

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FOR
RFP # 1131 NYS LEARNING AND ENRICHMENT
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM SUPPORTS (LEAPS)

SECTION 4 of 8: Awards and Funding Sources

Amended 4/3/2024

AWARDS	
Q1	<p><i>On page 12 of the application, it indicates "No applicant will receive more than \$2.2 million in combined funding from this RFP. OCFS will make no more than two awards per school district in NYC and up to one award each per school district in the rest of state. Maximum funding to serve any single school district is limited to \$4.4 million for New York City (NYC) and \$2.2 million in the rest of the state."</i></p> <p>This is confusing-- does one award per district go to each applicant (CBO?). Or does each school district get only one award, regardless of size?</p>
A1	<p>As of 3/13/24, the LEAPS RFP and application were amended to remove the language restricting the number of awards and maximum dollar amount per school district. A not-for-profit applicant may receive up to four awards and the maximum combined funding to any awardee is limited to \$4.4 million annually for New York City (NYC) and \$2.2 million annually in the Downstate and Rest-of-State regions.</p>
Q2	<p><i>Section 2.3, Paragraph 3.</i></p> <p>If the agency has been asked by multiple school districts, is the amount of \$2.2 million expected to total across multiple school districts? Or can an agency/organization apply for more than one \$2.2 million contract for each district to service both districts?</p>
A2	<p>See A1. An organization may submit multiple applications and receive multiple awards; however, they will be limited to the maximum combined funding per awardee as described in A1 above.</p>
Q3	<p><i>On page 12, the RFP states: No applicant will receive more than \$2.2 million in combined funding from this RFP. OCFS will make no more than two awards per school district in NYC and up to one award each per school district in the rest of state.</i></p> <p>If two distinct nonprofit organizations write proposals for different schools within a school district can both be awarded if the total combined funding for both of their applications is less than \$2.2 million? (Ex: NFP 1 writes for \$750,000 and NFP 2 writes for \$1,000,000 for different schools within the same district).</p>
A3	<p>See A1.</p>
Q4	<p><i>Section 2.3, pg. 12</i></p> <p>Is the \$2.2M cap on funding per applicant per year or is the cap on the total 5-year contract?</p>
A4	<p>The RFP amendment dated 3/13/24 indicates the limit on maximum combined funding to any awardee is annual. See A1.</p>

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Q5	<p>Re: Section 2.3 Purpose and Funding Availability, Paragraph 4: The RFP states: “No applicant will receive more than \$2.2 million in combined funding from this RFP.” Is the \$2.2 million the maximum award amount <u>per year</u> or is it the 5-year total award amount?</p>
A5	See A1 and A4.
Q6	<p>Is the \$2.2M a cap per CBO per school district or per CBO total (i.e. could one CBO receive more than 2.2M across several school districts)?</p>
A6	See A1 and A4.
Q7	<p>Re: Section 2.3 Purpose and Funding Availability: The RFP says “No applicant will receive more than \$2.2 million in combined funding from this RFP.” Would two affiliated organizations be considered a single applicant or two?</p>
A7	Per the amendment dated 3/13/24, the annual funding limit is applicable to awardees, not applicants. For the purposes of this procurement, “applicant” is defined as the organization submitting a proposal in response to this RFP. An affiliated organization that did not submit a proposal is not considered to be an applicant. See A1.
Q8	<p>While capping a single district at \$2.2 Million makes sense to ensure more communities are served, it would prevent high quality but smaller programs from competing--what district would want to partner with a high-quality program serving, say, 50 children, when they cannot then apply with a different CBO to serve additional children?</p>
A8	See A1. Also, districts are allowed to partner with multiple NFPs.
Q9	<p>On Page 12, the RFP states: <i>Districts are encouraged to enter into a letter of commitment with multiple NFPs who are proposing to serve their students.</i> Does this mean more than one NFP can receive an award to serve different schools within a single district?</p>
A9	Yes.
Q10	<p>On page 17, it indicates school districts are encouraged to partner with multiple NPOs to serve their districts. What is the benefit of partnering with more than one CBO if only one grant of any size can be received?</p>
A10	See A1 and A9.
Q11	<p>In regards to the number of awards per school district. In the RFP, it says it can be 2 for NYC and 1 for the rest of state. In the webinar, it says it can be 2 for NYC and Downstate, and the definition of downstate includes Nassau and Suffolk. Can you please clarify?</p>

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A11	See A1. While the webinar recording took place before the amendment, amended webinar slides have been posted.
Q12	Page 12 of RFP states that maximum number of applications per district is 2 in NYC and 1 in rest of state. Webinar slide 9 states it is a maximum of 2 awards in NYC and Downstate, and 1 in rest of state, with downstate including Long Island. Which one is accurate?
A12	See A1 and A11.
Q13	The RFP indicates OCFS will make “no more than two awards per school district in NYC and up to one award each per school district in the rest of the state.” Is this per applicant? Or does this mean each school district in NYC will only be served by two providers and only one provider for districts outside of NYC?
A13	See A1.
Q14	The webinar also referred to a maximum of \$4.4 million per applicant in NYC and Downstate and \$2.2 million in rest of state. This also is different from what is listed on page 12 of RFP. In Downstate on Long Island, are we eligible to apply for up to \$4.4 million?
A14	No. The maximum combined funding to any awardee in the Downstate and Rest-of-State regions is limited to \$2.2 million annually. See A11.
Q15	Page 69 of the RFP shows four regions within Rest-of-State. a. How will awards be distributed within these regions? b. Will each region be allocated ¼ of the available \$35.6 million? c. What if a majority of the high scoring applications or a majority of the applications themselves are from within one or two regions?
A15	a. Per RFP Section 6.2, accepted applications will be ranked according to a final average score from lowest to highest within a region. Award recommendations will be based on highest-scoring applications within identified regions and ranked by final average score. b. No. See A15a. c. NYC and Downstate Region is proposed to receive 60% of the total funding available, or \$58.5 million and Rest-of-State Region is proposed to receive 40% of the funding available, or \$39 million. This allocation may change at OCFS' sole discretion.

