

# Building Opportunities for Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Grants Application Guidance July 17, 2025

This document is meant to provide guidance to applicants regarding the questions asked in the application. Be sure to review this document, the Frequently Asked Questions document and the RFP to gain a complete understanding of the BOOST Grants Program. Visit GSAN's <u>BOOST Grants Program webpage</u> for the recording of the Applicant Workshop, the RFP, and the FAQs 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.

## Completing the Online Application

As a reminder, your program's/organization's response to the application must be <u>submitted online</u>. Please make sure your organization/program meets the eligibility criteria outlined in the RFP before beginning an application.

Applications must be submitted no later than Thursday, August 1, 2025 at 5 p.m. Applicants may only apply using the online application found <a href="here">here</a>. 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.

**IMPORTANT:** If Applicants have any issue with the Submittable platform, please reach out to Submittable's support team (<u>Submittable Help</u>). Their goal is to respond within 24 hours. Additionally, Submittable has on demand resources (Help for Applicants | Submittable Help Center) that area available for applicants.

#### TIPS:

- ✓ GSAN encourages applicants to work on their application answers in a document saved to their local drive or desktop rather than drafting all answers in the online application. In the event that there are technical challenges, doing so will prevent applicants' work from being lost.
- ✓ Applicants should use either Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Apple Safari, or Microsoft Edge (version 20 or later) web-browser to complete their applications. The online application portal works best with these browsers
- ✓ As you are entering information into your application, Submittable will be autosaving your information. However, please note that if you leave your computer idle for too long, Submittable may log you out.
- ✓ You will see a "wordcount" tracker below any question that has a word limit.

- ✓ Within Submittable there is a collaborative feature where multiple people from your organization can work on your application. Here is a <u>link</u> with instructions on how to utilize the feature.
- ✓ Click **Submit Form** at the bottom of the page only when you have reviewed the information in your application and are ready for GSAN to review your submission. If you click **Submit Form** and there is any missing information, the system will direct you to the questions that you must still address. If any of the required questions you must address do not apply to your request, simply enter N/A.
- ✓ **IMPORTANT:** If you do not click **Submit Form**, your application will not be considered. Be sure that you are truly ready to **Submit** before doing so as once you have submitted, you will not be able to make any further edits.

## **Getting Started**

Click <u>here</u> to be directed to the online application. As a reminder, GSAN is utilizing Submittable for the application portal. If you don't already have a Submittable account, you will be prompted to create one, which is very straightforward.

After creating your account, you will be directed to the landing page. At the bottom of the landing page, you will see the **Apply** button for the *FY26 BOOST Grants Program application*. Once you click on the button you will see a one question eligibility quiz that details all the eligibility requirements. If your organization is eligible to apply following the completion of the eligibility quiz, you will be taken to the actual application.

# **BOOST Grant Application**

## **Organization Information**

Statewide Grantee: Only select yes if you are one of the five organizations/associations listed in the notes section of the question.

State of Georgia Vendor: If you are already registered as a vendor, you will be required to enter your vendor ID. If you are not registered, you will be required to upload the <u>Supplier Change Request Form</u> and your <u>W9</u>.

MyGaDOE Portal: If you don't have an account **or** if you do have an active account but need to make changes to staff roles, you will need to upload the <u>Grants Accounting Access Form</u>.

## Administrative Contacts Information

Please enter information for all roles. Only Additional Contacts 1 & 2 are optional contacts. If an individual is serving in multiple roles, please enter their information for each role.

## General Information

Fiscal Agent: If your organization is using another nonprofit organization as its fiscal agent, provide the name of the fiscal agent organization along with the contact information for the organization's leader, their mailing address, and Employer Identification Number (EIN). You will have to coordinate with your fiscal agent on the submission of pre-authorized expense forms as well as reports. GaDOE will make payments on your behalf to your fiscal agent. It will be your responsibility to work with your fiscal agent to receive the funds GaDOE has paid them on your behalf.

How many years has the afterschool and/or summer learning program been operating? Enter the total number of years your afterschool and/or summer learning program has been serving the community.

Are you applying for:

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

- Comprehensive afterschool grants (for those that provide programming during the school year for youth 5-18 years-old)
- Year-round programming grants (summer enrichment + comprehensive afterschool)

Select which type of grant you are applying for.

- If your organization only provides summer enrichment programming, select that option.
- If your organization only provides comprehensive afterschool programming, select that option.
- If your organization provides programming year-round (comprehensive afterschool and summer enrichment), select both options.

