



June 2, 2021

Todd Allen, General Counsel
Kentucky Department of Education
300 Sower Boulevard, 5th Floor
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

To Whom It May Concern,

The Kentucky Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs appreciates the proactive leadership and inclusive vision of the Commissioner at the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) for recognizing the vital role that afterschool and summer enrichment programs will play in our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Summer Learning Grants will be crucial to Kentucky's youth in supporting their academic acceleration and social-emotional development.

However, the current plan states these grants will be made to districts that operate comprehensive out-of-school time (OST) programming over the summer months. Kentucky's school districts are already receiving \$1.8 billion of the state's total \$2.1 billion of ARP ESSER funds. In addition, school districts must reserve 20% of their funding (approximately \$375 million statewide) to address learning loss through comprehensive out-of-school time programs.

The Kentucky Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs alongside the Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance encourages KDE to make the BOOST Summer Learning Grants available to community-based organizations that have never stopped supporting Kentucky's kids throughout this pandemic and will continue to work with youth to ensure their success, academically and emotionally, throughout the recovery. Community-based partners need access to additional resources so they can:

- Expand access to serve more youth, with an emphasis on children and communities most impacted by the pandemic,
- Reduce barriers to equitable access, such as transportation and enrollment costs, and
- Increase programmatic quality and expanding or enhancing supports and services offered.

We stand ready to support KDE, school districts, and other out-of-school time partners as we build a more equitable future for our kids!

Sarah Kidder, Alliance Director
Kentucky Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs

From: [Konz Tatman, Toni - Chief Communications Officer](#)
To: [Courtney, Matthew - Division of School and Program Improvement](#); [Foster, Kelly - KDE Associate Commissioner](#)
Subject: Fwd: Comments re: KDE's ARP ESSER Plan
Date: Thursday, June 3, 2021 9:04:49 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: KDE Communications <kdecommunications@education.ky.gov>
Date: June 3, 2021 at 8:43:55 PM EDT
To: "Konz Tatman, Toni - Chief Communications Officer"
<toni.tatman@education.ky.gov>
Subject: FW: Comments re: KDE's ARP ESSER Plan

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 2:22 PM
To: KDE Communications <kdecommunications@education.ky.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comments re: KDE's ARP ESSER Plan

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Good afternoon,

Community-based out-of-school time organizations have played a pivotal role in providing academic and social supports to Kentucky students, particularly throughout the duration of the pandemic. Given that Kentucky school districts are receiving \$1.8 billion of the state's total \$2.1 billion of ARP ESSER funds, I am writing in support of the Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance's request that KDE make the Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Summer Learning Grants available to community-based organizations. To reiterate this request, these partners need access to additional resources so they can:

- Expand access to serve more youth, with an emphasis on children and communities most impacted by the pandemic,
- Reduce barriers to equitable access, such as transportation and enrollment costs, and
- Increase programmatic quality and expanding or enhancing supports and

services offered.

Thank you for accepting these comments for consideration. If there is anything I can do to help facilitate this requested plan in Louisville, please let me know.

Thank you!

Nicole

Nicole Eovino Diebold

Program Associate

C.E. and S. Foundation

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