



Building Opportunities for Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Grants Frequently Asked Questions August 11, 2021

This document contains frequently asked questions related to the BOOST Grants program. Be sure to review this document, the Application Guidance document and the RFP to gain a complete understanding of the BOOST Grants. Additionally, applicants are invited to join the Applicant Workshop on Monday, August 9 at 11 a.m. in which we will discuss the program and walk you through the online application system. Participation in the Applicant Workshop is optional. Visit GSAN's [BOOST Grants Program webpage](#) for the recording of the Applicant Workshop, the RFP, and the Application Guidance document. If you still have questions about the BOOST Grants Program or the application questions after reviewing these resources, please contact GSAN staff at BOOST@georgiavoices.org.

BOOST Grant program

What is the purpose of the BOOST Grants program?

The purpose of the BOOST Grants program is to expand access to, reduce barriers to participation for and improve the quality of summer enrichment opportunities and comprehensive afterschool programming for K-12 youth across the state of Georgia.

Where did the funds for the BOOST Grants program come from?

The funds come from the American Rescue Plan Act, which was approved in March of 2021. You can read more about the American Rescue Plan [here](#). Through this plan, Georgia has an unprecedented opportunity to provide expanded and improved learning and supports for all students. The federal stimulus package will help Georgia combat learning loss and support students' connectedness and well-being utilizing a whole child approach as we move ahead and begin to recover from the setbacks exacerbated by the events of 2020. The American Rescue Plan has made approximately \$85 million available over the next 3 years to be awarded through the BOOST Grants program.

Why did the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) choose to partner with Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) to award these grants?

Across the country, states have approached the process of awarding these dollars in various ways. GaDOE and GSAN have a long history of partnership and the two started discussing how to administer these dollars shortly after the American Rescue Plan Act was passed. As Georgia's resource organization for afterschool and summer learning programs, GSAN cultivates environments that allow these programs and the youth they serve to thrive. GSAN's strong relationships with community-based organizations across the state made them the right partner for this opportunity.

Statewide & Community Grants

Why are there two types of grants – one for statewide organizations and one for community organizations?

GaDOE and GSAN knew that it would be important to provide funding to organizations that have a more focused service area as well as those that serve thousands of students across the state. In order to design a process that isn't overly burdensome to the applicant organizations, the two types of grants were designed.

How much funding is available for these different types of grants?

The U.S. Department of Education, as outlined in the American Rescue Plan, determined that 1% of all GaDOE funds (\$42.5M) is set aside for summer enrichment and another \$42.5M is set aside for comprehensive afterschool programming. That is why in the application, organizations are asked to detail how much funding is needed for afterschool programs and how much is needed for summer enrichment programs.

Why do organizations that are a part of statewide associations have to be lumped in with the statewide groups?

Why can't we apply on our own? Statewide associations were designed for several reasons, including situations like these in which applying as a statewide association results in decreased burden for all the organizations that are a part of the association. Organizations applying for the statewide grants will have to outline the process they will use to allocate funding across program sites throughout the state (where they are located).

Will every organization that was invited to submit a letter of intent for a statewide grant be invited to apply for a statewide grant? Not automatically. Organizations interested in applying for a statewide grant need to demonstrate, through their letter of intent, that they meet all the eligibility criteria for statewide grants as outlined in the RFP.

Which organizations will submit Statewide Grant applications? The following statewide organizations submitted letters of intent and were approved to submit grant applications for statewide grants: Georgia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Georgia Alliance of YMCAs, Georgia Recreation and Parks Association, and Communities in Schools of Georgia. Any organization that is a member of or associated with one of the above-named organizations may not apply separately for a Community Grant.

I'm a member of one of the statewide organizations. Who will decide how to allocate the funding they receive if they receive a grant? Organizations receiving Statewide Grants will determine how to disseminate grant funds to local members/affiliates. If you haven't already been contacted by your statewide organization, reach out to them to ensure your organization's needs are included in their application and to discuss any questions you have about how they will decide on fund allocations.

Why are Community Grants smaller than Statewide Grants? Statewide Grants are larger than Community Grants because those organizations serve more youth across a larger geographic area.

Why do organizations that provide afterschool programming only get to apply for the same amount of funding as organizations that only provide summer programming? The total cost to provide afterschool programming for an academic year is similar to the cost to provide summer programming over 8-10 weeks. That is why organizations that only apply for programming during the academic year or during the summer months are eligible to apply for equal amounts.

