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Grant readers sought for 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants

CHEYENNE – Those with a background in education and an interest in the success of after-school programs are encouraged to participate as a grant application reader for the Wyoming Department of Education’s (WDE) 21st Century Community Learning Center’s (21CCLC) ninth cohort grant.

The 21CCLC program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children. The grant particularly impacts students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The US Department of Education allocates funding to the WDE to award competitively to eligible applicants that include community-based non-profits, faith-based organizations, city/county governments, institutions of higher education, school districts, private schools, and for-profits.

“Organizations and school districts proposing high-quality, engaging programs for youth that meet the requirements of 21st CCLC are welcome to apply when the application is released in mid-December,” said Karen Bierhaus, Program Manager of the 21CCLC program at the WDE. “The grant activities proposed in each application must be designed to benefit students through increasing academic achievement and providing opportunities for social/emotional

growth. Youth development activities with focused outcomes are a key to out-of-school time success. Programs must also provide services to the families of 21CCLC students to support their engagement with their child's learning experiences both in and out of school. "

Bierhaus is seeking grant readers with experience in education or after school-programs. She said that experience be as an educator or administrator of such a program, or as someone familiar with after-school programs. Bierhaus said she expects roughly 20-25 applications for the ninth cohort grant, and scoring the grants takes a minimum of 40 hours. The grants review process will happen in mid-February with grant scoring to be done electronically in the WDE's Grants Management System (GMS) as well as on reviewer spread sheets.

Those who are selected as grant readers will receive a \$900 stipend for their efforts. Grant readers will be required to attend a two-hour training session, which is being planned for December at the WDE's Riverton office. The training can also be attended virtually over the Wyoming Equality Network (WEN).

Those interested in reading the grants for the WDE are asked to submit either a resume or a letter describing their qualifications and interest in becoming a grant reader. Bierhaus said she would accept resumes and letters of interest through the end of December. Reviewers who are selected by the WDE can expect to be contacted by the second week of January. Those applying as a grants reader will be placed on a list of interested grant reviewers, which will be used by the Department for future reviews.

"In Wyoming we serve about 10,000 students through 43 grants in Wyoming, and every year we try to get a robust cohort for new offerings," Bierhaus said. "It has been very fulfilling to reviewers in the past to be a part of a decision-making process that truly impacts the children and their communities that become part of the 21st CCLC family."

For more information on the 21st Century CCLC, contact Karen Bierhaus at 307-857-9284 or karen.bierhaus@wyo.gov. http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/safety/21st_century_cclc_program.aspx