



Believe and Build Afterschool Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions submitted through the Believe and Build Afterschool on-line question form between 10/19/21 – 10/25/21

- 1. For an activity leader that will be retained to teach a one-time activity held for one or two sessions (one hour each for a continuous activity, e.g. a native beading project), can that person be paid a stipend and complete a W-9?**

Applicants must follow all state and federal laws and follow their organizational policies related to hiring and payment of wages.

- 2. For this reimbursement grant, is the grantee setup as a SWIFT vendor or are reimbursements allowed to be directly paid to the grantee?**

Organizations selected to receive a grant award will not need to be set up as SWIFT vendors. They will receive payments from Ignite Afterschool's grant management vendor, Youthprise.

- 3. Is it required, or beneficial to submit partnership letters from organizations which are not schools or libraries?**

No. Letters are only needed from a school and/or library so that the applicant can receive the 2.5 priority points for a school partnership and/or 2.5 priority points for a library partnership. All other partners can be listed in the applicant's response to the "Community Engagement" application question.

- 4. The RFP "sample application" states that only 1500 characters are allowed for the outcomes section, But at the portal, it shows 5000 characters. Which should we go with? Thanks.**

Always use the character limits provided in the Youthprise grant portal. We have updated the RFP "sample application" to match character limits found in the portal.

- 5. In thinking through the budget, if we have greater need in years 2 and 3 of this funding cycle, would you recommend we demonstrate a budget that scales over time or wait until another round of funding?**

Your budget should reflect the funding necessary to perform the programming described in your proposal and to achieve grant outcomes. The budget form asks you to propose a full 30-month budget and to complete a separate column for each of the three years included in the grant term.

- 6. The School Partner and Library Partner letters of support are listed as optional bonus point possibilities in the RFP but in the Youthprise grant portal, they are required*. Can this be corrected so we are able to submit proposals without these attachments?**

This issue has been addressed in the Youthprise grant portal. Uploading school and library partner letters is no longer required by the portal to submit an application.

- 7. Although the grant excludes programming in summer, does it also exclude invoicing in summer? For example, Cityspan software or staff coordination leading up to fall (taking place in August, etc.)?**

No, it does not exclude invoicing in summer for necessary activities related to achieving grant outcomes and grant requirements. The Believe and Build Afterschool grant program does not fund programming provided to young people over the summer.

- 8. Some of the kids who attend our afterschool program come with a provider, and we bill their insurance for this service. These kids are receiving 10-30 hours a week of intensive services, but having the option to attend our afterschool program with their provider gives them the opportunity to interact with their peers and work on skills. If we are unable to charge for afterschool programming, per stated in the RFP, would these kids be unable to attend afterschool programming?**

No, the purpose of the funding is to support comprehensive, evidence-based afterschool programs that address the academic, social-emotional and mental health needs of Minnesota's young people, not exclude young people. As stated in the RFP (page 3), we especially want to disperse funds to programs that are closing opportunity gaps for young people who have historically had less access to afterschool.

- 9. The RFP states that demographic characteristics will be required for reporting. Which demographic characteristics will be required? If race/ethnicity will be required, will this be in alignment with Minnesota/U.S. Department of Education categories?**

The US Department of Education has not yet released information related to data collection and reporting requirements for this grant opportunity.

10. Is there a suggested or required version of background check for staff and volunteers?

As stated in the Assurances, grantee shall comply with any and all provisions, as applicable, pertaining to background checks and mandated reporting as set forth in Minnesota Statutes, sections 123B.03, 230E, 299C.61, 299C.62. More information about background checks performed by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension can be found on their website - <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/Pages/background-checks.aspx>

11. Can these funds be used as match for a grant from a MN government agency?

You must contact the state agency awarding the grant to see what the match requirements are for their grant funds. The funds being awarded in this grant competition are federal funds. Generally, federal funds cannot be used as matching funds for another federal grant.

12. Bridgemakers is planning to apply as the operating organization. Propel Nonprofits is our fiscal sponsor. We believe Propel meets the definition of an eligible community organization. Could you confirm that? Thanks!

Each applicant must determine if they meet the eligibility criteria.

13. Can field trips away from school be funded/supported if they take place during school hours?

No. The Believe and Build Afterschool grant program funds afterschool programming. For the purposes of this grant, "afterschool" means programs that take place before school, after school and during school-year days off and does not include summer.

