



Building Opportunities for Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Grants

Frequently Asked Questions

July 17, 2025

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 were invited to join the Applicant Workshop on Friday, July 11 at 10 a.m. in which we discussed the program and provided a walkthrough of the online application. Participation in the Applicant Workshop was optional. To access a recording of Applicant Informational Workshop click [HERE](#).

The resources linked above: [Application Guidance Document](#) | Applicant Informational Meeting Recording and the Request for Proposals (RFP) can also be found on the [BOOST Grants Program webpage](#).

If you still have questions about the BOOST Grants Program or the application questions after reviewing these resources, please contact G·san staff at BOOST@georgiavoices.org.

Statewide & Community Grants

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

GaDOE and G·san 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?

With new state funding included in Georgia's FY26 state budget, the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (G·san) is proud to work with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to continue the BOOST Grants Program. Approximately \$11.5 million will be available this year, and annually upon continued state appropriations, through competitive grants to expand access to and improve the quality of comprehensive afterschool programming and summer enrichment opportunities for K-12 youth statewide.

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 Grant 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 a Statewide Grant as outlined in the RFP.

Which organizations will submit Statewide Grant applications? When will they be notified? The following statewide organizations submitted letters of intent and were approved to submit grant applications for a

Statewide Grant: Georgia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Georgia Alliance of YMCAs, Georgia Recreation and Parks Association, Communities in Schools of Georgia, and Morehouse College-Federal TRIO Programs. Any organization that is a member of or associated with one of the above-named organizations may not apply separately for a Community Grant.

Interested Statewide Grant applicants were notified of their invitation to submit a Statewide Grant application July 7-8, 2025.

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 a Statewide Grant will determine how to disseminate grant funds to local members/affiliates.

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.

Are Letters of Intent (LOI) required for all grant types? No, only applicants who intend to submit a Statewide Grant application are required to submit a LOI. Community Grant applicants do not have to submit a LOI.

Eligibility: Applicants

Why are schools and school districts not eligible for these grants? Schools and school districts are not eligible because the BOOST Grants Program is designed specifically to support community organizations. Applicants are encouraged to have existing or develop new partnerships with school in their community.

How can I ensure that my school is included in the BOOST Grants Program? Local education agencies (LEAs) are ineligible to apply for a BOOST Grant, unless serving as a fiscal agent for a community organization. Schools and school districts are encouraged to collaborate/partner with community organizations who are a recipient of a BOOST Grant in their community to support the youth that attend their school.

Why can some private and independent schools apply but not all? Some private and independent schools are eligible because their afterschool and/or summer programs meet the eligibility requirements and are open to all.

Why is learning acceleration a required critical content/service area? Learning acceleration is a required critical content/service area because it fills critical gaps in learning and helps to ensure that youth stay on their academic trajectory. Furthermore, it is one of the four explicit ways that the BOOST Grants Program aims to support youth development.

Why can't childcare centers that only serve children under age 5 apply? Childcare centers that only serve children under the age of 5 are ineligible because the grant opportunity requires programs to serve ages 5-18.

Are for-profit day-care centers and other for-profit organizations eligible? No. For profit entities are ineligible for BOOST funding.

Does my organization have to be a nonprofit to apply? Nonprofit organizations, colleges/universities, and municipalities. Nonprofit organizations will be asked to provide their 501(c)(3) number or that of their fiscal sponsor. There is no requirement that you non-profit be registered in the state of Georgia for a minimum amount of time.

Would I be eligible to apply if my national organization serving as my fiscal agent is located outside of Georgia? Yes, your organization would be eligible; however, the programming that is being supported by BOOST funds must be in the state of Georgia.

Does my organization have to have a physical location where we provide programming to youth to be eligible? There is no requirement to have a physical location.

Are 21st CCLC programs and programs in 21st CCLC funded areas eligible? Also, why will organizations that provide programming in counties where there aren't 21st CCLC or Out of School Services Program grantees get scored higher? Yes, 21st CCLC programs and programs in 21st CCLC funded areas are eligible if they meet all eligibility criteria. Programs located in or serving counties where there aren't current 21st CCLC or **Out of School Services** 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.](#)

With the potential loss of 21st CCLC programs across the state / nation is there any consideration in amending the eligibility requirement to allow local school districts to apply directly? At this time, eligibility requirements for BOOST funding have not changed. If any amendments are made, GSAN will announce those alongside GaDOE. Schools and school districts are encouraged to collaborate/partner with community organizations who are applying for a BOOST Grant in their community to support their students.

Do organizations need to be in operation for 2 years or is it the afterschool and/or summer program? The afterschool and/or summer program needs to have been in operation for at least 2 years as of August 1st, 2025.

If my organization previously offered afterschool or summer enrichment programming in a different state, but is currently operating and serving Georgia youth, are we eligible to apply? Yes, if all other eligibility requirements are met.

Do learning centers have to be licensed under Bright from the Start? There is no requirement for facilities/centers to be licensed. The Assurances, found in Section XIII of the RFP notes that organizations must adhere to all *applicable* licensing and/or exemption rules and regulations from the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning.

