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# 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

Fact Sheet  
**67**

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## ***What is the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program?***

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program provides opportunities for academic enrichment, including tutorial services, to help students meet state and local student academic achievement standards in core academic subjects such as reading and mathematics. The program particularly targets students who attend low-performing schools.

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## ***What other services are offered?***

21st Century Community Learning Centers offer students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities such as youth development activities; drug and violence prevention programs; counseling programs; art, music, and recreational programs; technology education programs; and character education programs. All are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic program of participating students. Centers also offer opportunities for literacy and related educational development to families of participating students.

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## ***When are programs and services available?***

Academic enrichment activities and other services are offered during out-of-school hours or periods of time when school is not in session such as before and after school or during summer recess.

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## ***How are the centers funded?***

Funding is provided to states through the U.S. Department of Education. States use their allocations to make competitive awards to eligible applicants, including local education agencies, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, other public or private entities, or consortia of two or more of such agencies, organizations, or entities.

The legislation requires states to award grants only to applicants that will primarily serve students who attend schools with concentrations of poor students. States must also give priority to applications for projects that will serve children in schools designated as in need of improvement under Title I and that are submitted jointly by school systems receiving Title I funds and community-based organizations or public or private organizations. The State makes awards only to eligible entities that propose to serve students, and families of students, who primarily attend schools eligible for Title I schoolwide programs or schools that serve a high percentage of students from low-income families.

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## ***Where can I get more information?***

To learn more about the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, contact the After School Programs for Youth Development Branch, Maryland State Department of Education, 410-767-0561.