14. Do paid internships qualify as eligible activities if the youth wage subsidy comes from a different source than Believe It, Build It?

Yes

Questions submitted through the Believe and Build Afterschool on-line question form between 10/14/21 – 10/18/21

(NOTE: Some questions submitted via the online Q&A form were answered during the live FAQ session on 10/15/21. See below this section for those responses)

- 1. We currently offer programming 1x a week per child (children with autism), and cannot offer more than this, unless we have additional funding. If the first year of the grant starts in January and the orientation is not until February,**

does the 60 session rule still apply in the first year, as there is only 5 months of school left?

60 sessions of at least one hour each are to be provided over a full school-year calendar, excluding summer (see page 7 of the RFP for additional session requirements). Therefore, years 2 and 3 must be designed with no less than 60 sessions of at least one hour each. Applicants are not expected to offer 60 sessions during year 1 as it is not a full school-year. In the application question titled, “program schedule” you are asked to distinguish between your plan for year 1 and years 2 and 3.

2. Is this grant intended for existing programs, or to start new programs? Can the first year be used for program development or does programming need to be underway in January 2022?

The grant may be used to support existing or new comprehensive, evidence-based afterschool programs that address the academic, social-emotional and mental health needs of Minnesota’s young people in kindergarten- 12th grade. This is not a planning or exploratory grant and grant recipients are expected to provide programming in Year 1 of the grant. In the application question titled, “program schedule” you are asked to distinguish between your plan for year 1 and years 2 and 3.

3. Can you clarify if the required 60 sessions are per year, or over the 3-year grant timeline. If per year, what is the required # of sessions for the first year, being that it is a 6 month time period?

60 sessions of at least one hour each are to be provided over a full school-year calendar, excluding summer (see page 7 of the RFP for additional session requirements). Therefore, years 2 and 3 must each be designed with no less than 60 sessions of at least one hour each. Applicants are not expected to offer 60 sessions during year 1 as it is not a full school-year. In the application question titled, “program schedule” you are asked to distinguish between your plan for year 1 and years 2 and 3.

4. Can charter schools that are registered as 501c3s apply?

The intent of the grant is to fund community-based organizations. Charter schools are public schools and are part of the State’s system of public education. On page 10 of the RFP, schools are listed as public sector partners and not as community-based organizations.

5. Our fiscal sponsor is a Community Foundation if they meet the criteria and we meet the criteria but are not a nonprofit can we still apply?

The applying organization and operating organization, if applying through a fiscal sponsor, must meet the definition of a community-based organization.

If the project or program is not incorporated then it is a program of the fiscal sponsor and the fiscal sponsor is both the applying and operating organization.

For the purposes of this grant, a community-based organization is a non-governmental nonprofit organization (including local or chartered affiliates of a national nonprofit organization) that's representative of a community (or significant segments of a community) and provides educational or related services to individuals in that community.

6. I was on the Q&A yesterday and clarification was given to sessions which was helpful. However, just clarifying if plan to 'offer' 60 sessions or that youth must 'complete' 60 sessions, because obviously if they must complete we must offer many more and I want to plan that into our partnership grant with the Headwaters science Center correctly and accordingly. Thank you for your assistance!

The program must provide a minimum of 60 sessions and each session must be at least 1 hour. All youth participants must have an opportunity to participate in a minimum of 60 sessions.

7. Can funding be used as salary to hire new staff to run programming?

Yes

Questions answered at the live Frequently Asked Questions Session on 10/15/21 (some submitted through the on-line form)

(Good to know: previously answered questions can be found at the end of this document)

NOTE: Question 8 on page 13-14 of this FAQ was updated for clarity. See page 13-14.

1. I've the new language about the 60 hours minimum requirement. How will that work in Year 1 of the grant since that's only 6 months long? Would we just offer 30 hours in that year and then provide 60 in years 2 and 3?

60 sessions of at least one hour each are to be provided over a full school-year calendar, excluding summer (see page 7 of the RFP for additional session requirements). Therefore, years 2 and 3 must be designed with no less than 60 sessions of at least one hour each. Applicants are not expected to offer 60 sessions during year 1 as it is not a full school-year. In the application question titled, "program schedule" you are asked to distinguish between your plan for year 1 and years 2 and 3.