It is important to select the correct option as that will determine which questions will appear within your application and which ones the system will require you to answer.

# Sites & Program Duration

The following questions are asked in relation to both summer enrichment and afterschool programming. If your organization only provides summer enrichment programming, only the summer enrichment section will be displayed. If your organization only provides afterschool programming, only the afterschool section will be displayed. If your organization provides year-round programming, both sections will be displayed.

Total number of sites: Enter the total number of sites for your summer enrichment and/or afterschool programming. If you only provide one of the types of programs – summer enrichment or afterschool programming – the system will only ask you to enter the total number of sites for that particular type of program. Programs that operate year-round will be required to enter the total number of sites for their afterschool program separately from the total number of sites for their summer program.

Site Locations (Counties): Select the counties from the list in which you have a site located.

Start date AND End date: Provide the start and end dates for your program. If you operate an afterschool program, your start and end dates will align with the school year calendar. If you operate a summer program, your start and end dates will fall during the summer months. Programs that operate year-round will be required to enter the dates for their afterschool program separately from the dates for their summer program.

Days per week | Hours per day | Hours of learning acceleration per day | Total weeks per year | Total hours of programming available per year: In this section, enter how many days per week and hours per day your program operates during summer and/or afterschool months. Also enter the number of learning acceleration minutes per day that are offered. Then enter the total number of weeks in the summer/afterschool and the total number of hours for your summer/afterschool programming.

To calculate total hours, you would multiply hours/day \* days/week \* total weeks offered to an individual youth. For example, a program that is offered to an individual youth 3 days/week, 3 hours/day, and 30 weeks = 270 hours. Programs that operate year-round will be required to enter the data for their afterschool program separately from the data for their summer program.

Programs that have longer operating hours will score higher than those that have shorter operating hours. Programs that operate more days per week will score higher than those that operate fewer days per week. Details about how this will be scored can be found in the Rubric included in the RFP.

\*Note: The dosage needs to reflect what is offered to a single youth. For example, if you have programming Monday — Friday; however, a student is only allowed to attend 1 day per week, then the dosage would be 1 day

per week. In contrast, if your program is Monday – Friday and an individual youth is allowed to attend all 5 days; however, the youth opts to only attends one day then the days per week would be 5 days per week.

#### Youth Served

The following questions are asked in relation to both summer enrichment and afterschool programming. If your organization only provides summer enrichment programming, only the summer enrichment section will be displayed. If your organization only provides afterschool programming, only the afterschool section will be displayed. If your organization provides year-round programming, both sections will be displayed.

On a typical day, how many unduplicated youth did your program serve last year in your afterschool/summer program? Enter the number of unduplicated youth served last year through your summer enrichment/afterschool program on a typical day.

On a typical day, how many unduplicated youth are anticipated to be served in your afterschool/summer program? Enter the number of unduplicated youth anticipated to be served through your summer enrichment/afterschool program on a typical day.

Age range grant will serve: Enter the <u>percentage</u> of unduplicated youth by school age group anticipated to be served through your afterschool/summer enrichment program given the percentages served in the past.

- Elementary (rising K-5 students) % of children:
- Middle school (rising 6-8 students) % of youth:
- High school (rising 9-12 students) % of youth:

Demographics of youth served: Enter the <u>percentage</u> of youth anticipated to be served through your summer/afterschool program for the different groups/categories indicated based on populations your organization has served in the past. Each will have various options. If you do not collect or track this data, you will need to explain why.

- Gender
- Race
- Ethnicity

If any demographic data is not collected, please explain. If information on gender, race, and ethnicity are not collected, please explain why your organization has chosen not to collect the information.

% of free and reduced-price lunch recipients or directly certified: Enter the % of students served that meet this criteria.

If the % of free and reduced-price lunch recipients is not collected, please estimate the % of students served based on school districts or individual schools served.

As requested, if your organization does not collect information on free and reduced-price lunch recipients, please enter the estimated % of students your organization serves during the summer months 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 2024 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.

- "\*" by the schools your participants attend indicates Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) percentage is greater than 95%.
- "#" by the schools your participants attend indicates FRL percentage is less than 5%.

"NA" by the schools your participants attend indicates the school does not participate in the FRL program.

School district(s) served: Select the name(s) of the school district(s) your summer/afterschool program serves by selecting the districts that your participants attend

## Program Purpose

Title of Project/Program: Enter the name of your program or project.

Grant Purpose (a two-sentence explanation of the grant project): Provide a brief explanation of your program or project. For example: To provide year-round comprehensive programming to students ages 5-14 in Bartow County.

