**General Instructions and Funding Criteria**

**I. Overview:**

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has partnered with Arkansas State University and its sponsored initiative, the Arkansas Out of School Network (AOSN), to oversee the American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER III sub-awards for afterschool, summer, and extended-year learning programs to support student learning and social emotional development. A-State and AOSN will accept applications, distribute funding, and manage the sub-award process.

Priority will be given to programs located within school districts with 50 percent or higher Free and Reduced Lunch rates and students or communities that fall under Community Eligibility for the Free and Reduced Rate Lunch program. In addition, geographic areas that have limited access to afterschool and summer programming will be prioritized as well as those students who were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**II.** **Eligible Applicants:**

Preference will be given to applications for programs that:

Address academic impact of lost instructional time; programs that strategically serve one or more of the following subpopulations of students and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on student subgroups:

* **Students from low-income families**
* **Students from each racial or ethnic group**
* **Gender**
* **Children with disabilities**
* **English learners**
* **Migratory students**
* **Students experiencing homelessness**
* **Children and youth in foster care**
* **Other (i.e. youth involved in the criminal justice system, students who have missed the most in-person instruction, students who did not consistently participate in remote instruction, etc.)**

Entities interested in applying should represent school districts, entities that partner with school districts, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, licensed youth development programs, public libraries, nonprofit organizations, career and technical programs, public and private institutions of higher learning, and others as determined by AOSN and approved by the DESE.

**III. Application process:**

Interested organizations should submit the LOI by August 6th to aosn@astate.edu and the full application by August 30, 2021. The completed application must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on August 30, 2021 to the Arkansas Out of School Network at aosn@astate.edu. Notifications of award will be issued on September 15, 2021. Electronic submissions only please.

**IV. Funding Overview:**

Funding will be awarded on a reimbursable basis with the maximum award of $150,000 dollars with the potential for annual renewal with satisfactory completion of grant requirements.

**Programs should address the following outcomes:**

* Improved student achievement and academic skills;
* Improved school engagement (attendance in school);
* Social, emotional, and behavioral development;
* Improvement in health and wellness priorities;
* Reduced contact with the judicial system;
* Increased graduation rates; and
* Increased parent and family engagement.

**Eligible activities include:**

* Personal development skills or life skills
* Social Emotional Learning(SEL)
* Fluency in Literacy and Computational Skills or Math Skills
* Helping youth explore a broad range of careers with an emphasis on STEM fields
* Employability and workforce preparation
* Substance abuse prevention
* Health and wellness
* Financial literacy
* Family Engagement
* Vocational or Technical Skills Training

***Contact: The Arkansas Out of School Network***

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