Does my organization have to offer afterschool programming and summer enrichment programs to be eligible? No, organizations can apply for afterschool-only, summer-only, or year-round funding.

We aren't officially tied to serving a specific district, are we still eligible for the application? Organizations do not have to be in partnership with a specific school district to apply; however, they should be able to report the school districts that they historically serve as part of their application submission.

Would a limited liability company (LLC) establishing new programming, apply with a fiscal agent? Yes, as long as the applicant meets all eligibility requirements?

Are online/virtual learning programs eligible for funding? Yes, if the applicant meets all eligibility requirements.

We are a nonprofit residential treatment facility for youth. Only youth enrolled in treatment would be receiving these services. Are we still eligible to apply since it isn't open to the public? Yes, given the program meets all other eligibility requirements

Is there a minimum number of students that community grant applicants must serve to be eligible? Yes, community applicants must serve more than 26 youth to be eligible for funding, unless the organization is serving youth from one of the target populations or located within a priority county.

Are we eligible to apply if our dosage will increase if awarded BOOST Grant funds, to meet the minimum dosage requirement. No, applicants must meet all eligibility requirements at the time of applying.

Eligibility: Expenses

Are expenses incurred prior to October 1st, 2025 allowable? No. Allowable expenses begin at the start of the grant year.

Are program expenses related to administering our program, such as survey software, eligible expenses? Yes.

Are expenses that require prior approval included in your award amount or are they additional amounts that will be awarded? If making a transportation purchase, the cost would be part of your overall budget based on your approved award amount. It would not be a separate amount or award.

Timeline

Is the deadline firm? Yes, the deadline of August 1st at 5pm is firm.

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, according to the anticipated invoicing scheduled outlined in the RFP.

Why is the grant year starting after the academic school year has already started? The recommended awards need to be approved by the Georgia State Board of Education which we anticipate will occur on September 25th, 2025.

What are the program periods?

Afterschool Programs: October 1, 2025—May 2026

Summer Enrichment Programs: June 2026 –July 31, 2026

Can we begin programming immediately after being awarded? Yes, expenses are eligible beginning October 1, 2025.

Are salaries for site directors and assistant directors eligible? Yes, salaries and fringe benefits are eligible expenses.

Will statewide sub-recipients have the same start period as community grantees? Statewide Grantee decide the schedule to dissemination; however expenses for sub-recipients are eligible beginning October 1, 2025.

Application Process

How do I apply? The application must be [submitted online](#) utilizing the online application hosted on the Submittable web platform. Applications must be submitted no later than Friday, August 1, 2025 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.

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 one of the recommended web browsers (**Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, or Microsoft Edge (version 20 or later)**).

Who do I contact if I have problems with the online application portal? If you are having problems with the application portal, please contact Submittable staff at [Submittable Help](#). Submittable's goal is to respond within 24 hours.

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](#). This 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.

Afterschool & Summer Enrichment Programs

How were the target populations chosen? Why are you putting so much emphasis on the target populations?

Target populations were selected because current research shows that these populations face unique challenges accessing and participating in afterschool and summer learning programs.

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.

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/informed practice is your program designed based on research that demonstrates that it will, in fact, be an effective intervention. Below is a sampling of resources you can consult and others can be found in the RFP.

- 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>
- National Summer Learning Association: Interaction & Engagement <https://www.summerlearning.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/09/Program-Quality-Interaction-and-Engagement-2017-2.pdf>
- The Forum for Youth Investment Youth Program Quality Improvement (YPQI) Approach [The Youth Program Quality Improvement \(YPQI\) Approach: Implications for Policy and Practice - The Forum For Youth Investment](#)

Do I have to offer the same program during my afterschool program and my summer enrichment program to be considering year-round programming? No, if you offer afterschool programming and summer enrichment programming, even if they are different programs offered at different program periods, your organization meets the definition of year-round programming if both meet all eligibility requirements.

The programs my organization offers during the academic year occur during the school day and we also offer summer enrichment programs, is my organization eligible to apply for year-round funding? No. Only programming that takes place before school, after school, during school breaks, and during the summer are considered out-of-school time (afterschool/summer programming).

My organization offers year-round programming, however, only one of my program periods (i.e. Summer vs Afterschool) meets the eligibility requirements. Are we eligible for year-round funding? No, you will only be eligible to apply for funding for the program period that meets the eligibility requirements.

How do I determine my dosage amount (hours/days)? In order to determine the number of days and hours, calculate how many days and hours are offered to all participating youth. Youth don't need to attend all the hours, but they need to have the opportunity. For example, if you offer programming Monday – Thursday from 3pm – 6pm and all youth in the program are offered the opportunity to attend each day, you would put 4 days/week and 3 hours/day. However, if you offer programming Monday – Thursday from 3pm -6pm and youth are only allowed to attend one day then your days per week would be 1 day/week.

Is before school programming allowable? School breaks (Winter & Spring breaks)? Before school programming and school breaks are allowable and can be counted toward the days/week and hours/day.

