle school as well as for the high school. The previous 21st CCLC created and expanded formal afterschool and summer programming that served every single student, and the current 21st CCLC will continue programming for K-12 students that is grounded in sound, research based, best practices that align to students' past, present and future. There are pathways through which students, parents, teachers, and the 21st CCLC staff can work together in a way that helps students engage in a variety of out-of-school experiences.

Summer Scholars (Scholars Unlimited)

College View Elementary School (DPS), Fort Logan Northgate (Sheridan), Place Bridge Academy (DPS)

College View Elementary, Place Bridge Academy, and Fort Logan Northgate are three high-poverty, low-performing Denver schools who are in great need of support. Over 50% of the students represented are English Language Learners, and less than 20% of students scored at or above proficiency for language arts. Additionally, these students' families have been especially hit by economic hardships and need free out-of-school time support; however these schools are all located in child care deserts, with little to no funding or resources for afterschool programs. The need for social-emotional support and other community assistance is even more evident and must be met outside the strapped resources of school budgets. The centers will serve over 1,300 students through after school and summer programs. The Scholars Unlimited team has worked closely with school principals, teachers, and parents to outline a plan that will have a positive impact on the community, improving not only test scores but the social-emotional well-being of the students and their families. Scholars Unlimited works closely with each school to ensure that its efforts contribute to the bigger picture of student progress. Finally, program evaluation is a high priority. SU's upgraded systems, policies, and practices ensure that data collection is electronic and accurate, including tracking individual and aggregate information on literacy success; assessing social and emotional learning (SEL) data; and the quality of staff interaction.

YMCA of Metro Denver

Holm Elementary School, Joe Shoemaker School

The YMCA of Metropolitan Denver (YMCA) aims to provide supplemental education programs at Holm Elementary School (Holm) and Joe Shoemaker Elementary School (Shoemaker). Holm has a 66.1% free and reduced lunch (FRL) rate. Shoemaker's FRL rate is 72.4%. Holm is identified as a Targeted Support and Improvement school, and Shoemaker is identified as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement School, performing in the lowest 5% of all Title I schools. Both Holm and Shoemaker are located in Southeast Denver and serve diverse student populations. YMCA has been providing OST programs at Holm for 15 years and Shoemaker for 7 years. Currently, YMCA is serving 40 students at Holm and 30 students at Shoemaker and this current 21st CCLC funding allows YMCA to increase its capacity to serve 75 youth at each site. This partnership came to fruition from the demonstrated need for afterschool and summer programming at both Holm and Shoemaker to support children in need of academic support. Comprehensive OST programs at Holm and Shoemaker will meet the needs of students and provide support to staff through the delivery of supplemental and impactful academic, social, and health programming inclusive of the following: Literacy and math, STEAM, nutrition and physical activity, and family/caregiver engagement.
