



## U.S. Department of Education and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Watershed STEM Education Partnership Grants

### Background:

The NOAA Office of Education is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Education and the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) to implement the Watershed STEM Education Partnership program. This program will amplify mutual Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) education goals of the two agencies by providing ED's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center program sites (21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs) with access to STEM experiences that use NOAA's unique educational mission as a context for engagement.

- **What the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites bring to this partnership:** The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites are a network of academic enrichment providers working during non-school hours. The program helps students meet state and local learning standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and STEM; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers other educational services to the families of participating children.
- **What NOAA brings to this partnership:** Competitive grants issued by NAAEE, NOAA's partner in supporting this initiative, will fund experienced environmental education providers (NOAA partners) to work with 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites to deliver authentic STEM experiences emphasizing the unique assets and expertise of NOAA. These watershed STEM education projects will use the NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program's [Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences](#) (MWEE) model. MWEEs incorporate multi-stage learning both outdoors and in the classroom and aim to increase participants' understanding and stewardship of watersheds and related ecosystems. A [pilot program implemented with 21<sup>st</sup> CCLCs in 2017](#) indicated that projects like these excel at making STEM activities relevant to students' lives and improve students' understanding and awareness of their local watersheds. For more information about MWEEs and the NOAA B-WET program, please visit: <https://www.noaa.gov/office-education/bwet>. Also check out NAAEE's website to find out more about NAAEE's work and environmental literacy and environmental education at [naaee.org](http://naaee.org).
- **What we are asking the States to do:** State Education Agencies (SEAs) are invited to let NAAEE and NOAA know if they are interested in having this place-based opportunity offered to 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites in their state, as well as if any additional information is needed to encourage partnerships with 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grantees (e.g. priority in geographic areas to serve in the state, capacity considerations, etc.) During the application period, NOAA partners will reach out to 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites to develop partnerships. At this time 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites may reach out to SEA contacts to ensure their participation would be approved. In addition, the U.S. Department of Education's You for Youth team (Y4Y) may reach out to SEAs to identify potential 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC site for interested applicants. During the selection process SEAs will have an opportunity to provide input on the proposed sites in their state to be served. A webinar will be



offered to eligible SEAs to share additional details and answer questions about this project before the competition is released.

### **Additional information about the Watershed STEM Education Partnership Grants:**

- Grants from NAAEE will enable NOAA partners to provide access to dynamic academic enrichment experiences to approximately 60 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC program sites. *Please see the planned program geography at the end of this document for more detail on where this opportunity may be offered.* In some states this opportunity will be limited to some counties or specific watershed areas, based on where NOAA anticipates having potential partners as a result of B-WET program implementation or other agency priorities.
- Funds will be provided to organizations with established NOAA-related environmental education capacity. The intention is to foster new partnerships between environmental education providers and local 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites to design and implement locally relevant out-of-school time programs. Interested NOAA partners in the selected geographic areas will recruit local 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites to participate. Interested 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites will need to provide a letter of commitment to accompany the NOAA partner application for funds.
- Funded NOAA partners will use existing NOAA resources to increase educator capacity at 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites, to provide academic enrichment experiences during non-school hours, and increase participants' understanding and stewardship of watersheds and related ocean, coastal, riverine, estuarine, and Great Lakes ecosystems. All activities that are funded will need to include:
  - Authentic STEM experiences for students, in NOAA-related topics based on the NOAA Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience
  - Engagement with and capacity building for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC staff who will be offering, or assisting with, the authentic STEM experiences for the students
  - Direct interaction with NOAA (or related) scientists

Curriculum has not yet been developed for Spring 2020 implementation. NOAA partners will collaborate with participating 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites to design a locally relevant project that complements the sites' curriculum and learning goals. NOAA partners will also provide 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC educators with the opportunity to learn more about NOAA and NAAEE resources and environmental education focused around STEM throughout the project.

- The funding range is still to be determined but will provide all the resources necessary for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC site participation. Projects may be implemented from Spring, 2020 through Spring, 2022. **Important: 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC site partners must be funded for the duration of the proposed partnership period.**



- Participating 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites will have additional training opportunities from NOAA, NAAEE, and Y4Y throughout the partnership. Y4Y will provide support for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC site commitments (e.g. release forms and technical assistance).

**Estimated Timeline**

Activity	Timeframe
Informational webinar for eligible SEAs	<b>November 6, 2019</b> 10am ET: Register here! 4pm ET: Register here!
NOAA partners identify 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC site partners and apply for funding	November 2019 - January 2020
SEAs are invited to provide input on proposed sites	January/February 2020
NOAA Partners and participating 21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC sites are selected	March 2020
Projects are implemented	Spring 2020 - Spring 2022

**Additional Resources:**

- 2017 Pilot program highlight video: <https://youtu.be/aMS8Frzmf10>
- 2017 pilot program news story: <https://www.noaa.gov/education/stories/noaa-supports-stem-in-after-school-programs-at-21st-century-community-learning>
- You for Youth partnership page: <https://y4y.ed.gov/stemchallenge/noaa>
  - Includes information about the 2017 pilot projects
- NOAA B-WET program: <https://www.noaa.gov/office-education/bwet>
- NOAA MWEE definition: <https://www.noaa.gov/education/explainers/noaa-meaningful-watershed-educational-experience>
- NAAEE: [www.eeblue.org](http://www.eeblue.org)



## Planned Program Geography (10/14/19)

Program geography is structured around the [NOAA B-WET program watershed regions](#).

### California:

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites served must be located in Sacramento County, CA.

### Chesapeake Bay:

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites served must be located in states that indicated support for the "Student Goal" (Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences - MWEEs) as a part of the [Chesapeake Bay Agreement](#). This includes all school districts (not only those in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed) in Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, Delaware, and Virginia.

### Great Lakes:

Counties in the Great Lakes watershed in the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin)

### Gulf of Mexico:

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites served must be from coastal counties in the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas; or from any county in the state of Florida. Coastal counties in the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas are listed on page 48-49 of the following document: National Ocean Service, NOAA. 2011. The Gulf of Mexico at a Glance: A Second Glance. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, [ftp://ftp.library.noaa.gov/noaa\\_documents.lib/NOS/state\\_of\\_coast/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_2011.pdf](ftp://ftp.library.noaa.gov/noaa_documents.lib/NOS/state_of_coast/Gulf_of_Mexico_2011.pdf).

### Hawaii:

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites served must be located in the state of Hawaii.

### New England:

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites served must be located in the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, or Vermont.

### Pacific Northwest:

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC sites served must be located in the states of Oregon, Washington, or Alaska.