Are certified teachers required for programming? No. If your program does not use certified teachers to support learning acceleration, explain why your organization has chosen not to use certified teachers and how you will staff this component of your programming to ensure your participating students experience learning gains through program participation.

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 outlined in Section XIII of the RFP.

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 programs and professionals and build capacity and sustainability in the field, GSAN will provide a variety of training and technical assistance to grant recipients. All grantees will be expected to complete a Quality Intake Survey. More details regarding the opportunities for engagement will be available following grant awards.

What is GSAN's Assess, Plan, Improve framework that employs various program assessment tools to guide programs in evaluating the state of their program and developing a plan to strengthen it? The framework intentionally aligns Assessment tools (i.e. GSAN Quality Intake Survey, ASYD Quality Standards, Youth Program Quality Assessment) that reflect the readiness of programs and will help to identify strengths and development areas within their practice. The framework will include customized and intentional coaching, virtual and in-person training workshops and learning communities to support programs in creating and executing a plan specific to their needs. Organizations will implement a plan to improve staff practices while strengthening their organization.

What data will grantees be required to report? Grantees will have to adhere to the Data, Monitoring, and Program Implementation Reporting and Assurances outlined in Section XIII of the RFP. Grantees will also be required to measure and report on programmatic outcomes submitted with their application.

Will prior BOOST Grant recipients have additional reporting requirements, if selected as a grantee for this award? No

Funding, Budget Creation, & Fiscal Compliance

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, 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 outlines how to determine the amount of funding your organization can request. Additionally, the [Application Guidance Document](#) details an example to assist with determining the amount an organization can request. Please carefully review the information in the RFP and the guidance document. If you still have questions, contact GSAN staff at BOOST@georgiavoices.org.

Is this a reimbursement only grant? No. Grant expenses for incurred and proposed expenses will be allowed.

What will be required to drawdown funding? Selected grantees will be provided the details of the process to drawdown funds

When will organizations be expected to have their general liability insurance and fidelity bond purchased?

A copy of each policy, along with a Certificate of Insurance and the additional insured endorsement must be submitted to the GaDOE within 60 days of receiving the Grant Award Notification. GaDOE staff will check the availability of the general liability insurance and the Fidelity Bond before the approval of the budget in the Consolidated Application and annually for the life of the grant to ensure the insurance has not expired/canceled.

Should I upload the financial audit for my larger organization or for my specific program? (For example, my program is a small program at a college or university, should I upload the financial audit for the college/university or only for my program)? If available, please upload the financial audit information for the department or program that is responsible for managing the financial operations for your program.

Are funds required to be requested during drawdown dates? Can we simply report on use throughout the grant cycle? While invoices may be submitted to GSAN and GaDOE earlier, invoices will only be reviewed for payment and processed according to the drawdown schedule.

Does the full grant award have to be used within the grant period. Yes, by the final drawdown date listed, grantees are required to have drawn down 100% of their award and all grant funds should be exhausted by the end of the grant period

Application Questions, Scoring & Rubric

How will applications be scored? GSAN has developed a scoring rubric that application readers will follow when scoring applications. The rubric is included in Section XIV of the RFP. Be sure to review the rubric before working on your application to understand the kind of information that grant scorers will review for throughout the application and how different parts of the application will be weighted differently. Additionally, the [Application Guidance Document](#) provides additional helpful details.

Who will be scoring applications? What qualifications will they have? GSAN is pursuing expansive, national outreach to engage approximately 50-80 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.

I am submitting an application for my program. Can I sign up to review applications too? No

Are you paying application readers? Who will pay them? Application readers will receive a \$325 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 20 applications.

We recently established MOU's to apply for a different funding opportunity, are we able to use those MOU's for our BOOST proposal, even if it does not mention BOOST in the documents? Yes, existing partnership MOUs do not need to mention BOOST to be submitted as part of the application

Are priority points stackable? Yes

What qualifies as meeting the science of reading? The BOOST Grants RFP, Section VII has a sampling of resources to assist programs with defining evidence-based programming, including resources to assist with defining the Science of Reading. One resource links to free evidence-based resources from the National Center for Improving Literacy. This link is one resource from that website that defines the Science of Reading: <https://www.improvingliteracy.org/resource/the-science-of-reading-an-overview>

If we are planning to implement Science or Reading more consistently through this funding during the grant year, can we select, "Yes" and explain how? (And will this count as meeting this priority even if it's not currently being fully implemented?) Yes, you can indicate your plans during this funding period.

Can we use evidenced-based/informed curricula not listed in the RFP? Yes, those are listed as resources and examples, not an exclusive list.

Is the application asking for average daily youth served or total unduplicated youth served? The application asks for the number of youth served by the program on a typical day, for both the previous year of operation and the anticipated number for the upcoming year.

Are nonprofits required to submit an independent financial audit with their application? Yes, if your organization is required to conduct an audit. If not, you will be requested to submit your last fiscal year internal year-end balance sheet and year-end budget with year-end actuals