Eligibility: Applicants & Expenses

Why are schools and school districts not eligible for these grants? Schools and school districts received funding through the Education Stabilization Fund Program Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund). Under the ESSER Fund, the U.S. Department of Education awarded grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools that are LEAs, with emergency relief funds to address the impact of the pandemic. The ESSER funds schools and school districts have received can also be used for afterschool and summer enrichment programs.

Why can some nonprofit charter schools apply for grants but not all? As was mentioned above, the ESSER Fund awarded charter schools that are LEAs with emergency relief funds to address the impact of the pandemic.

Please add clarity about private schools. How are they eligible to apply? Private and independent schools and faith-based organizations are eligible to apply only if their afterschool or summer programs are open to all children, meaning that any child can enroll, and not just those who are of a particular faith, members of the congregation (if a faith-based organization), or enrolled in their specific school.

Does the programming have to only serve public school students or can the summer/afterschool programming serve students at both public and private schools? Programming can serve students enrolled in public, private and nonprofit schools and students who are home-schooled.

If the nonprofit organization is a 501C3 within a school system, are you eligible? No, nonprofits that are a part of school systems or that exist to fundraise for school systems are not eligible to apply. This is something we are clarifying in the RFP following the questions at the Applicant Workshop.

Are nonprofit organizations that have a history of providing in-school educational programs eligible to apply? For the programming to qualify, it must be provided in the hours before or after the regular school day hours and must offer the required critical content/service areas (learning acceleration plus 2 others from the list).

Can BOOST funds be used for programming that is provided on Saturdays, school breaks during the school year or virtually? BOOST funds can support programming that takes place on Saturdays and during school breaks that happen throughout the school year. As guidance on usage of ARPA funds makes no mention of whether funds can be used for programming that is delivered virtually, BOOST funds cannot support virtual programming. Should public school districts physically close due to public health concerns and in-person programming is no longer an option, virtual programming may be supported during that time.

I was under the impression that the program had to offer BOTH afterschool and summer programming. Is this not correct? Organizations must provide EITHER afterschool or summer programming.

Are single gender organizations able to apply for the grant? Yes, organizations that serve a single gender or gender identity can apply if their programming meets the eligibility criteria.

Are we required to have a physical location to apply for grant, or can we apply if we provide curriculum to other physical locations? Applicants are not required to have their own physical location. However, applicants must directly provide their programming to students.

Why is learning acceleration a required critical content/service area? Learning acceleration is a required critical content/service area because our students suffered great learning losses due to the pandemic.

Does the Learning Acceleration Component count as 1 of the 2 critical components, or do you have to serve 2 of the other components in addition to the Learning Acceleration component? In addition to providing learning acceleration programming, organizations must provide programming in at least 2 of the remaining 3 critical content/service areas: enrichment activities; healthy eating & physical activity; well-being and connectedness.

Why can't childcare centers that only serve children under age 5 apply? Similar to the ESSER Funds (mentioned above), childcare centers across Georgia have been eligible for relief funds awarded to and administered by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL).

Are for profit organizations able to apply, if they are not charging fees for their services under this program? No, for-profit organizations are not eligible to apply, even if they are not charging fees for their services.

Can we use some of the BOOST Grant dollars to pay for administrative costs? Yes. Organizations may request up to 10% of BOOST grant funds to support administrative/indirect expenses.

Are indirect costs an eligible budget expense? If so, do you have a maximum rate? Yes, see above.

What expenses can applicants include in the administrative costs line item? Applicants may include costs that are considered reasonable and necessary to effectively administer the program consistent with the cost principles in the Uniform Guidance. Administrative costs include costs (direct and indirect) involved in the proper and efficient performance and administration of the BOOST grant.

Do all eligible applicants have to be licensed or licensed exempt? Either are eligible as long as they meet other eligibility criteria.

We do a lot of work currently to reduce barriers to participation including providing busing, providing our programs tuition free, employing counselors/case managers, etc. In order to receive funding, do we need to be EXPANDING those efforts, or can funding go towards these current efforts? BOOST funding needs to address at least one of the three purposes as stated in the RFP: 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. BOOST funds may be used to ensure the recipients are able to continue services in the cases of lost revenue as a result of COVID-19. For *lost revenue due to the pandemic*, U.S. Education Department's FAQs state that recipients should be able to have supporting documentation to verify this. If COVID-19 has resulted in your program losing revenue, BOOST funds can be used to support your current efforts. If COVID-19 has not resulted in lost revenue, your BOOST request will have to align with one of the other three grant purposes.