All applicants must use grant funds to address at least 1 of the 3 BOOST purposes. Which purpose(s) will your program be addressing? Select which purpose(s) of those outlined below your program will address. Click on your selection(s) one at a time.. As you determine which option(s) to choose, ensure that the program — as described later in the application in your narrative answers — aligns with the purpose(s) you choose here.

- 1. **Expand access** to serve more youth, with an emphasis on children who typically do not have access to these programs.
- 2. **Reducing barriers to participation** to ensure access for all.
- 3. Increasing programmatic quality and expand or enhance supports/services offered.

All applicants must offer learning acceleration, as well as programming in at least 2 other critical content/service areas. Which content/service areas will your program be offering? As indicated in the eligibility section of the RFP, all applicants must offer learning acceleration programming and at least 2 other critical content/service areas. We recognize some organizations are able to provide all 4 content/service areas while others may not. As you determine which option(s) to choose, ensure that the program — as described later in the application in your narrative answers — aligns with the critical content/service areas you choose here.

- Learning acceleration, such as literacy and numeracy instruction, STEAM, and college readiness (required component)
- Enrichment activities, such as visual and performing arts and career exploration
- Healthy eating & physical activity
- Well-being and connectedness, such as mentoring, problem solving, and team building

## Organization History and Program Design

Briefly describe the agency/organization, its structure, staff, and its history of successful grant management. (Limit: 200 words) Describe your organization, its structure, staff, and history of successful grant project management. Please ensure that your history description includes the past successful operation and grant project management related to your afterschool or summer programming. Through this answer, Application Readers are trying to understand your organization's general track record and your history as it relates to delivering programming to students.

How was the need for this program/project identified? Please describe the population demographics of the primary communities served and how your program design is meeting community needs. (Limit: 250 words) Earlier in the application you provided demographic data on the population served by your program(s). Through this question, explain to the Application Readers how you determined the need for this program/project in the first place. Was it based on data? Did a school district ask you to launch a program? Did the community's residents make a request to your organization? Be sure to describe the children/youth to be served and to make a strong connection between the specific needs of the community to be served and the proposed program. Available resources to support your response can be found at:

- https://georgiainsights.gadoe.org
- https://www.afterschoolga.org/ost-interactive-map
- https://datacenter.aecf.org/data?location=GA#GA/2/0/char/0
- https://neighborhoodnexus.org/maps-and-data/maps/
- <a href="https://getgeorgiareading.org/data/find-data/">https://getgeorgiareading.org/data/find-data/</a>
- <a href="https://unitedwayatlanta.org/child-well-being-overview/">https://unitedwayatlanta.org/child-well-being-overview/</a> (available for greater Atlanta)

Describe the youth, family, and community outreach methods to support program design and to recruit youth to the program. (Limit: 150 words) Describe the general methods your organization uses to solicit input from youth, families and community residents to design your program and how you typically recruit program participants.

Are measures in place to provide low or no-cost programming for students?  $\square$  Yes  $\square$  No If yes, please describe scholarships awarded to decrease or remove the cost to participate and/or the fees, including a sliding fee schedule, students pay to participate. If some or all youth are able to attend at no or low cost, please note that. (Limit 150 words) If no, please explain. (Limit: 150 words)

GSAN and GaDOE understand that cost is at times a barrier to participation. This is why one of the BOOST Grant purposes is to reduce barriers to ensure access for all. Applicant Readers will award higher points to organizations that have measures in place to provide low or no-cost programming. If you provide low or no-cost programming, your answer needs to describe what that looks like — do you offer scholarships that decrease or remove participation cost? Is there a sliding fee schedule based on family income? Your answer should also indicate what % of your program participants participate while paying a low cost and what % of those served pay nothing to participate. If you do not have any measures in place and all of your students pay the same fee, please explain your organization's decision to operate the program in this manner. If you plan to use BOOST funds to provide low or no-cost programming, explain that here.

Is transportation for youth included? $\square$ Yes $\square$ No
If yes, please explain. (Limit 100 words)
If no, please explain. (Limit: 100 words)

GSAN and GaDOE understand that transportation is at times a barrier to participation. This is why one of the BOOST Grant purposes is to reduce barriers to ensure access for all. While providing transportation for program participants is at times necessary for those most in need to be able to participate, it is not always feasible or necessary. If you provide transportation or support for transportation costs, please describe what you are doing to ensure transportation is not a barrier, including under what circumstances transportation is provided and by whom. If you do not provide transportation, please explain your organization's decision not to provide transportation or support for transportation. If you plan to use BOOST funds to provide transportation, explain that here.