2. **To ensure sessions are designed to support comprehensive afterschool programs that meet the academic, social-emotional and mental health needs of historically underserves students impacted by COVID-19:**
- a) **Can public sector partners be contracted by operating organization to diversify activity-level program offerings using this grant?**
 - b) **Can private individuals (example: teacher) be contracted by operating organization to diversify activity-level program offerings using this grant?**

- A) Yes
- B) Yes

3. **For our OST programs, we partner with several schools through our partnership with Minneapolis Community Education. For our letter of support, would Minneapolis Community Education work as a school partner? Or would you prefer we ask one of our school partners to share a letter?**

No, as Community Education departments are not a school. To receive the 2.5 priority points for a school partnership, you must have a letter from one school partner (see RFP section 2 for directions, pg 13). All other school and related partners can be listed in the applicant's response to the "Community Engagement" application question.

4. **To ensure sessions are designed to support comprehensive afterschool programs that meet the academic, social-emotional and mental health needs of historically underserves students impacted by COVID-19:**
- c) **If partners are contracted to contribute activity-level program offerings, must each activity-level program contributed meet 60 times at an operating organization operating for 60 distinct sessions (days)?**

No, so long as the program provides a minimum of 60 sessions and each session must be at least 1 hour and all youth participants must have an opportunity to participate in a minimum of 60 sessions (see page 7 of the RFP for additional session requirements).

5. **We serve students with Dyslexia and so we are most success reaching students in small groups on a continuous basis. So the minimum of 60 sessions is great for us, but I wanted to confirm if there is a minimum number of participants needed?**

There is no minimum number of participants

Also, I know 1:1 tutoring cannot be done, but could the grant encompass 1:1 testing to help identify needs and levels at the start of the program & if needed at the beginning of each year?

The *Believe & Build Afterschool* grants are intended to support comprehensive, evidence-based afterschool programs that address the academic, social-emotional and mental health needs of Minnesota’s young people.

See page 9 of the RFP for the list of activities and programs that are not required but are expressly allowed under this grant opportunity.
Sessions may have multiple activities occurring at one time.

6. What should be included in the community partnership letter?

The letter of intent must be on the partner’s letterhead and signed by the appropriate staff person at the partnering organization. It should describe the partner’s role in meeting the grant outcomes and/or providing afterschool activities described in your application. Letters of intent/partnership forms must be uploaded into the grant portal.

Another option is to use the “Partnership Form Template” which can be found on the Believe & Build Afterschool page of Ignite Afterschool’s website. Your partner can copy the template onto their letterhead, then complete and sign the form.

7. A. I want to clarify if the organization I work for has programming at multiple sites, but we only plan to do this grant with one of our school partners – that means our other sites will be listed as the community partner, as additional community partnerships as stated in one of the slides [the slide referenced said, “All other school and related partners can be listed in the applicant’s response to the “Community Engagement” application question”], correct? B. For that partnership we would only be required to have 60 sessions with that partnership, but our additional school partners, would we still be required to do 60 sessions with them as well to prove our whole organization as a whole or just with that one partner?

A. An applicant may partner with more than one school in their application. To receive the 2.5 priority points for a school partnership, you must have a letter from one of the schools (see RFP section 2 for directions). All other school partners can be listed in the applicant’s response to the “Community Engagement” application question.

B. If the program operates at multiple sites, there must be a minimum of 60 sessions per site. If an organization has programming that is not part of the programming you are applying for through the Believe and Build Afterschool grant program, do not list that programming in your application.

8. I’m with the Minnesota Urban Debate League. We provide out-of-school-time programming with 6th-12th graders but we’re a program of Augsburg University. Do we meet the definition of a community-based organization?

Augsburg is a 501c3 but we have a restricted account within the University. We are funded through a mix of contracts with school districts and philanthropy.

The applying organization and operating organization, if applying through a fiscal sponsor, must meet the definition of a community-based organization.

For the purposes of this grant, a community-based organization is a non-governmental nonprofit organization (including local or chartered affiliates of a national nonprofit organization) that's representative of a community (or significant segments of a community) and provides educational or related services to individuals in that community.

In the application, applicants will complete the following section: "Applying organization brief history and how it qualifies as a community-based organization."