Our school year programming includes ongoing college prep counseling sessions and activities with 10th - 12th grade students and twice monthly Saturday learning sessions for 7th-9th grade students. Does this fit within the criteria to be considered for year-round/after school programming? For an organization to be eligible for funding for year-round programming, programming has to be offered during the school year and during the summer. As was stated earlier, programming can be offered on Saturdays, during school breaks that take place during the school year, and before/after the school day in order to qualify as an *afterschool program*.

Can daycare programs that offer summer enrichment activities for five-year-old students transitioning to Kindergarten apply for this grant? Yes, as long as the organization and programs meet the eligibility criteria.

We currently receive afterschool funding for our school year program only. Can our organization use BOOST funds to expand to summer and school break programming for these sites? Yes.

My organization offer school-year after-school programming (August-May) as well as a 3-week summer program (June). Would we be eligible for the year-round programming funding or just the after-school programming funding? Year-round.

What if we have multiple locations, some are year-round but others are summer only? Would we classify as year-round for both programs? You would classify as year-round.

Students with special needs may attend school until they turn 22 years old. Is the age limit extended to cover services for those students beyond 18? If students are being served through an IEP and are enrolled in a Local Education Agency (LEA), they are eligible to receive services for afterschool and summer programming funded through the BOOST grant until they turn 22.

Can a school system serve as an applicant's fiscal agent? No, they can't. Because LEAs are not eligible applicants, they are not eligible to serve as fiscal sponsors as that would technically make them GaDOE's subgrantee.

Timeline

When will you update the FAQs document? Will you update it more than once during the application process?

This FAQ document will be updated following the Applicant Workshop scheduled for Monday, August 9. Organizations that have questions that have not been addressed by the RFP, FAQs or Application Guidance document will have the opportunity to submit questions during the Applicant Workshop and by email to BOOST@georgiavoices.org. Updated FAQs will be posted on GSAN's [BOOST Grants Program webpage](#) by noon on Wednesday, August 11. FAQs will not be updated again.

I only found out about the program and the deadline is tomorrow! Is the deadline firm? Yes, the deadline is firm.

Will there be additional rounds of funding available outside of the 8/19 deadline? No, this is the only deadline.

When will GaDOE start reimbursing organizations for expenses incurred for BOOST Grant programming? Grantees are expected to have 3 months of working capital to start their programs while trainings are conducted and budgets/invoices are reviewed. GaDOE anticipates being able to process reimbursements monthly thereafter.

Why is this first grant year starting after the academic school year has already started? GaDOE decided it was best to wait to announce the BOOST Grants until the U.S. Department of Education approved our state application. Waiting for approval guaranteed that Georgia would be able to proceed with awarding the full \$85M for afterschool and summer enrichment programming. You can read that announcement [here](#), and you can read GaDOE's announcements [here](#) and [here](#).

Application Process & FLUXX Grants Portal

How do I apply? The application must be [submitted online](#). Applications must be submitted no later than Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 5 p.m. Applicants may only apply using the online application found [here](#). Incomplete applications and those submitted after 5 p.m. on the deadline will not be considered for funding. Only one application will be accepted from each organization. The only exception will be for a youth development organization that also serves as a fiscal agent for another program/organization.

Why do some organizations have to start working on their application before the day of the deadline? GSAN is partnering with United Way of Greater Atlanta to utilize their grants portal. Applicants that do not have an Organizational Profile on [United Way of Greater Atlanta's Grants Portal](#) should begin their applications no later than Tuesday, August 17 as it takes up to 24 hours for the Organizational Profile to be approved and for individuals to receive their username and password. Within 24 hours of completing the first step (setting up the Organizational Profile), applicants will receive an email with their username and password and be notified that they may begin the second step of the process, completing the BOOST Grants Application.

I went to FLUXX but have not obtained my credentials to use the portal. How do I get my credentials? Within 24 hours of completing the Organizational Profile, applicants will receive an email with their username and password and be notified that they may begin the second step of the process, completing the BOOST Grants Application. If it has been more than 24 hours, please reach out to United Way staff at BOOSTApplication@unitedwayatlanta.org.