## Programming Overview

Please provide a description of the proposed activities for which you would use these grant funds to meet your identified program purpose(s). (1000 words)

How will the program help youth re-engage and connect, support learning and developmental skill building, and meet the immediate needs of youth and families? (Limit: 2000 characters)

As you describe the proposed program/project, refer to the question in the Program Application section in which you selected from the 3 BOOST grant purposes. Your program/project description needs to connect to those purposes and describe how: 1) the grant funding will be used to serve additional children or youth and/or to BOOST Grants Program Application Guidance

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subsidize enrollment costs, with an emphasis on children who typically do not have access to these programs; 2) the grant funding will be used to reduce barriers, such as transportation and enrollment costs, to ensure access for all; and/or 3) the grant funding will be used to increase programmatic quality and expand or enhance supports/services offered. Additionally, as you describe the various activities, be sure to note alignment with evidence-based strategies for afterschool and summer enrichment programs. 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 <a href="https://bit.ly/EvidenceBasedAfterschoolandSummer">https://bit.ly/EvidenceBasedAfterschoolandSummer</a>
- Afterschool Alliance: Running A Program <a href="https://toolkit.afterschoolalliance.org/running-a-program/">https://toolkit.afterschoolalliance.org/running-a-program/</a>
- Afterschool Alliance Quality Programs Resources: <a href="https://toolkit.afterschoolalliance.org/running-a-program/quality-programs/">https://toolkit.afterschoolalliance.org/running-a-program/quality-programs/</a>
- National Summer Learning Association: Interaction & Engagement <a href="https://www.summerlearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Program-Quality-Interaction-and-Engagement-2017-2.pdf">https://www.summerlearning.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Program-Quality-Interaction-and-Engagement-2017-2.pdf</a>
- The Forum for Youth Investment Youth Program Quality Improvement (YPQI) Approach <u>The Youth Program Quality Improvement (YPQI) Approach: Implications for Policy and Practice The Forum For Youth Investment</u>
- Wallace Foundation: Summer Learning Toolkit <a href="https://wallacefoundation.org/toolkit/summer-learning-toolkit?s=about">https://wallacefoundation.org/toolkit/summer-learning-toolkit?s=about the toolkit</a>
- American Institute of Research (AIR): Role of Research and Evidence in OST https://www.air.org/project/recognizing-role-research-and-evidence-out-school-time
- Georgia Reads Resource Library: Resources Georgia Reads
- Sandra Dunagan Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy Implementation Tools & Resources: Resources The Deal Center
- National Center on Improving Literacy —Literacy Resources for All: <u>Literacy Resources for All | National</u> Center on Improving Literacy

Which of the following components do you plan to provide as part of your programming? Please select all components that your program will offer.

## Learning Acceleration (required)

- Learning acceleration: Literacy programming & curriculum based on the science of reading
- Learning acceleration: literacy/reading skills
- Learning acceleration: numeracy/math
- Learning acceleration: academic remediation/credit recovery
- Learning acceleration: STEM, STEAM, STREAM
- Learning acceleration: college readiness
- Learning acceleration: job/career readiness/workforce development
- Learning acceleration: tutoring
- Learning acceleration: homework help
- Learning acceleration: Other

Please provide a brief description of the proposed activities to help youth accelerate learning. (Limit: 300 words) Learning acceleration is a required critical content/service area. In the space provided, describe the learning acceleration component of your programming. Note any evidence-based strategies you are implementing to help youth accelerate learning. Feel free to describe how you will staff the learning acceleration component: will you use certified teachers or hire tutors? Does your program have a strong relationship with the school(s) your students attend that can support the learning component? If you have students who have different learning needs, how will you address those and adequately support those students? The more well-conceived and thorough descriptions will receive the highest points.