9. **I want to clarify that we are part of a larger organization but our community is unique and 80 miles away, do we have to apply with them, or can they apply for their local site and we apply for our local site? And then clarifying or an additional piece of that is, I believe you said, local or chartered part of a larger organization, correct?**

The applying organization and operating organization, if applying through a fiscal sponsor, must meet the definition of a community-based organization.

For the purposes of this grant, a community-based organization is a non-governmental nonprofit organization (including local or chartered affiliates of a national nonprofit organization) that's representative of a community (or significant segments of a community) and provides educational or related services to individuals in that community.

Each organization may submit only one application.

10. **The grant states that we have to allow 10% of funds toward CPI (continuous program improvement). Is M3 a program we can purchase or are their contractors that we can hire to help us with this part of the grant?**

The RFP states that at least 10% of the total requested amount (excluding your indirect calculation) for evaluation and continuous program improvement (CPI) related expenses (Pg 14). The RFP also states that all Believe and Build Afterschool grantees will participate in Making Meaning with Multiple Data Sets (M3), Minnesota's CPI cycle during the grant period (pg. 18).

At this time, participation in M3 is free to all Minnesota afterschool programs and no fees will be paid to Ignite Afterschool in order to participate. As stated on page 14 of the RFP the 10% evaluation and CPI budget may include, "staff time to participate in

CPI related activities, a contracted evaluation consultant, software and online tools for collecting evaluation-related data, and evaluation tools like surveys, point of service quality assessments, etc.”

For more information on Making Meaning with Multiple Data Sets (M3), visit the website [here](#).

11. Can an organization apply and be listed as a partner on another application?

Yes

12. I am with an organization in the Northwest. Just wanting to know if we can be a partner for the County library? Can we make the partnership with the library?

The organization that applies (and the operating organization, if applying through a fiscal sponsor) must meet the definition of a community-based organization.

For the purposes of this grant, a community-based organization is a non-governmental nonprofit organization (including local or chartered affiliates of a national nonprofit organization) that’s representative of a community (or significant segments of a community) and provides educational or related services to individuals in that community.

A community-based organization that applies may have a partnership with a library and can receive 2.5 bonus points if a library partnership letter is uploaded as part of the applicant’s grant application (see directions on page 13 of the RFP).

13. Another question about activities. If we’re working with young kids who may do better with 30 minute activities, can we provide two 30 minute activities to become 60 minutes.

Yes, sessions may have multiple activities occurring at one time or during one session.

14. Was the 60 sessions requirement part of the federal funds or MDE or Ignite requirement, just curious? Why 60 sessions and not hours?

The federal language states that this funding is to support comprehensive, evidence-based afterschool programming. There is evidence that how often, for how long, and how many times (dosage) a young person participates in afterschool programming is connected to whether positive outcomes are met. We designed the grant program to ensure young people have an opportunity to participate in an amount of programming supported by evidence to be more likely to achieve positive outcomes.

15. While our larger organization is not majority LGBTQ+, 100% of our youth programming staff is, and our after school program is for LGBTQ+ youth. Would that qualify as a culturally specific organization?

For the purposes of this grant, a culturally specific community-based organization is an organization by and for groups of people with a shared experience of marginalization based on race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation. More than 50% of the board of directors and/or leadership of the organization and more than 50% or more of the staff reflect the group of people served. These organizations view their program activities and approaches through a cultural lens and affirm/reflect the lived experiences of members of that community.

16. My organization does not qualify as a culturally specific organization but do I also have the requirement of making sure 50% of the funds are distributed to culturally specific community based organization?

No. Also, these funds cannot be re-granted.

Questions submitted through the Believe and Build Afterschool on-line question form between 10/5/21 – 10/11/21

1. Do existing MOUs and contracts suffice for partner letters or must the letters be in the format provided in the RFP?

In order to receive the bonus points, you must provide a letter of intent and/or completed partnership form from your school and/or library partner(s). The letter of intent must be on the partner's letterhead and signed by the appropriate staff person at the partnering organization. It should describe the partner's role in meeting the grant outcomes and/or providing afterschool activities described in your application. Letters of intent/partnership forms must be uploaded into the grant portal.

2. Is the number of minimum sessions (60 per site) intended to reach each youth? For example, one site offers over 100 sessions, but that is because multiple sessions are offered per week, although each student only participates once per week. Thanks!

