Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN)

Who are we? *Champions for quality out-of-school time for kids.* Our mission is to advance, connect, and support high quality afterschool and summer learning programs to promote the success of children and youth throughout Georgia.
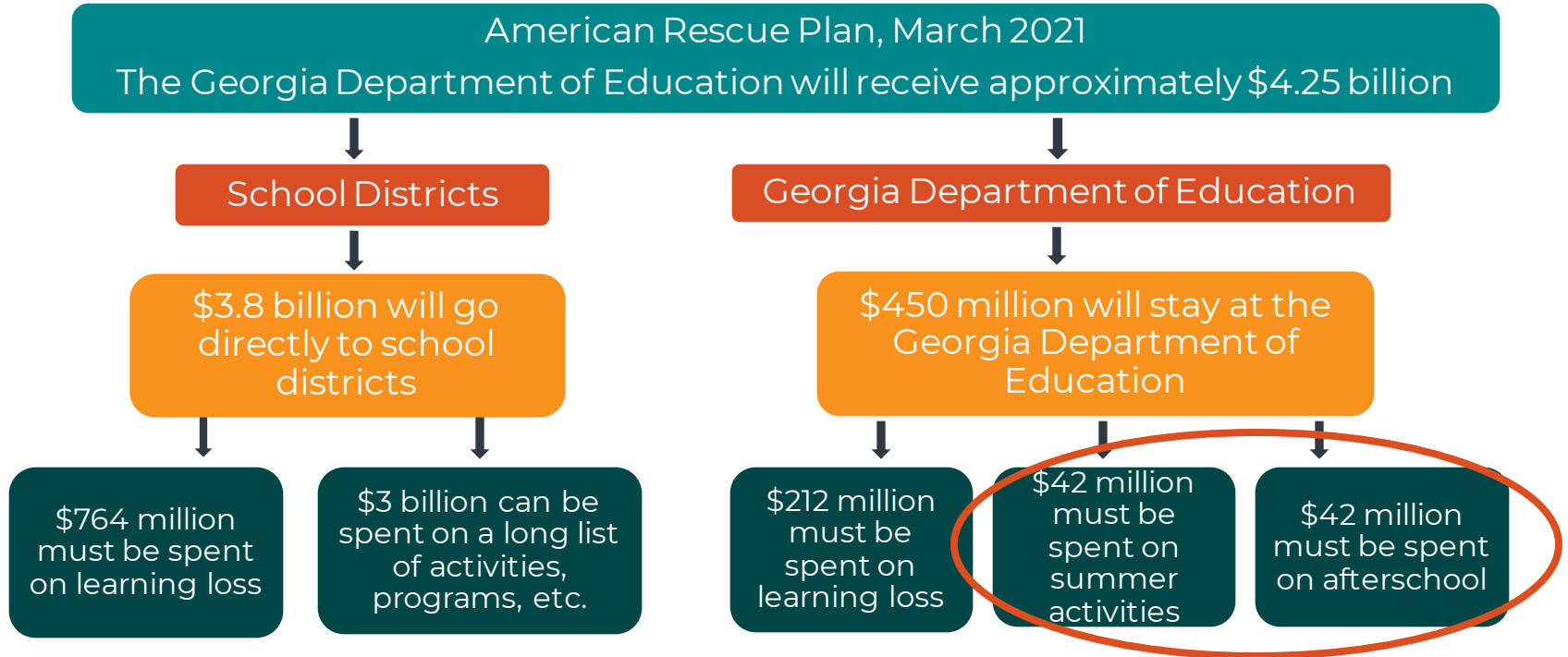
What do we do? *Provide direction and resources for high quality afterschool and summer learning programs.* We are an effective resource for afterschool and summer learning programs in Georgia. We cultivate environments that allow these programs and the youth they serve to thrive.

1.

BOOST Grants Program Overview

American Rescue Plan Act

American Rescue Plan, March 2021
The Georgia Department of Education will receive approximately $4.25 billion

School Districts

$3.8 billion will go directly to school districts

$764 million must be spent on learning loss

$3 billion can be spent on a long list of activities, programs, etc.

Georgia Department of Education

$450 million will stay at the Georgia Department of Education

$212 million must be spent on learning loss

$42 million must be spent on summer activities

$42 million must be spent on afterschool

BOOST Purpose

BOOST Grants are intended to support the learning acceleration, connectedness, and well-being of Georgia's students, utilizing a whole child approach.

Learning Acceleration

- Establishes and maintains strong and intentional links to the school day

- Strategically prepares students for success in the present—this week, on this content

- Addresses past concepts and skills in context of future learning

- Jump-starts underperforming students into learning new concepts before their classmates even begin

- Creates opportunities for struggling students to learn alongside their more successful peers

Whole Child Approach

- Develops and prepares students for challenges and opportunities by addressing comprehensive needs

- Acknowledges AND addresses non-academic factors that impact academic outcomes while expanding learning opportunities

- Ensures each student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged

Types of Grants

1. Statewide Grants
   o Grants will range from $1 million to $5 million per year
2. Community Grants
   o Grants will range from $7,500 to $550,000 per year

Statewide Grants

- Provide year-round youth development programming
- Serve at least 2,000 youth (5-18 years old) annually
- Provide programming across at least 15 counties in GA
- Offer programming at least 4 days per week, with at least 2.5 hours offered per day during the school year and at least 6 hours offered per day during the summer

4 organizations were selected through letter of intent process

2.