#### **Enrichment activities**

- Enrichment activities: visual and performing arts
- Enrichment activities: crafts
- Enrichment activities: career exploration
- Enrichment activities: financial literacy
- Enrichment activities: Other

Please provide a brief description of the proposed enrichment activities. (Limit: 300 words) *In the space provided, describe in detail the enrichment activities your program offers. The more well-conceived and thorough descriptions will receive the highest points.* 

## **Healthy Eating & Physical Activity**

- Healthy eating and physical activity: sports/recreation
- Healthy eating and physical activity: nutrition education
- Healthy eating and physical activity: healthy meals or snacks
- Healthy eating and physical activity: gardening or other outdoor activities
- Healthy eating and physical activity: healthy cooking/meal preparation
- Healthy eating and physical activity: swimming/swim instruction
- Healthy eating and physical activity: Other

Please provide a brief description of the proposed healthy eating and physical activities. (Limit: 300 words) *In the space provided, describe in detail the healthy eating and physical activities your program offers. The more well-conceived and thorough descriptions will receive the highest points.* 

## Well-being & Connectedness

- Well-being and connectedness: problem solving activities
- Well-being and connectedness: team building activities
- Well-being and connectedness: youth leadership training/activities
- Well-being and connectedness: life skill learning
- Well-being and connectedness: mentoring
- Well-being and connectedness: civic engagement or civics education
- Well-being and connectedness: community service and service learning
- Well-being and connectedness: family & caregiver activities
- Well-being and connectedness: coping and other well-being supports
- Well-being and connectedness: Other

Please provide a brief description of the proposed well-being and connectedness activities. (Limit: 300 words) *In the space provided, describe in detail the well-being and connectedness activities your program offers. The more well-conceived and thorough descriptions will receive the highest points.* 

Please provide a brief description of the proposed activities to help youth explore new interests, build social and emotional skills, connect with peers, and build positive relationships with caring adults. (Limit: 300 words)

This question provides you with the opportunity to describe the proposed program activities that relate to enrichment and well-being and connectedness, two of the other critical content/service areas. Use the space to describe the programming in these areas that you selected in the question above. Note any evidence-based strategies you are implementing to help youth explore new interests, build social and emotional skills, connect with peers, and build positive relationships with caring adults. Feel free to describe how you will staff these program

components: will you hire (contract or staff) individuals with specific expertise in the arts, college awareness, career readiness, counseling, etc.? Will you partner with other organizations that have this expertise in house? Are field trips an important aspect of programming? How will you accommodate students with different needs (physical, social, emotional, health, etc.)?

Please provide a description of the program environment, including how it differs from and is complementary to the school day, provides a positive, supportive climate for all youth, and promotes whole child well-being, development, and connectedness. (Limit: 100 words) *Applicant Readers need to visualize the space you will use for your program. Be sure to describe it well, including how the space is appropriate for the ages of children and youth being served, sufficient in size, and different than school-day classroom.* 

Please provide a description of the opportunities for physical activity and access to outdoors provided. (Limit: 100 words) This question provides you with the opportunity to describe the proposed program activities that relate to physical activity, one of the five critical content/service areas. Additionally, we are interested in learning about what equipment including playgrounds students will have access to outdoors. Describe the physical activity programming, noting any evidence-based strategies you are implementing. Feel free to describe how you will staff these program components: will you hire (contract or staff) individuals with specific expertise in different sports or other types of physical activity? Will you partner with other organizations that have this expertise in house? How will you accommodate students with different needs (physical, social, emotional, health, etc.)? Be sure to allocate enough space to adequately describe your outdoor space.

Does your program participate in federal meal programs, such as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Meals Program? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, which meals are provided? Afterschool Snack, Afterschool Supper, Summer Breakfast, Summer Lunch, Summer Supper, Summer Snack
GSAN and GaDOE are interested in learning about which programs across the state of Georgia participate in

federal meal programs. This information is requested purely for data collection purposes and will not be scored.

Will nutrition, including snacks and meals, be provided to youth? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please describe which meals and what will be provided. (Limit: 100 words) If no, please explain. (Limit: 100 words)

This question provides you with the opportunity to describe what kind of nutrition your program will provide students. We recognize this may be duplicating information you provided in the previous question, but not all programs participate in federal meal programs. Be sure that in the space provided you detail the different types of foods offered to students during snacks and meals. Also include information about the meal schedule. We recognize it is not always feasible or possible to provide nutrition, including snacks and meals, to students. If your organization does not provide nutrition to students, please explain why you have decided not to do so.

## Staffing & Partnerships

Describe your staffing for this program. If you are adding staff, how will they be selected? What qualifications are required? (Limit: 200 words) This is your opportunity to outline how you will staff your program. Be sure to describe your current staffing structure. If you are adding staff, your answer should outline how new staff will be chosen and what qualifications will be required. In describing your current or future staffing structure, include information about how employees who have contact with children will be supervised and supported.