The program must provide a **minimum of 60 sessions and each session must be at least 1 hour**. This includes before school, afterschool, school release days and weekends, but **does not** include summer.

- Each session must occur on a different day.
- Sessions may have multiple activities occurring at one time
- If the program operates at multiple sites, there must be a minimum of 60 sessions **per site**
- All youth participants must have an opportunity to participate in a **minimum of 60 sessions***.

*The RFP was updated on 10.8.21 with the above clarified language (see RFP page 7). The new language is highlighted in grey and dated.

3. Can tribes running Afterschool programs apply?

The applying organization and operating organization, if applying through a fiscal sponsor*, must be a nongovernmental, nonprofit community-based organization

*The RFP was updated on 10.8.21 with the above clarified language. The new language is highlighted in grey and dated.

4. Question #1: Sec. 121A.035 MN Statutes "Crisis Management Policy" lists the required drills. (a) We have a community room space, where we would have B&B Afterschool sessions, in a local business building. If awarded a grant, should we be prepared to modify current procedures and adopt drill procedures in accordance with, and currently employed by, the local school district? (b) Should we also consider changes to existing equipment (e.g., security cameras)

According to Assurance 30, grantees must have a written organizational crisis management policy and plan that includes things like severe weather, fire drills, and lockdown drills. An organization's plan does not have to be the same as the school district plan. If the program takes place in a school building, it is best practice to follow the school district crisis management policy and plan.

5. Question #2: Our community room space is in a business building that is ADA-compliant. Are there other building regulations that we should be aware of? Except for the 10/8/21 Appendix A update for the ADA acronym, we did not see/read of any other building regulation requirements in the grant materials. Thanks in advance for replies to our questions!

All grantees must comply with all of the assurances provided in Appendix B of the RFP.

6. You mentioned that reviewers will be regional. Can an application be for programs that serve the entire state. Metro and greater MN?

The applying organization and operating organization, if applying through a fiscal sponsor*, must be a nongovernmental, nonprofit community-based organization

For the purposes of this grant, a community-based organization is a non-governmental nonprofit organization that's representative of a community (or significant segments of a community) and provides educational or related services to individuals in that community.

In the application the applying organization is asked to provide, "applying organization brief history and how it qualifies as a community-based organization." (See RFP, Appendix A)

An application may include more than one site.

*The RFP was updated on 10.8.21 with the above clarified language. The new language is highlighted in grey and dated.

7. For centers providing 60 sessions, is United Way (applicant) able to contract additional program delivery providers to supplement the 60 sessions as part of this grant, knowing that the supplemental programming itself is less than 60 sessions? **EXAMPLE: Goat Yoga Suppliers delivers fifteen [15] Goat Yoga activities at a site with sixty [60] distinct sessions to incorporate the programming at the site; United Way (applicant) contracts Goat Yoga Suppliers to provide this service, contracts with site to expand hours (for example).**

The program must provide a **minimum of 60 sessions and each session must be at least 1 hour**. This includes before school, afterschool, school release days and weekends, but **does not** include summer.

- Each session must occur on a different day.
- Sessions may have multiple activities occurring at one time
- If the program operates at multiple sites, there must be a minimum of 60 sessions **per site**
- All youth participants must have an opportunity to participate in a **minimum of 60 sessions***.

*The RFP was updated on 10.8.21 with the above clarified language (see RFP page 7) The new language is highlighted in grey and dated.

8. In regards to the following requirement:
Program can demonstrate that a majority of young people served are those who missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and/or 2020-2021 school years and who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures. These school records are not available to us, so I'm wondering how other organizations would go about demonstrating this?

In the application, the applicant will answer the question, "How will your program strive to engage students who missed in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, and who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school closures. What information will you use to identify or recruit these students?" (See RFP, Appendix A).

9. I have a few questions relatively specific to our program model - we run a school year job training internship program where we offer more than 60 independent sessions with youth. We also partner extensively for service learning with St. Paul Public Schools and St. Paul Public Libraries. The service learning opportunities are always offered during out of school time, however

we may not reach 60 sessions depending on the length of the program. Does that mean we cannot include our activities for SPPS and SPPL in our proposal?

The program must provide a **minimum of 60 sessions** and each session must be **at least 1 hour**. This includes before school, afterschool, school release days and weekends, but **does not** include summer.