Programming Requirements, Priorities & Funding Requests

Grant Purposes

Applicants must propose to use funds for at least one of the following purposes:

1. Expand access to serve more youth, with an emphasis on children who were most impacted by the pandemic

2. Reduce barriers to participation to ensure access for all

3. Increase programmatic quality and expand or enhance supports/services offered

Types of Programming

Organizations must provide one or both:

1. Summer enrichment grants (programming for youth 5-18 years-old)

2. Comprehensive afterschool grants (for those that provide programming during the school year for youth 5-18 years-old)

*Organizations providing both types of programming applied for year-round programming grants

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Critical Content/Service Areas

All applicants must offer learning acceleration, as well as programming in at least 2 other critical

content/service areas:

1. Learning acceleration (required component)
2. Enrichment activities, such as the arts and career exploration
3. Healthy eating & physical activity
4. Well-being and connectedness, such as mental health supports, problem solving, and team building

Target Populations

- Youth with disabilities
- Youth experiencing homelessness
- Youth in foster care
- English language learners
- Youth receiving free or reduced-price lunch
- Migratory youth

At least 75% of Community Grant funds will support programs that serve these population groups

Geographic Priorities

At least 10% of Community Grant funds will support programs that serve these counties.

- Organizations operating programs in counties with no current programs receiving government funds through 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program or the Afterschool Care Program will receive additional points during the scoring process

- List of counties with no such programming

GSAN staff will verify applicants meeting this criteria

Program Requirements: use of Evidence-Based Strategies

▣ All applicants must demonstrate their use of evidence-based afterschool and/or summer learning program practices.

▣ Resources:
  ▢ Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development Quality Standards
  ▢ Evidence-Based Interventions: Summer Learning or Enrichment and Comprehensive Afterschool Programs
  ▢ Planning for Impactful Summer Learning 2021
  ▢ Help Kids Recover Evidence-Based Strategies
  ▢ Recognizing the Role of Research and Evidence in Out-of-School Time

Funding Requests

Grants will vary in size depending on the category of the grant (Community or Statewide). Determinations on maximum grant size applicant organizations may request are based on:

- Whether organizations offer afterschool OR summer enrichment programming only vs. those that provide programming year-round: organizations that provide year-round programming are eligible for 2x the amount of funding than those that only provide afterschool OR summer enrichment programming.

- The number of unduplicated youth served annually: the amount organizations are eligible to apply for increases as the number of unduplicated youth served increases.

- The percent of youth served who receive free or reduced-price lunch: there are three tiers of funding based on the percent of youth served who receive free or reduced-price lunch.

GSAN staff will ensure funding requests are at the appropriate level.

Funding Requests

Organizations requesting funding for year-round programming must split their funding requests 50/50 – half for afterschool programming and half for summer programming.

GSAN staff will ensure funding requests are split correctly and will contact applicants whose requests are not.

3.

Timeline

Scoring Timeline

- Friday, August 27: GSAN will inform readers applications are ready for review
- Friday, August 27 – Monday, September 6: Grant Application Readers score assigned applications
- Monday, September 6, 11:59 p.m.: Scoring window closes
- By September 24: GSAN will send out stipends

Grant Timeline

- Thursday, September 30: Funding recommendations for approval at Georgia State Board of Education meeting

- Friday, October 1: GSAN notifies all applicants of the status of their request

- By Friday, October 29: Public announcement of BOOST grant recipients

4.

BOOST Application & Rubric

Application Sections

- Organizational History, Program Design & Programmatic Overview
- Staffing & Partnerships
- Outcomes & Evaluation
- Budget
- Statewide Applicants

Before you get started on your reviews

- ▣ Read through 1-2 applications before beginning to score them as that will give you a sense of the flow of the application

- ▣ Read through the Guide for Grant Application Readers to familiarize yourself with the rubric and where in the application you will find information that relates to the scoring elements

Logging into the reviewers' portal

- GSAN partnered with United Way of Greater Atlanta to utilize their FLUXX Grants Portal
- You will receive an email from United Way with information on logging into FLUXX and setting up your password

Scoring applications

- ▣ When you log into the system, you will "REVIEWS" on the left-hand menu bar. Click on "New Reviews" and you will see all the applications you have been assigned to review.

- ▣ As you begin each review by clicking on the organization's name, you will be asked if you have any conflicts of interest with the applicant.

- ▣ After you have confirmed that you do not have a conflict reviewing an application, the application and rubric will pop up.

Scoring applications

▣ Score each element and leave comments at the end of individual sections if you would like.

▣ Comments at the end of the rubric are required as is your final assessment of whether you recommend funding the request.

▣ You may want to click "Save" as you work to ensure the system does not kick you out because of lack of activity.

▣ Be sure to click "Submit" when you are ready to submit.

Submit all reviews by 11:59 p.m. on 9/6/21

Review Guide for Grant Application Readers

Thanks!

Questions? Contact us at:

BOOST@georgiavoices.org

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