I already have an Organizational Profile in FLUXX. Do I need to set up another one? For organizations to gain access to the BOOST application, every organization must answer a 3-question eligibility quiz and provide the information for the Organizational Profile. If your organization already has a profile, United Way staff will link your request to start a BOOST application and any updated information you just provided to your existing profile.

My organization already has a FLUXX account and the organization and people tabs are up to date but I do not see the application under drafts, there is a draft but not for the BOOST Application. How do I get access to the application? Please send an email to BOOSTApplication@unitedwayatlanta.org to inform that you already have existing log-in credentials/access to FLUXX and need access to the application.

Can you have more than one person working on the grant? Yes. You can either share your login credentials with them or you can email United Way staff at BOOSTApplication@unitedwayatlanta.org with the full name and email address of the staff member(s) you want added to your profile.

Can you enter information into the application without initially submitting it? Yes. Make sure you click *Save and Continue* OR *Save and Close* at the bottom of your screen before exiting the browser. If you don't, the information you've entered will not be saved.

The application portal isn't working well for me. Can I submit an application another way? No, applications must be submitted online. If you're having trouble with the application portal, make sure that you're using Google Chrome to access the system. Applicants should **use Google Chrome** because the application portal works best with Google Chrome. Learn more about Google Chrome and download the browser [here](#).

Who do I contact if I have problems with the online application portal? If you are having problems with the application portal, please contact United Way staff at BOOSTApplication@unitedwayatlanta.org.

Some of the questions in the application are confusing. Who can I contact to help me? Make sure that you visit GSAN's [BOOST Grants Program webpage](#) for the recording of the Applicant Workshop, the RFP, and the Application Guidance document. The Application Guidance document specifically gives guidance on almost every question asked in the application. If you still have questions after reviewing these resources, please contact GSAN staff at BOOST@georgiavoices.org.

Questions related to the Application and Afterschool & Summer Enrichment Programs

How should organizations that are fairly new and have no financials to submit respond to those questions? If your organization was not operating in the last fiscal year, you can enter \$0 for the annual income and annual expense questions in the profile. There is a short narrative space where you can explain your situation. For the attachment, you can submit a document that indicates your organization was not operating in the last fiscal year.

Our organization had to suspend operations due to COVID-19 pandemic and do not have financial information to submit. How do we fulfill the request for financial documentation in the grant application? If your organization was not operating in the last fiscal year, you can enter \$0 for the annual income and annual expense questions in the organizational profile. There is a short narrative space where you can explain what happened. For the attachment, you can submit your previous fiscal year's financial documents.

When reporting our expenses and revenue for the most recent operating year, if those numbers were greatly affected by COVID-19, should we report our pre- COVID number to have a more accurate account of our true operating expenses? No, you should report your annual income and annual expenses for the last completed fiscal year, regardless of whether it was significantly higher or lower than in years past. There is a short narrative space where you can explain anything that was out of the ordinary.

If you are a branch of a national organization, will we be inputting our annual operating expenses on the state level or on the national level? You should enter them for the state level, or whatever level your organization is.

Do we need to have an audit to apply? Organizations do not need audits to apply. Grantees will need audits if expenses are greater than \$750,000.

If I am a part of a statewide organization, but I am solely county based, do I fill out organization demographics for my county only or the organization as a whole? The demographics that are requested are those of your afterschool and/or summer program participants who would be supported with BOOST funds. Only enter the data for those participants, not for your organization as a whole.

If we have a fiscal sponsor for our nonprofit, do we fill out the application under our organization or under the fiscal sponsor's information? Your organizational profile needs to be for your organization, so enter that information when you're completing the profile. In the BOOST application you'll be asked to provide information on your fiscal sponsor.

If we want to apply for funds for year-round AND summer, should we submit them as one application? Is it ok to submit them separately in case one of the initiatives is awarded, but the other one isn't? Submit one application with information on both programs. Each organization can only submit one application.

Is there a specific amount of time that defines "summer enrichment"? No, GSAN has not defined a summer enrichment program by a specific number of weeks. Following the Applicant Workshop, the Rubric has been updated to reflect the points applicants will receive for varying numbers of weeks of summer programming. Already included in the rubric were points for the number of hours per day and days per week programs operate. Research has shown positive impacts of summer enrichment programming that operate for at least 5 weeks of the summer.