- Each session must occur on a different day.
- Sessions may have multiple activities occurring at one time
- If the program operates at multiple sites, there must be a minimum of 60 sessions **per site**
- All youth participants must have an opportunity to participate in a **minimum of 60 sessions***.

*The RFP was updated on 10.8.21 with the above clarified language (see RFP page 7). The new language is highlighted in grey and dated.

10. Another question is that we offer nutrition programming and cooking classes, which necessitates the purchase of food. Would this be considered an allowable expense?

Food that is a necessary program supply is allowable.

11. What is the definition of rural youth?

For the purposes of this grant, we will use the State of Minnesota statutory definition related to school general education revenue. Using this definition, all programs located in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, or Washington County are part of a metro region. All other programs are part of a rural region.

12. Second this might be a long short BUT would Playworks be eligible for this RFP?

Please see the eligibility requirements on page 7-8 of the Request for Proposals. Use this list to determine if your organization is eligible to apply.

The Request for Proposals can be found on the Ignite Afterschool Believe and Build Afterschool grant program webpage [here](#).

Questions Submitted During the October 5, 2021 Information Session

(see below for responses to questions submitted through the on-line question and answer form)

1) I'm a private organization, so how can I partner with the non-government not for profit organization to provide an Afterschool program that is a necessity of our communities for the students you mentioned?

The applying organization and operating organization, if applying through a fiscal sponsor,* must be a nongovernmental, nonprofit community-based organization. For the purposes of this grant, a community-based organization is a non-governmental nonprofit organization that's representative of a community (or significant segments of a community) and provides educational or related services to individuals in that community.

Partnering with other organizations is not required, but is allowed. Partnerships may include community partnerships and neighborhood programs with other non-profit, for-profit and faith-based organizations and/or public sector partners (e.g., city, county, schools**) and including Minnesota's 11 federally recognized tribes.

*The RFP has been updated with the above clarified language that aligns with the application in Appendix A (see RFP, page 7). The updated language is highlighted in grey and dated.

**The RFP has been updated with the above clarified language (see RFP, page 10). The updated language is highlighted in grey and dated.

2) Related Questions: A. How do we demonstrate the 3rd bullet point in other eligibility requirement [program can demonstrate that a majority of young people served are those who missed the most in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and/or 2020-2021 school years and who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school building closures]? B. Wondering about the requirement to demonstrate kids missed a lot of school? How would we do that? is this for our specific kids, or at-risk groups? C. How would we demonstrate that the youth we engage are those who missed the most school? And what do you mean by "the most"? D. I'm look for direction on providing data to show that the participating students missed online/in-person school last year.

In the application, the applicant will answer the question, "How will your program strive to engage students who missed in-person instruction during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years, and who did not consistently participate in remote instruction when offered during school closures. What information will you use to identify or recruit these students?" (See RFP, Appendix A).

3) Related Questions: A. Does the 60 session minimum requirement mean offering 60 sessions per student or that the program must offer a minimum of 60 sessions/yr, in general? B. Is it 60 hours or 60 sessions? C. Do the 60 sessions have to be open to all participants? We have more than 60 sessions total but some of the sessions are only for our youth leaders.

The program must provide a **minimum of 60 sessions** and each session must be at least 1 hour. This includes before school, afterschool, school release days and weekends, but **does not** include summer.

- Each session must occur on a different day.
- Sessions may have multiple activities occurring at one time
- If the program operates at multiple sites, there must be a minimum of 60 sessions **per site**
- All youth participants must have an opportunity to participate in a **minimum of 60 sessions***.

*The RFP has been updated with the above clarified language (see RFP page 7). The new language is highlighted in grey and dated.

4) Is there a minimum attendance requirement for outcomes?

There is no minimum attendance requirement. Grantees must collect participant information, including the number of young people served, how many sessions young people attended, as well as demographic characteristics.

5) If an org is multi-site and each site identifies as a unique culturally specific site in their community, does that count for culturally specific orgs?

For the purposes of this grant, a culturally-specific community based organization, is a community-based organization by and for groups of people with a shared experience of marginalization based on race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation. More than 50% of the board of directors and/or leadership of the organization and more than 50% or more of the staff reflect the group of people served. These organizations view their program activities and approaches through a cultural lens and affirm/reflect the lived experiences of members of that community.

