



## Request for Tydings Waiver for Federal Fiscal Year 2020 of the Title IV, Part B Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grant Program

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is requesting a Tydings waiver for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2020 of the Title IV, Part B Nita M. Lowey 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) grant program, which is a program authorized under section 4201 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). If the waiver is approved, FFY 2020 funding for the grant program will be extended through September 30, 2023.

Maryland is requesting the waiver in light of the unexpected adjustments in the educational environment from face-to-face to virtual and hybrid instruction that 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grantees experienced as a result of COVID-19 pandemic-related school closures. The shift in the out-of-school time programming and the instructional environment led to a reduction in planned budget expenditures.

Approval of the waiver to extend the grant period for FFY 2020 funds would allow MSDE to expand the number of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC-funded programs operating in Maryland. MSDE would then offer a new grant competition in Maryland during the 2022-2023 school year. The FFY 2020 funds would be used to: (1) increase the number of students served through this ESSA grant program in the 2022-2023 school year and summer, and (2) create new 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC-funded programs for students. Maryland will continue to support community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities for children who attend high poverty and low-performing schools to meet the State and local student academic standards in core academic subjects.

If the waiver request is granted, MSDE will ensure that the fidelity of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC funded programs continues and that the targeted students meet success in achieving the established goals. MSDE will monitor and support programs from start to finish to ensure successful implementation.

As required under ESSA section 8401(b)(3)(A), prior to submitting a waiver request for any program authorized under ESSA, the State must provide the public with notice and a reasonable opportunity to comment and provide input on a proposed waiver request. This communication serves as notice of MSDE's intent to submit a Tydings waiver request to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) for FFY 2020 of the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant program, and as an invitation to the public to provide feedback on the proposed waiver request. Please submit your comments by September 16, 2022, via email to Reginald Burke, Director, Youth Development Branch; Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy at [reginald.burke@maryland.gov](mailto:reginald.burke@maryland.gov). Copies of all public comments received from will be included as part of the waiver request submission to USDE.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed waiver request, please contact Mary L. Gable, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy, by email at [mary.gable@maryland.gov](mailto:mary.gable@maryland.gov) or by telephone at 410-767-0472.