



NJDOE News

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\$12 Million in Funds Available for 21st Century Community Learning Centers

The New Jersey Department of Education is seeking applicants for the *21st Century Community Learning Centers (21stCCLC) program*, which provides federal funds that support high-quality programs for academic and enrichment activities for students when school is not in session. Approximately 22 grants totaling \$12 million will be awarded to eligible agencies under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program.

“The community centers established by these grants provide students and their families with additional exposure to high-quality extended learning opportunities in reading, mathematics and science, and enrichment activities in the areas of the arts and culture. These programs also make time for children to explore the outdoor environment and participate in physical activities,” said Commissioner of Education Lucille E. Davy. “Successful programs of this type can make a difference in the lives of our students by assisting them in improving their knowledge and skills and engaging them in meaningful learning opportunities. They also can provide a wholesome, family-oriented environment in the community before and after school hours.”

Commissioner Davy said the centers help youth develop skills for living and working in the global economy such as working productively in teams, assuming personal responsibility, problem solving, communication with others and making healthy life choices. She also said that applicants for the grants offer programs and activities that support Governor Corzine’s Safe Streets and Neighborhoods initiative and the department’s Secondary Education Redesign.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program is a limited competitive grant program open to all public or private agencies that serve students in any grade level between 4 and 12, and are from low-income families or attend a school designated as a Title I Schoolwide Program. The families of the students must also be served through the community learning center.

The application deadline is April 7, 2009. For more information about the grants and to download the application, visit: www.state.nj.us/education/grants/discretionary.