In the application (See RFP, Appendix A), it asks, “Does your organization consider itself a culturally-specific, community-based organization by and for a group of people with a shared experience of marginalization, based on race, ethnicity, disability, gender or sexual orientation (this may include organizations by and for Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian American, and other Communities of Color; people with disabilities; and the LGBTQIA+ community)?”

And

“If yes, describe how your organization is *by and for* the community you serve, including demonstrating how more than 50% of your board and/or organizational leadership and more than 50% of your staff reflect the culture of the population served.”

6) Can an applicant partner with more than one school? Or would we need to submit multiple applications for each partnership?

An applicant may partner with more than one school in their application. To receive the 2.5 priority points for a school partnership, you must have a letter from one of the schools (see RFP section 2 for directions). All other school partners can be listed in the applicant's response to the "Community Engagement" application question.

7) For these priority points, how many points will there be total? And will these priority points be above what individual orgs can receive? For example would a total individual org be eligible to get 100 points and a partnership 105 points maximum? Just wondering if there is a benefit to applying as a partnership compared to applying as an individual org.

Please see the scoring rubric in Appendix A of the Request for Proposals (RFP). The rubric is out of 100 points. A school partnership results in 2.5 priority points and a library partnership results in 2.5 priority points. If an applicant has both partnerships, the total possible points an applicant can receive = 105 points.

8) Related Questions: A. Can the sessions be in-person or virtual? B. Related to these assurances [assurance 30], would mentoring programs that aren't tied to particular buildings or facilities not be eligible then? C. We ran an online tutoring program last year. It was free & accessible through student issued chromebooks. Would funds qualify to continue this. D. Would online programs be eligible? Or do they have to serve students in person?

The programs funded by this grant opportunity must meet the purpose of the grant which is to support the safe return to and sustain in-person afterschool programming that addresses students' academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs.

Organizations are expected to implement programs in a way that promotes the health and safety of youth, families and staff. The Minnesota Department of Health has posted COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Youth Programs and Day and Overnight Camps. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/youthguide.pdf>

(response Updated 10/15/21 for clarity)

9) Are evaluation expenses to be part of the calculation for indirect cost?

All *Believe & Build Afterschool* applicants are required to budget **at least 10%** of the total requested amount (excluding your indirect calculation) for evaluation and continuous program improvement (CPI) related expenses. This may include staff time to participate in evaluation and CPI-related activities, a contracted evaluation consultant, software and online tools for collecting evaluation-related data, and evaluation tools like surveys, point of service quality assessments, etc.

10) Do you provide specific qualifiers to prove a program is education &/or enrichment?

Believe and Build Afterschool grants are designed to support *comprehensive* afterschool programs that meet the academic, social-emotional, and mental health

needs of historically underserved students impacted by COVID-19. Program activities should be based on the needs of the specific group(s) of young people participating in the applying organization's afterschool program.

11) Are youth paid training & learning experiences eligible if they offer 60 sessions during the school year if we leveraging youth wages from other sources?

The program must provide a **minimum of 60 sessions** and **each session must be at least 1 hour**. This includes before school, afterschool, school release days and weekends, but **does not** include summer.

- Each session must occur on a different day.
- Sessions may have multiple activities occurring at one time
- If the program operates at multiple sites, there must be a minimum of 60 sessions **per site**
- All youth participants must have an opportunity to participate in a **minimum of 60 sessions***.

*The RFP has been updated with the above clarified language (see RFP page 7). The new language is highlighted in grey and dated.

12) Will a list of attendees [at the Oct. 4th Information Session] be provided so I may be able to connect with and possibly partner with them to present my established (after school) program?

No

13) May I suggest that Ignite and Youthprise create a central platform for applicants interested in partnering to connect?

No, Ignite Afterschool and Youthprise are not able to undertake this at this time.

14) Is this grant program anticipated to continue beyond the 30-month period? Or is it a one-time opportunity?

This is a one-time grant opportunity funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

15) Are participation stipends allowable? We don't consider that an "incentive" but rather a way of reducing barriers to participation

No

16) There is a note in the RFP about only programs that are free being supported through this grant. Our programs currently offer a pay-what-you-can option. Most youth participate for free, but some families who are able to do so

contribute a participant fee amount. If awarded funds, are we able to continue accepting payments if we don't fund the participation of those youths with the grant funds? Would we need to segregate these programs, having one that accepts payments and others that are completely free?