Will certified teachers be used to support learning acceleration? $\square$ Yes $\square$ No
f yes, please explain. (Limit: 100 words)
f no, please describe your plan for staffing the program. (Limit: 100 words)

Many programs choose to use certified teachers to support learning acceleration. While this is not required, applicants that have appropriately certified and/or trained staff in place to address learning acceleration component of programming will likely score higher. 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.

Describe the training and supports that will be provided for staff. (Limit: 200 words) *Training and professional development are important to keep staff current on best practices and evidence-based strategies for working with youth and their families. Use this space to describe what professional development opportunities and supports staff receive. If your organization does not offer professional development opportunities and supports for staff, explain why your organization has made this decision and how you ensure your staff stay abreast of current practices and strategies.* 

We encourage collaborating with schools and developing strong school-community partnerships. Please provide a description of how your organization partners with schools to identify and meet youth needs and/or how you will develop and strengthen school partnerships. (Limit: 200 words) When schools and community organizations work together to support learning, everyone benefits. Partnerships can serve to strengthen, support, and even transform individual partners, resulting in improved program quality and many other benefits. Use this space to provide a detailed description of how you partner with schools to strengthen student learning. Be sure to outline how you actively strengthen the partnership with your partnering school(s).

Please list any partner organizations that are working with you and identify what support they will provide. (Limit: 200 words) When organizations working in a community partner with each other, the results are often an enhancement in programming, greater community impact and more efficient use of resources. Use this space to provide a detailed description of other partners you work with, including their respective roles and responsibilities.

## **Outcomes & Evaluation**

Using the SMART outcome framework, identify three distinct intended programmatic outcomes for your summer enrichment or afterschool program If year-round programming is provided, you will identify six distinct programmatic outcomes (three for afterschool and 3 for summer programming).

The SMART system enables individuals or organizations to create a solid plan with concrete and measurable goals. SMART outcomes are Specific, Measurable, Attainable/Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound:

- **S Specific**: Objectives should be clear, concise, and focused. They should describe exactly what needs to be achieved, and what resources and actions are required to achieve it.
- **M Measurable**: Objectives should be measurable, so that progress towards achieving them can be tracked and evaluated. This involves using quantitative and qualitative indicators that provide a way to determine whether or not the objective has been achieved.
- A Achievable: Objectives should be achievable, given the available resources and constraints. They should be challenging, but also realistic and attainable.
- **R Relevant**: Objectives should be relevant to the overall mission and goals of the organization or project. They should align with the priorities of stakeholders and address important issues or problems.
- **T Time-bound**: Objectives should be time-bound, with a clear timeline for achieving them. This helps to ensure that progress towards the objective can be monitored
- Examples of SMART objectives/outcomes can be found <a href="here.">here.</a>

For organizations providing **afterschool programming** during the academic year, please list and describe three distinct specific and measurable 1-year intended programmatic outcomes. One outcome must be related to learning acceleration; the other two may be related to any area of programming.

- Intended Year 1 (October 2025- May 2026) programmatic outcome
- Intended Year 1 (October 2025- May 2026) programmatic outcome
- Intended Year 1 (October 2025- May 2026) programmatic outcome

Using the SMART outcome framework, identify three distinct intended programmatic outcomes for your afterschool program. If you are not familiar with SMART outcomes, please see above to learn more. Your outcome statements should focus on the time period of October 2025 through May 2026. Of your three outcomes, one must be related to learning acceleration while the other two may relate to any of the critical content/service areas. For organizations providing summer enrichment programming, please list and describe three distinct specific and measurable intended programmatic outcomes. One outcome must be related to learning acceleration; the other two may be related to any area of programming.

- Intended Year 1 (June-July 2026) programmatic outcome
- Intended Year 1 (June-July 2026) programmatic outcome
- Intended Year 1 (June-July 2026) programmatic outcome

Using the SMART outcome framework, identify three distinct intended programmatic outcomes for your afterschool program. If you are not familiar with SMART outcomes, please see above to learn more. Your outcome statements should focus on the time period of June –July 2026. Of your three outcomes, one must be related to learning acceleration while the other two may relate to any of the critical content/service areas.

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Describe how you will evaluate the effectiveness of your program activities in helping children and youth to reengage, connect, and learn; meet the immediate needs of families; and measure impact in the funding priorities you have identified. (Limit: 300 words) Carefully review the outcomes you've detailed for the first year of the grant then provide an outline for how you plan to measure the effectiveness of your program activities in meeting the needs of children, youth and families. Be sure to consider and provide information about how you will measure the impact of the funding priorities you identified earlier in the application if those aren't reflected as clearly in your outcomes.

