

## FY2014 LHHS Bill Language on 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC

*Provided further*, that State educational agencies may subgrant funds available under part B of title IV of the ESEA for expanded learning time programs that significantly increase the number of hours in a regular school schedule and comprehensively redesign the school schedule for all students in the school: *Provided further that* such expanded learning time programs shall provide additional learning time in the core academic and other subjects, provide opportunities for student participation in experiential, hands-on learning, and include enrichment and youth development activities: *Provided further*, that programs awarded sub-grants under such part shall include strong partnerships between schools and community partners:

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### *21st Century Community Learning Centers*

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,200,000,000 for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers [21st CCLC] program.

Funds are allocated to States by formula, which in turn, award at least 95 percent of their allocations to LEAs, community-based organizations, and other public and private entities. Grantees use these resources to establish or expand community learning centers that provide activities offering significant extended learning opportunities, such as before-and after-school programs, recreational activities, drug and violence prevention, and family literacy programs for students and related services to their families. Centers must target their services to students who attend schools that are eligible to operate a schoolwide program under title I of the ESEA or serve high percentages of students from low-income families.

The Committee is aware of a growing interest in extending the school day and/or school year as a means of providing additional educational opportunities to students. Therefore, the Committee includes new bill language that will give LEAs the option of using 21st CCLC subgrants for extended learning time programs. LEAs will continue to be able to use the funding for high-quality, afterschool, before school, and summer learning programs if they choose.

The Committee believes that SEAs should award grants to highquality programs that address individual student learning needs and student well-being. Funded programs should deliver services through a variety of high-quality and effective strategies for boosting learning and enrichment including afterschool, before school, summer school, or expanded day, week, or year opportunities; align with and complement, rather than replicate, the regular school day, by offering a range of activities that capture student interest and support student engagement to promote higher class attendance, reduce risk for retention or dropping out, and foster good health; integrate academics, enrichment, and skill development through hands-on experiences that make learning relevant and engaging; and actively address the specific learning needs and interests of all types of students, especially those who may benefit from approaches and experiences not offered in the traditional classroom setting. The Committee directs the

Department to refrain from giving priority to, showing preference for, or providing direction about whether communities should use these funds for afterschool, before school, summer school, or expanded school day programs, unless specifically requested by SEAs or LEAs.

The Committee urges the Department to provide guidance and technical assistance to States, schools, and community partners on how to develop and maintain strong community-school partnerships, particularly in data-sharing arrangements; implement continuous quality improvement processes; and ensure that programs meet the needs of individual students. The Committee also urges the Department to consult with experts in the field, including State and local intermediaries, in creating and providing such guidance and technical assistance. The Committee also believes SEAs should ensure that local communities receiving 21st CCLC program funds identify strategies for students to engage in programs and services during the afternoon and early evening hours while most parents or guardians are at work.

The Committee is aware that many States already have the option of using 21st CCLC funding for extended learning time through the ESEA-No Child Left Behind waiver process. The Committee directs the Secretary to provide it with a report on the impact of the flexibility provided to SEAs under waiver option 11 on the 21st CCLC program. The Department should report on the number of children served and the centers/sites offering expanded learning in the 3 years preceding the waiver approval and the 3 years following waiver approval, as well as the number of hours of and diversity of programming available to students through such grants at each site and the average cost of the programs (per student and per site) before and after waiver approval. All data should be provided at the State level.