



New Leaders Academy

Are you a new 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program leader? To provide foundational knowledge about critical components of 21st CCLC programs, the 21st CCLC NTAC hosted the **New Leaders Academy** on August 11-13, 2026. This takeaway highlights key topics, resources, and practical insights shared during the virtual academy. All three 90-minute webinars were recorded and will soon be available on our [Archived Events page](#).



"This is an opportunity to make sure you know the basics of 21st CCLC programs, gain insights from other program leaders, and learn about free resources to support your work."

— Chaz Sumners, Technical Assistance Liaison, 21st CCLC NTAC



Key Takeaways

- **The Foundations of 21st CCLC and Understanding Your Grant (Webinar 1).** If you're a new program leader, it's essential to become familiar with the statute that authorizes the 21st CCLC program, guidance from the U.S. Department of Education (Department), and what's in your program's awarded grant proposal.
- **The Role of Data and Effective Programming (Webinar 2).** Collecting, organizing, and using a variety of data is the key to ensuring that everything that happens in your program is aligned with student needs and interests as well as program goals.
- **Fiscal Management and Student and Family Engagement (Webinar 3).** Solid fiscal management includes using 21st CCLC funds appropriately and making the most of those funds to engage and support students and families.



Action Tips

- Use needs assessment data and a logic model to help you plan, implement, evaluate, and adjust program activities to ensure quality and compliance — and to identify program elements you want to sustain over time.
- Use data and stories to show your program's value for students and families and to attract support from school and community partners.
- Learn and use effective strategies for fiscal management and family engagement.



Resources

- [21st CCLC Essentials for Program Leaders Course](#) — This seven-module course will deepen your understanding of the 21st CCLC program, its statutory requirements, and your responsibilities as a subgrantee program leader. Topics include program quality, fiscal management, monitoring, evaluation, and technical assistance (TA). Each module includes resources (e.g., Module 103 includes templates and examples of a logic model and a memorandum of understanding). A certificate of completion is available for each module.



- [21st CCLC Non-Regulatory Guidance \(NRG\)](#) — This guide from the Department explains statutory and policy requirements for administering 21st CCLC programs. Topics include funding, eligibility, program design, implementation, and compliance. The 21st CCLC NTAC is developing a companion guide with examples of intentional activity design, partnerships, and evidence-based practices. [Follow us on LinkedIn](#) to stay informed about new products!
- [21APR New GPRA Final Implementation Guide](#) — This guide describes 21st CCLC program performance outcome measures, data elements, and reporting requirements.
- [ESEA Title IV, Part B Reference Guide](#) — This job aid includes the full text of Title IV, Part B of the Federal statute that authorizes and defines the Nita M. Lowey 21st CCLC program. It includes cross-references to the Department's 21st CCLC NRG, with quick links to official information sources.
- [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) — FERPA is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student educational records and limits who can access or share student information. FERPA applies to 21st CCLC programs.
- [Grant Writing Series](#) — This three-part webinar series is designed for new subgrantees and non-grant writers. It focuses on how to use qualitative and quantitative data to shape a proposal, write needs statements, and set clear goals.
- [Learning Resources](#) — Visit this page on the 21st CCLC NTAC website to explore and download fact sheets, toolkits, job aids, and other free resources.
- [New Leaders Community of Practice](#) — 21st CCLC program leaders can connect with peers and 21st CCLC NTAC TA Team members by registering and signing in to the [21st CCLC NTAC website](#) and joining this virtual community of practice in the Knowledge Network.
- [Summer, Afterschool and Other Out-of-School Time Settings](#) — This Institute of Education Sciences webpage catalogs a variety of resources on the use of evidence-based practices in the design and implementation of out-of-school time programs.
- [Sustainability at a Glance for 21st CCLC Program Directors](#) — This job aid provides strategies you can use to plan and prepare for continuation of key program activities beyond your current 21st CCLC grant funding cycle.
- [Uniform Guidance](#) — This Federal guidance outlines how 21st CCLC programs should manage funds, determine whether costs are allowable, and set up systems that support accountability and transparency.
- [Your Community Asset Map](#) — This tool can be used to create an asset map specific to your community. It includes examples of urban/suburban and rural community asset maps.

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