Since the 2021 summer programs have ended, can the funds be used for the 2022 program? Yes. Organizations that only provide summer programming can apply for funds to support the 2022, 2023 and 2024 summers.

The application asks us to enter start dates - would this just be the 10/1/21 date listed in the RFP if we are a year-round program? Enter the starting date for your program. If you are a year-round program, what is the first day the program is offered in the new school year? Enter that date. The start and end dates of your program will allow BOOST application readers to assess your program's dosage.

Does the programming have to include the entire age group of 5-18 or can it be a subset such as ages 14-17? Programs can serve a subset or different subsets of the age group.

Is the number of students served our current or predicted number? The number you enter in the application should be the number you anticipate serving in the upcoming year with any expansions funded by BOOST funds.

Our anticipated reach goes up in Year 2. Should we enter that number or just enter the Year 1 number? As grant amounts will likely be flat for the three years, you should enter the number of youth you anticipate being able to serve in year 1.

Do we use numbers of unduplicated students for our entire organization or just the programs that this grant would fit within, or the numbers we think we will serve with this funding? Enter the number of unduplicated youth you anticipate serving through the afterschool and/or summer programs supported by BOOST funds.

How many children are organizations required to serve? There is no minimum number of students required to apply for funding.

How were the target populations chosen? Why are you putting so much emphasis on the target populations? The population groups were identified in the American Rescue Plan.

How do you define *migratory youth*? Students whose parents move from place to place in search of work are considered migratory youth. Title I, Part C, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act authorizes the federal Migrant Education Program and defines a migratory child as **a child who works, or whose parents work**, in the agriculture, dairy, or fishing industry and who has made a qualifying move in search of work within the previous 36 months. More information can be found on the U.S. Department of Education’s [Office of Migrant Education](#) webpage and GaDOE’s [Education of Migratory Children](#) webpage.

Does my program have to serve all the target populations to get funded? No. Your program doesn’t have to serve any of the target populations to be eligible to apply for funding. However, programs that serve the target populations will be scored higher than those that don’t. More information about how applications will be scored can be found in the Rubric that is included in the RFP.

When looking at student eligibility to receive free and reduced-price lunch, can this number be based off of their school’s Community Eligibility Provision eligibility? Yes.

What documentation do we use to verify students receive free/reduced lunch since all schools or at least our county served have approved for all students to receive free breakfast and lunch due to COVID relief funding? GSAN and GaDOE are not requiring applicants to provide verification that students qualify to receive free and reduced-price lunches. If your organization does not collect information on free and reduced-price lunch recipient, you can enter the estimated % of students your organization will serve who receive free and reduced-price lunch based on the data available for the school districts or individual schools served. [Click here](#) for GaDOE’s source for data on free and reduced-price lunch recipients. Select the October 2020 data set from the drop-down menu then select the school district(s) in which your program participants attend school and click “Get Report”. You will be able to see the data for all the schools in that district.

We have students in our program from all over the metro Atlanta area. Since we can’t use the school district or county numbers for free/reduced lunch, can we gather that information by simply asking our parents/students their eligibility status or will we have to use the Income Eligibility Form to officially get the information of eligibility? You can ask parents and students or you can estimate. See the question above for a good resource to help you estimate.

If we are serving multiple counties or school districts, should we use an average of these for the free & reduced lunch data? Yes.

If we say no in regard to scholarships and/or transportation provided, but we hope to use the grant funds to provide those services. How does this work? If you don’t currently provide transportation, you select “no” to that question. In the space provided, you can explain why you haven’t been able to provide transportation and indicate that you want to use BOOST grant funds to do so. Your budget would also have to show BOOST grant dollars directed toward transportation costs.

What if we have tracked free/reduced lunch but not some of the other priority categories although we are happy to serve them. How should we respond to those populations on the checklist? The application asks about the strategies in place to recruit, serve, and/or address specific needs of the identified populations. If your organization does not have strategies to recruit, serve, and/or address specific needs of the identified populations, you would select “no” by the appropriate population groups. If you are developing and planning to implement strategies to recruit, serve, and/or address specific needs of the identified populations, please describe your plans in the question narrative.

Our program has several components. Therefore, checking off three categories will not give the grantor the full scope of our program. Can we put all of the services we offer in the narrative? The list of program components is not all inclusive. You should check all the components provided in the application that your program provides and further describe your program in your narrative answers.