## Priority Points: Target Populations, Geographic Considerations, & Programmatic Areas of Focus

Are strategies in place to recruit, serve, and/or address specific needs of the following populations. Select any of the population groups for which your organization has recruitment and service strategies in place.

- Youth receiving free or reduced price lunch?
- Youth with disabilities and/or special needs?
- Youth experiencing homelessness?
- Youth in foster care?
- English language learners?
- Youth impacted by the juvenile justice system?
- Youth who are or are at risk of becoming chronically absent from school?

Please describe program strategies to intentionally serve these populations. You will provide responses for each priority population selected (Limit: 100 words per population selected) *GSAN and GaDOE are aware that the populations identified face unique challenges with access to and participation in afterschool and summer enrichment programs. This is why the BOOST Grant is prioritizing funding for programs that serve these target populations. First you will select which of the 7 target populations your program intentionally and strategically serves. In the narrative portion of the answer, you should outline specific program strategies in place to intentionally serve the selected target populations and their unique and specific needs. Be sure to include the various outreach strategies you use. Your plan should be realistic and achievable and should lead you to recruit a* 

full complement of program participants, including additional expanded capacity. The more well-conceived and thorough descriptions will receive the highest points.

Does your program have sites in any of the BOOST priority counties?

If yes, what percentage of your afterschool and/or summer enrichment sites are located in counties with no current programs receiving government funds through 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program or the Out of School Services Program? Additionally, provide site addresses for those in priority counties. Click here for a list of counties with no such programming. The BOOST Grants program is giving priority to programs that are located in counties with no current programs receiving government funds through 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program or the Out of School Services Program. The link is provided here for you to verify whether the county/counties in which you have sites have programs funded by 21st CCLC or the Out of School Services Program.

Literacy Utilizing Science of Reading | Numeracy | Workforce Development/Career Exploration — Applicants that decided to pursue these priority points will need to be able to demonstrate that they deliberately and meaningfully incorporate these activities into their programs. The responses that provide the most detail and show intentionality of using various curriculums or frameworks will score the highest.

#### Forms & Attachments

Several documents are required attachments that must be uploaded for your application to be submitted and complete:

- BOOST Grants Budget Worksheet
  HYPERLINK "https://www.afterschoolga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/BOOST-Application-Budget-Drafting-Template.xlsx"
  BOOST Grants Budget
  Worksheet
- <u>Expenditure Prior Approval Form</u> (if you have expenses included in your budget that will require prior approval)
- Sample schedules of comprehensive afterschool program day and/or summer enrichment program day
- Last completed audit or last fiscal year internal year-end balance sheet and year-end budget with year-end actuals
- Memorandum of Agreements with community partners if activities involve other entities
- GaDOE Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Policy form
- Program Assurances
- Grants Accounting Access if you don't already have access or need to update access to the MyGaDOE portal
- Supplier Change Request Form if not already established as a state vendor
  - o Supplier Change Request Instructions
- W9 if not already established as a state vendor
- Site Location Form

# Budget

For the current fiscal year, what is the total budget for the summer enrichment program? For the current fiscal year, what is the total budget for the afterschool program? Enter the <u>total budget (expenses)</u> for your summer enrichment and/or afterschool program for the current fiscal year.

Indicate how much funding you are requesting per year after consulting the Funding Matrix found in section XIII of this RFP.

The Funding Matrix included in the BOOST Grants RFP outlines how much funding organizations are eligible to apply for. As is noted in the Funding Matrix, determinations on grant size for each grantee will be based on:

- Whether organizations offer afterschool OR summer enrichment programming only vs. those that provide programming year-round.
- The number of youth served: the amount organizations are eligible to apply for increases as the number of youth served increases.
- The number of hours of programming available to a youth: the amount organizations are awarded increases as the dosage of programming offered 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. Refer to <u>GaDOE's database</u> if your organization does not track this information.
  - Organizations where 25%-40% of students receive free or reduced-price lunch are eligible to apply for the amount noted in the tables below
  - Organizations where 41%-70% of students served receive free and reduced-price lunch are eligible for an additional ~12.5% of funding on top of the amount in that first column
  - Organization where more than 70% of students served receive free and reduced-price lunch are eligible for an additional  $\sim$ 25% of funding on top of the amount in that first column

## \*IMPORTANT: The amounts listed in the table are amounts that organizations may apply for per year.

Be sure to identify where your organization falls in the table for the type of grant you are applying for (Community or Statewide) and to base the amount you request on your need and your anticipated programmatic expansion, if applicable.