Grantees may not charge program participation fees for the program included in your grant application. In addition, grantees are not allowed to generate program income from the program funded with this grant opportunity.

17) Are you able to apply as your organization as well as a fiscal host to a different organization?

No. Each organization may submit only one application.

18) Could a partner show up in multiple applications as a partner? Each applicant is unique, but a common partner to deliver programming.

Yes

19) Can one-on-one mentoring for a hour count for one unique session?

Believe and Build Afterschool grants are designed to support *comprehensive* afterschool programs that meet the academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs of historically underserved students impacted by COVID-19. Program activities should be based on the needs of the specific group(s) of young people participating in the applying organization's afterschool program.

The program must provide a **minimum of 60 sessions and each session must be at least 1 hour**. This includes before school, afterschool, school release days and weekends, but **does not** include summer.

- Each session must occur on a different day.
- Sessions may have multiple activities occurring at one time
- If the program operates at multiple sites, there must be a minimum of 60 sessions **per site**
- All youth participants must have an opportunity to participate in a **minimum of 60 sessions***.

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20. Related Questions: A. Would an AIPAC with a certified fiscal sponsor be able to apply? B. We act as fiscal sponsor for the Library here in St Paul, which is a department of the City, in securing grant funding. Could we submit a proposal on behalf the library for a program they would direct (likely with partners)? Or would this scenario not be eligible since SPPL is a gov't entity?

The applying organization and operating organization, if applying through a fiscal sponsor*, must be a nongovernmental, nonprofit community-based organizations.

For the purposes of this grant, a community-based organization is a non-governmental nonprofit organization that's representative of a community (or significant segments of a community) and provides educational or related services to individuals in that community.

*The RFP has been updated with the above clarified language (see RFP, page 7) to align with the application questions in Appendix A. The updated language is highlighted in grey and dated.

21. Related Questions: A. Can you apply in multiple regions? B. Can you apply multiple times in multiple regions?

Each organization may only submit one application. An application may include more than one site.

22. Are community education programs within the state eligible or would they be considered public school?

No as they are a department within a school district.

23. Could you clarify the “community-based” requirement? Our organization serves the entire state of Minnesota. We do not serve students outside of Minnesota, would we still qualify?

For the purposes of this grant, a community-based organization is a non-governmental nonprofit organization that's representative of a community (or significant segments of a community) and provides educational or related services to individuals in that community.

In the application the applying organization is asked to provide, “applying organization brief history and how it qualifies as a community-based organization.” (See RFP, Appendix A)

24. Since lack of bus drivers have caused transportation issues for afterschool programs, can you purchase gas cards to give to parents who are willing to pick-up from afterschool programs as an option?

No. Federal law prohibits purchasing gift cards with federal funds.

25. Are higher education institutions eligible to apply?

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26. If we have multiple programs, do all need 60 sessions minimum?

Believe and Build Afterschool grants are designed to support *comprehensive* afterschool programs that meet the academic, social-emotional, and mental health needs of historically underserved students impacted by COVID-19.

The program must provide a **minimum of 60 sessions** and **each session must be at least 1 hour**. This includes before school, afterschool, school release days and weekends, but **does not** include summer.

- Each session must occur on a different day.
- Sessions may have multiple activities occurring at one time
- If the program operates at multiple sites, there must be a minimum of 60 sessions **per site**
- All youth participants must have an opportunity to participate in a **minimum of 60 sessions***.

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Questions submitted through the on-line question & answer form – responses posted 10.8.21

1. Can organizations just not charge for programs applied for in the grant, or can they not charge ANY fees?

Grantees may not charge program participation fees for the program included in your grant application. In addition, grantees are not allowed to generate program income from the program funded with this grant opportunity.

2. Can you clarify if non-governmental" eligibility includes local, state, and federal government?

The applying organization and operating organization, if applying through a fiscal sponsor*, must be a nongovernmental, nonprofit community-based organizations.

For the purposes of this grant, a community-based organization is a non-governmental nonprofit organization that's representative of a community (or significant segments of a community) and provides educational or related services to individuals in that community.

*The RFP has been updated with the above clarified language (see RFP, page 7) to align with the application questions in Appendix A. The updated language is highlighted in grey and dated.