Why is it so important to use evidence-based strategies in my programs? Using evidence-based strategies is important because they work. The idea behind using a research-based or an evidence-based practice is you know that there is research behind it that demonstrates that it will, in fact, be an effective intervention. The following is a sampling of resources you can consult:

- Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development Quality Standards <http://georgiaasyd.org/quality-standards/>
- Evidence-Based Interventions: Summer Learning or Enrichment and Comprehensive Afterschool Programs <https://bit.ly/EvidenceBasedAfterschoolandSummer>
- Planning for Impactful Summer Learning 2021 <http://bit.ly/SummerImpactPlan>
- Help Kids Recover Evidence-Based Strategies <https://www.helpkidsrecover.org/evidence-based-strategies/>

Our program's activities take place outside of school hours and are varied based on the needs of each student, when college admissions activities are available, etc. Because of this, days per week and hours per day are variable while weeks per year and programming hours per year are more consistent. How should we list these two numbers? You should enter the average days per week and hours per day.

If our program is available some days for one age group and other days for another age group, do we list the total days or just dosage per child? Enter the dosage per child.

Does the organization have to currently be offering after school or summer enrichment programming? Or can you still apply if the organization is adding that component to grow our current programming? Organizations will receive extra points if their programs have been in place for at least three years. Organizations can apply for BOOST funds to support the launch of new programs too.

Our organization has multiple program sites. Does this grant have to be used toward one site or all of our sites? Applicants should decide which sites and how many sites they operate to include in the BOOST grant request.

The application asks about program sites. Are we basing this on the current number of sites or our expansion plan? Base it on your expansion plan. In your narrative, please include your current number of sites and your expansion plan and strategies.

Do the applications need to be specific to one county? No, the application can include many counties if your program(s) serve youth in many counties.

We have one site location but provide busing for students from many counties. About 6% of program participants are from counties with no current programs receiving government funding through 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Should we indicate this in the related question on the application? Yes.

If we serve multiple counties through a single site (a summer camp), do we indicate that we serve those counties or just the county where the site is located? You would select the county in which the site is located in the "site locations" question and you can provide additional information about where the students reside in a narrative question later in the application.

What if you're still waiting on answers as to other school districts and counties you plan to work with? How do we answer question as what counties we plan to work with if we're still waiting on responses? You can select the counties you anticipate working with in the application, whether your plans are firm or not. If your organization receives a grant and you weren't able to serve students in those counties, your grant may be adjusted.

In terms of the learning acceleration required component - do those learning acceleration activities need to be directly tied to what students are learning at school? Our programs support teens in skill building that help them perform better in school but our activities don't correlate directly to subjects and we don't provide homework help. Learning acceleration does not equate to tutoring or homework help. Learning acceleration can be directly aligned with subjects taught at school and can also include skill building activities that will help students be more successful in school.

Does the grant cover academic life skills such as organization and time-management skills? Where does this fall under? Academic life skills would fall under learning acceleration.

Does foreign language instruction or dual-language immersion instruction support learning acceleration? This would be a great opportunity for you to share research/evidence that points to foreign language instruction supporting learning.

Are life skills (e.g.: budgets, conflict resolution, etc.) considered enrichment activities? Budgeting is one example of an enrichment activity; conflict resolution aligns better with well-being and connectedness.

How does this grant define the difference between learning acceleration hours vs. hours of programming available? In the application, organizations enter the number of learning acceleration hours per day, which is the amount of time youth participants spend daily on learning acceleration activities. Applicants are asked to separately enter the hours per day of programming, which is the total hours students spend daily in programming. These two separate data points will allow BOOST application readers to adequately assess applicants' programming.

Can a nonprofit partner with a city park and recreation center? We currently lease space at a local park district to run our afterschool program. Yes, you can lease space from parks & recreation and still apply as long as your organization is delivering the program, not parks & recreation staff.

For year-round programming when equally splitting funds, can the total funds be equal but with different expenditure categories based on what is needed for each type of programming? Yes.

Since grant is based on reimbursement, can organizations start in January and expect payment in January or February 2022? I ask this question because due to COVID-19 my program only has 1 month of working capital. Afterschool programs must be in operation by 10/1/2021 to qualify for BOOST funds.

