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## **Grants available to fund after-school programs**

PIERRE, S.D. – Applications for the next round of 21st Century Community Learning Center, or 21st CCLC, grants are [now available](#). The centers provide students with academic enrichment opportunities and activities designed to complement regular school instruction.

These are five-year grants awarded in amounts of \$50,000 to \$150,000 per year. Funds are often awarded to schools, but other organizations may also apply. The grants must specifically support programs offered outside of regular school hours.

The learning centers are intended to assist students from high-poverty areas and low-performing schools. Funding comes from the federal government in the form of formula grants to states. Because it is authorized under the No Child Left Behind law, programming must include an academic component and content-specific enrichment activities.

“Learning shouldn’t stop just because the school day is over. These grants help make possible high-quality, enriching programming for students in high-need areas. Families and communities benefit when students have a safe and fun place to go after school,” said Sue Burgard, who oversees the 21st CCLC grant program for the South Dakota Department of Education.

Grant applications must be submitted to the South Dakota Department of Education by Feb. 27.

The 21st CCLC team has set up two webinars for potential applicants. Webinars are scheduled for Jan. 21 and 23 and will provide guidance and the opportunity for applicants to ask questions. Webinar participants must pre-register by Jan. 16. The webinars are not required, but applicants are strongly encouraged to participate in one. The webinar schedule and registration are available [online](#).

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