

School Age Engagement and Care – Funding Opportunity Frequently Asked/Clarifying Questions

Refresher on this Funding Opportunity

Students need a safe place to be. They need structure, consistency, and social interaction. They need a supportive system that encourages learning, a regular routine, the resources to engage in learning, including technology, and they need food and comfort. They need caregivers engaged in their development and support for their social, emotional, and mental health.

This funding opportunity will provide grants of up to \$25,000 to increase support for children and youth (k-12) who are experiencing barriers to returning to a full-time, in-person school environment. Support is directed to agencies serving children, youth and families living in communities that are most affected, with a deep focus on children and youth of color, those living in families with low income and others facing systemic barriers to realizing their right to health and education.

This targeted funding opportunity focuses on supporting the well-being of children and youth. Our hope is that grants will strengthen existing community-based organizations and partnerships serving children and youth that are pursuing:

- Strategies to keep students supported, engaged, motivated and learning as educational schedules are disrupted
- Strategies to enhance social and emotional engagement, with connections to mental health supports as needed

The registration deadline for this funding opportunity is October 29th at 5pm and the application deadline is November 5th at 5pm.

Questions and Answers

Must the program be operating in a community or school offering remote learning, experiencing student disengagement, and serving a minimum of 65% FRL - or is it any one of these to be eligible?

All three elements are required to apply; it is not one or two elements.

Is the FRL requirement at the district level or the school level?

This applies to the school, or the community of children and youth being served, if they come from multiple schools.

Is FRL the only income indicator that is allowed?

We recognize a community-based provider may not always have information on FRL rates and/or that children and youth may come from multiple schools, making this data element challenging. We

will accept information to support that the children and youth are living in low-income households, such as TANF or Medicaid eligibility. Other data can serve as a proxy for the FRL requirement.

Can an agency serve more than one site?

An agency may serve children and youth at more than one site, though we are focused on the highest need sites within a community. We would not encourage an application from a large provider serving multiple sites without any specific focus on a community/school area most in need. We encourage applications focused on a specific site, or at best, a couple of sites.

Can a singular organization (501c3) with multiple locations submit more than one application?

We do not encourage this. Our goal is to spread funding across partners in the communities with the greatest need for support.

Are there any requirements for what must be included in the organization's child safety policy?

The required element is that all individuals in contact with children and youth have passed a criminal background check. We encourage organizations to provide information about incident reporting, safety assessments, safety training and any policies related to prevention and/or reporting on sexual abuse, bullying or harassment.

Do you need actual copies of the background check for staff/employees or just the background check and/or safety policy?

Copies of background check information for employees or volunteers is not necessary. Submission of a policy covering this standard is required.

What is the preference for in-person vs. virtual programming and supports?

We prefer in-person programming that follows the guidance of state and local public health orders and meets the minimum of 10 contact hours per week, particularly as this funding opportunity is focused on programs/services in communities where remote learning is more prevalent. We hope this funding supports the many modifications that agencies have made to continue to deliver in-person programming.

We also recognize that programs are making modifications to support the varying needs and wants of families — there may be times where a family/community prefers virtual programming or that virtual programming may be necessary because of COVID-related closures or restrictions. In these cases, we'd like to see ongoing contact, in the form of virtual groups, activities, ongoing support, etc.

Can the foundation share some perspective on 10 hours or more per week requirement?

We are looking to support programs that are meeting the needs of children and youth, with a focus on engagement, care and social and emotional supports, for a minimum of 10 hours per week, per child, for the majority of enrolled children and youth. We are looking for a higher-touch level of support.

How are "high" levels of student disengagement defined?

We recognize there is a challenge to measuring disengagement, particularly as this is still a measure in process for schools/districts/communities. This funding opportunity is directed toward communities where it was demonstrated in the spring, and likely continues to be demonstrated this fall, that large groups of students are less engaged in school than in previous years. In some cases, school-based data is available. We suggest that applicants share examples, data and information that is known to demonstrate students are less engaged. "High" will be more defined as the applications are reviewed. We strongly encourage you to make the best-case possible re: how students are, or are not, engaged compared to non-COVID times.

Can the funding be used for instructional/educational services?

No, the funding cannot be used to cover the costs of instructional services. This funding opportunity is not meant to replace the cost of delivering education or teaching. It is directed to children's and youth's care, engagement, and social and emotional support during disrupted education. If a school were to apply for this funding, it would be to cover the cost of providing care, out-of-school time, or other supportive services. Services provided at a school that aid in keeping students engaged, safe and motivated would be covered, if they meet other requirements stated in the funding opportunity.

What is the time frame for applying funding if awarded?

Award announcements will be made by December 3, 2020. Contracts will likely be executed by the beginning of January. We anticipate the funding period would be six months (meaning, six months to expend the grant funding). We will work with awarded partners if it is determined an alternate period is needed.

Is there a minimum number of students served?

No, there is not a minimum number of students served. That said, we will be looking to reach and support a significant number of children and youth through this funding opportunity.

What is the oldest age/grade we can serve? Can we serve pre-school age children?

This funding opportunity is directed towards children and youth in the k-12 educational system, so students should be between the ages of 5 to 18.

How can the funds be used?

Funds can be used to cover personnel and operational expenses, which is broadly defined. Funds can be used to cover the cost of equipment, rent and/or renovations needed to provide programming during this disrupted time. They can also be used to cover the cost of contractors who may be delivering programming and services, including mental health supports.

Can a tutoring/GED program apply?

A program solely focused on tutoring or GED prep would not be competitive for this funding opportunity. If this is an element of programming, within a focus towards engagement, care and social and emotional development, this program would be more competitive.

Would a remote learning support center open whenever the school is in remote learning mode that serves students who don't have internet or have trouble engaging remotely be a good fit? Would learning pods hosted at a nonprofit be a good fit?

Yes, this would be a fit for the funding opportunity. The provision of safe, tech-enabled, supportive spaces to encourage learning and connections to adults and peers is important and we value the efforts many are making to create these spaces. We would not fund an effort that was not low- or no-cost to the families living on low-incomes.

Would this opportunity include services to coordinate models for improved access and distribution for students and their families to food resources and food benefit programs, such as child nutrition programs?

No, this would not be a fit for this opportunity. The provision of food and access to food benefits is critically important. Food offered in isolation, without addressing the other strategies linked to this opportunity, is not a fit. Efforts to integrate food access and the provision of food, within the context of other services, could be a fit.

Is this specifically support for students, or also parents/caregivers? Would you fund programming that supports caregivers in supporting engagement for their children?

No, this funding opportunity is directed to k-12 children and youth directly; support for caregivers, while critically important, is not a fit for this funding opportunity.

What kind of evaluation data is required of those awarded grants?

Grantees will be asked to submit a final report, summarizing progress toward desired outcomes, the use of the funds and next steps for the agency.

Is CFC staff available to speak with us on an individual basis to see if we should apply?

Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity to field individual questions for this rapid response funding opportunity. Please review the webinar, slides and this FAQ.

How do we register in the CFC grants management system? How do we update contact information if we are already registered?

To register, visit: <https://caringforcolorado.fluxx.io>.

To update contact information, visit: https://caringforcolorado.fluxx.io/apply/contact_update.

Will the funding opportunity webinar be available to participants or others who missed the event?

Yes, the webinar will be posted on the CFC website, along with the slides and this Q&A. [Click here](#) to watch the webinar and review the webinar slides.