What types of outcomes are you seeking? Applicants are asked to identify three outcomes in the application; GSAN and GaDOE are not establishing outcomes grantees are expected to report on. The [Application Guidance document](#) gives applicants details on how to formulate their outcome statements.

What will grantees be required to report on? Grantees will have to adhere to the Program Quality Requirements outlined in the Data, Monitoring, and Program Implementation Reporting and Assurances section of the RFP. Grantees will be required to measure and report on outcomes identified in application.

Why will organizations that provide programming in counties where there aren't 21st CCLC or Afterschool Care Program grantees get scored higher? Programs located in or serving counties where there aren't current 21st

CCLC or Afterschool Care Program grantees will receive higher scores as our government dollars haven't reached those communities and the need for quality afterschool and summer programming is great. [Click here for a list of counties with no such programming.](#)

Do you enter a one-year budget on the form? It is a three-year grant, so please advise whether you want to see all three years. You should only enter one year in the budget form. Be sure to review the instructions tab of the budget worksheet.

We have a number of partners either with grants or support with food, etc. local school system, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Commission on Children and Youth, business companies, etc. Will that impact us negatively in applying for summer program only? The number of partners will not impact an applicant's score. Be sure to review the Rubric as it details how your answer about partners will be scored.

Can you explain what a memorandum of agreements with community partners is? A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is a document written between parties to cooperatively work together on an agreed upon project or meet an agreed upon objective. If your organization has such agreements with any partners, you may submit your MOAs with your application. This is an optional attachment.

Is the conflict of interest form needed upon application submission or is it required only for grantees? It is required as part of your application.

Do we need to fill out the program assurance for subgrantees form if we do not plan on having subgrantees? Yes. BOOST grantees will be GaDOE's subgrantees and the program assurance form is a required part of your BOOST application.

You mentioned word counts have been adjusted. Can you give us an idea of the count changes? For example, a lot of them are 250 words. What count was those changed to? And can you confirm it's just counting words, not characters? Because we had to adjust word counts, we have updated the Application Guidance document and the RFP to show character counts. The online application can only track characters, not word counts.

Data, Monitoring, and Program Implementation Reporting and Assurances

I'd like to know before the grant what data my organization will be required to report on. Can you give us the report template now? The report template is not ready yet. However, organizations should review the information included in the Data, Monitoring, and Program Implementation Reporting and Assurances section of the RFP. As you can see, in addition to reporting on demographic data of your program participants, GaDOE and GSAN will want to gain a sense of youth satisfaction and sense of belonging. Grantees will also need to report on their specific goals/outcomes as outlined in grant application.

Will academic-based metrics be required in reporting, i.e., grade improvement, etc.? We are not an academic-focused program but are skill-building to support better school performance. GSAN will not require school grades or Milestone assessment data as part of reporting on BOOST grants. Collection of academic growth and skill development data will be explored with grantees and evaluation partners.

What if any requirements exist at the end of the three years? BOOST grantees will have to report at the end of each of the three grant years. GSAN anticipates reporting to be very similar at the end of year 3 as in previous years.

My budget for years 2 and 3 will grow. Is it possible for my grant award to increase after year 1? No. Because GaDOE and GSAN will be allocating all the funds this year, grant amounts will likely be flat for the three years.

If we are expanding so in year 1 we would meet one-dollar threshold and then in year 2 we would meet a higher level, is there opportunity to increase funding in year 2 or do we just apply for the level of children we will definitely serve in year 1? Grant amounts will likely be flat for the three years. You should apply for the number you anticipate being able to serve in year 1.

In the Assurances section there's something about having to participate in GSAN training and technical support. Can you tell me about that? How many hours per month or year will we have to do this? To support the quality improvement of Georgia's out-of-school time program and professionals and build capacity and sustainability in the field, GSAN will provide a variety of training and technical assistance to grant recipients. GSAN has not finalized the schedule, but we anticipate providing some on-demand and interactive trainings and workshops, opportunities for statewide conference attendance, small group virtual coaching, and non-punitive quality assessments. More details regarding the opportunities for engagement will be available following grant awards.

On the assurances form there is a section that mentions the background check requirement. My question is whether background checks are required for the same staff, volunteers, etc. every year, or if conducting background checks on staff, volunteers, etc. prior to hire will suffice? The organization will need to ensure a cleared background check for staff is collected every 365 days.