**Community Grants** 

Number	Afterschool			Year-round programming*		
of UNDUPLICATED Students	OR					
Served Annually	Summer enrichment					
	<b>25% - 40%</b> of	<b>41%-70%</b> of	More	25% - 40% of	<b>41%-70%</b> of	More
	students	students	than 70% of	students	students	than 70% of
	receive free	receive free	students	receive free	receive free	students
	& reduced-	& reduced-	receive free &	& reduced-	& reduced-	receive free &
	price lunch	price lunch	reduced-price	price lunch	price lunch	reduced-price
			lunch			lunch
Less than 25**	\$20,000	\$22,500	\$25,000	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$50,000
26 – 50	\$26,500	\$29,800	\$33,100	\$53,000	\$59,600	\$66,250
51 – 100	\$43,000	\$48,400	\$53,750	\$86,000	\$96,750	\$107,500
101 – 250	\$73,000	\$82,000	\$91,250	\$145,000	\$163,100	\$181,250
251 – 500	\$111,250	\$125,200	\$139,000	\$223,000	\$250,875	\$278,750
More than 500	\$120,000	\$135,000	\$150,000	\$240,000	\$270,000	\$300,000

<sup>\*\*</sup>Applicants serving less than 25 youth are only eligible if they are serving a target population or within a priority county.

**NOTE:** When completing the budget worksheet, organizations applying for funding for year-round programming should clearly indicate program expenses allocated for afterschool or summer enrichment programming.

## Statewide Grants

Number of UNDUPLICATED	<b>25% - 40%</b> of students	<b>41%-70%</b> of students	More than 70% of	
Students Served Annually	receive free & reduced-	receive free & reduced-	students receive free &	
	price lunch	price lunch	reduced-price lunch	
2,000 – 4,000	\$500,000	\$562,500	\$625,000	
4,001 – 6,000	\$800,000	\$900,000	\$1,000,000	
6,001 – 10,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,500,000	
More than 10,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,800,000	\$2,000,000	

Note that the total your organization is eligible to apply for based on the table in the Funding Matrix is for one year only. That means that if your organization provides year-round programming to 250 students and that you qualify for the increased funding amount as 90% of your students participate in the free and reduced-price lunch, your organization can request up to \$181,250. As you determine how much to request, ensure that your funding ask is justified given the number of youth to be served and the anticipated results and benefits of your programming.

Describe other sources of funding that support your afterschool and summer enrichment programming, including participant fees, other government grants, foundation grants, in-kind services, or fundraising efforts. Please give readers an understanding of the percent of funding comes from the various sources. (Limit: 200 words) BOOST Grants will last one year, with the opportunity for renewal in August 2026 contingent upon program compliance and performance and continued state appropriations. GSAN and GaDOE are interested in learning other sources of funding your organization has that can support programming during the grant period and beyond.

## Statewide Organizations

This section is only required of the five organizations applying for a Statewide Grant. If your organization did not receive an invitation to apply for a Statewide Grant, there is no need for you to answer these questions.

How will you determine funding allocation across program sites and ensure emphasis on serving youth most impacted by the pandemic? (Limit: 250 words) *Organizations that receive Statewide Grants will need to allocate funding across program sites throughout the state (where they are located). Use this space to outline the process for determining funding allocations across the state, including identifying youth most impacted by the pandemic.* 

How will you ensure sub-grantees are meeting the purpose(s) of grants? (Limit: 250 words) Organizations that receive Statewide Grants will need to ensure their sub-grantees are meeting the purpose(s) of the grants. Use this space to describe the process for ensuring sub-grantees are meeting the purpose(s) of grants. Will they submit reports to you on a regular basis? Will you conduct site visits to assess their programming? Do you have a staff member whose role directly relates to sub-grantees?

How will you collect data and compile reporting from all sub-grantees? (Limit: 250 words) Organizations that receive Statewide Grants will need to collect data from their sub-grantees in order to report to GSAN and GaDOE. Use this space to outline the process for collecting data and compiling reporting information from your sub-grantees. Do you already have a system in place that you can expand? Or is this new for your organization? Do you have a staff member already in place?

Describe your organization's need for the funds and how funding would not be duplicative with other funding the organization has been granted and is utilizing/accessing. (Limit: 250 words) *Recently some organizations have gained access to financial resources for purposes similar to those of the BOOST Grants. Clarify for Application Readers the need for BOOST Grant funds and be sure to include information that demonstrates BOOST funds will not be duplicative of funding you have already been granted.*