Are there any conflicts of interest with outside Federal Grants? No.

Funding Matrix

Why do organizations that serve more students who participate in the free and reduced-price lunch program qualify for more funding? BOOST Grants are meant to expand access to afterschool and summer enrichment programs by reducing barriers to participation. GaDOE and GSAN know that one significant barrier for many parents is cost. By giving priority and greater funding to organizations that serve students who participate in the free and reduced-price lunch program, the BOOST Grants are serving students and families who need these programs the most.

How much funding can I request? The Funding Matrix included in the RFP walks you through how to determine how much funding your organization can request. Note that the amount in the table is what organizations can request per year for each of the three years. Additionally, the Application Guidance document walks you through an example of determining what you can request. Make sure you have reviewed the information in the RFP and Application Guidance document. If you still have questions, contact GSAN staff at BOOST@georgiavoices.org.

When you apply for a grant amount, do you submit an amount that would be renewed once annually or would be split up? For example, if you apply for \$20,000 is that amount split into 3 equal parts, or are you applying for \$20,000 each year? The application asks you to indicate the amount of funding you are requesting per year. When you consult the Funding Matrix, note that the funding amounts in the tables are the maximum amount organizations can request per year.

Is there a match requirement on this funding? No.

Application Scoring & Rubric

How will applications be scored? GSAN has developed a Rubric that application readers will follow when scoring applications. The Rubric is included in the RFP. Be sure to review the Rubric before you start working on your application to help you understand what kind of information we are looking for throughout the application and how it will be weighted differently. Additionally, the Application Guidance document provides additional helpful details.

Is there a minimum score for funding if we know we don't get points for all of the priority populations and for counties served? Just trying to figure out if it's worth applying if we lose those points automatically. No, there is not. Awards will be contingent on the number of qualified and highly-rated applications received for each type of grant.

Is there a specific number of grantees you will be awarding? No, there is not. While we have outlined the maximum funding that will be awarded through the two types of grants (Community and Statewide) and the grant ranges in previous sections, actual awards will be contingent on the number of qualified and highly-rated applications received for each type of grant.

Will the awards be all or nothing? GSAN does not anticipate the awards will be all or nothing, but we can't say for sure as actual awards will be contingent on the number of qualified and highly-rated applications received for each type of grant.

Who will be scoring applications? What qualifications will they have? GSAN is pursuing expansive, statewide outreach to engage approximately 20-50 application reviewers, with a focus on recruiting strong representation of individuals with experience or connection to youth development. All reviewers will be asked to disclose conflicts of interest. Small groups of reviewers will read and score applications. Review group assignments will ensure that no reviewers review proposals from programs/organizations in which they serve as a staff member, board member, volunteer or consultant. Reviewers will participate in training prior to beginning their application reviews. All reviewers will use the same scoring rubric. GSAN will guide the review process and will review the scoring from across all groups once review groups have completed a thorough review and scoring of their applications. Learn more [here](#).

I am submitting an application for my program. Can I sign up to review applications too? Yes. As noted above, review group assignments will ensure that no reviewers review proposals from programs/organizations in which they serve as a staff member, board member, volunteer or consultant. Learn more [here](#).

Are you paying application readers? Who will pay them? Application readers will receive a minimum \$300 stipend from GSAN.

How many applications will each application reader review? GSAN will only be able to determine how many applications each reader will review following the deadline. We anticipate that each reader will review up to 15 applications.

What happens after grantees are selected?

Will a list of recipients be made public after the grants are awarded? Yes.

Will reimbursements be submitted electronically or manually? Reimbursement will be submitted electronically.

What does the reimbursement process look like? I am concerned about the staff time commitment this may entail. Reimbursements will be submitted electronically. Supporting documentation for expenditures will be uploaded for review to ensure alignment with submitted budget. After approval, subgrantee will be able to drawdown the funds.

Is the reimbursement based on actual cost or is it a cost per student up to a max amount (Ex. Like Summer Food Program allows only up to what you serve per student)? It is actual cost.

What is considered "significantly less" as far as the projected number of students to be served? 10% / 20% / 50%? If the number of youth a grantee served causes the grantee to shift down one tier or level of funding per the

funding matrix, it is likely that GSN and GaDOE will adjust the grantee's future year awards to align with what was projected. GSN does not anticipate requiring grantees to return funds.