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Q16	<i>On the bottom of page 71 of the RFP (section 6.2 Evaluation Process – Funding Allocations by Region), the RFP says “NYC and Downstate is proposed to receive 60% of the total funding available, or \$53.4 million and Rest-of-State is proposed to receive 40% of the funding available, or \$35.6 million.” When you add up \$53.4 million plus \$35.6 million, the total is \$89 million. However, on page 15 of the RFP (section 2.3 – Purpose and Funding Availability), the RFP says “The Governor’s proposed New York State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 State Budget is proposed to appropriate \$97,500,000 to establish, continue, and/or expand after-school programs using a PYD approach to achieve the goals of the LEAPS initiative”. As such, can you clarify the discrepancy between \$89 million and \$97.5 million and what the additional \$8.5 million in funding will be supporting?</i>
A16	The amended RFP indicates NYC and Downstate Region is proposed to receive 60% of the total funding available, or \$58.5 million and Rest-of-State Region is proposed to receive 40% of the funding available, or \$39 million, totaling \$97.5 million.
Q17	<i>The limit of \$2.2 Million per district (or applicant) makes sense in order to get funding to more communities. But, the limit on how many AWARDS that may be received does not—it should not matter if a district gets to the \$2.2 Million cap with one partner or three, at three sites or nine—that should be up to the partnership(s) to determine how best to serve their children.</i> Please consider changing this cap on how many awards can be received, or on how many locations may be included in a single application, to allow districts and CBOs to best serve their students.
A17	See A1.
Q18	a) Since the maximum number of sites for each proposal is 3, are we able to submit 2 proposals with 2 school sites on each? b) Is it possible to be awarded funding for all 4 sites by submitting 2 separate proposal applications?
A18	a. Yes. b. Yes.
Q19	Will multiple CBO providers be funded up to the \$2.2 funding cap per district?
A19	See A1.
Q20	Will the awardee be granted the grant award without receiving funding?
A20	Awardees will receive a notice of award stating the amount of funding awarded. Per RFP Section 2.4, payments cannot be made before the formal execution of a contract by both parties and approval by OSC.
Q21	Will funding be provided before the commencement of services?
A21	See A20. After the contract is approved by OSC, requests for an advance of up to 20% will be allowed and can be paid on or after 9/1/24.
Q22	Is there an option to receive an advance of funding?
A22	See A21.

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Q23	Will the awardee receive full funding before September 1st, 2024?
A23	No. See A20.
Q24	2.3 Purpose and Funding Availability: Page 12 – a. With a maximum of one award per district outside of New York City, and a maximum of three sites per application, does this limit the Big 5 to only three sites possibly receiving funding through this funding stream? b. Could nonprofits partner to serve more than three sites under one \$2.2 million award in one district in this case?
A24	a. No. See A1. b. No. Per RFP Section 2.3 each application is limited to three sites to serve the same school district. If an applicant wishes to serve more than three sites they would need to submit an additional proposal(s). However, the total combined funding cap per NFP awardee remains applicable.
Q25	On page 26, the RFP states: However, one program director may not oversee more than three sites of any size under this RFP. Does this mean NLP’s can write an application to serve and/or be awarded more than three sites?
A25	No. Each application can propose to serve up to three sites in the same school district. However, NFPs can submit up to four applications to serve a total of up to 12 sites across up to four different school districts listed on Attachment 10.
Q26	What metrics will be reviewed by the state so that awards are based on need and not preference?
A26	Applications will be scored consistent with RFP Section 5. Additionally, per RFP Section 6.2 Evaluation Process, “OCFS reserves the right to make adjustments to the funding amount requested based on programmatic need, funding availability, geographic distribution of awards, and the total dollar values of all applications receiving a passing score.”
QUESTIONS RELATING TO OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING	
Q27	How does this grant interplay with grants that already exist at any given school, such as the Extended Learning Time Grant?
A27	Applicants cannot utilize the LEAPS funding to reimburse expenses already reimbursed by other grant sources. Funds must supplement, not supplant, existing services and may not be used to supplant federal, state, or local funds. Programs may not use LEAPS initiative funds to pay for existing levels of service funded from any other source. All costs included in the direct cost categories must be directly attributable to the project. State Finance Law and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles require that any expense incurred over more than one funding source or program must be charged proportionately, and the method of allocation must be documented.
Q28	a) Is the LEAPS program replacing the NYS Advantage and/or the Empire After School grants? b) Will those grants continue separately?

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A28	All Advantage Afterschool (and Empire Afterschool) contracts are ending on August 31, 2024. There is no overlap between the ending of Advantage or Empire on 8/31/24 and the beginning of LEAPS on 9/1/24. LEAPS is a separate funding stream. Eligible NFPs who want to serve the eligible districts on Attachment 10 of the RFP must submit an application by the Deadline for Submission of Proposals listed in RFP Section 1.2 Calendar of Events to be considered for LEAPS funding.
Q29	Is the LEAPS grant replacing the OCFS Empire State After School Program grant?
A29	See A28.
Q30	Will this RFP # 1131 replace existing Advantage Contracts?
A30	See A28.
Q31	Will the LEAPS program replace the OCFS Advantage and Empire State After School program model and contracts?
A31	See A28.
Q32	With the Advantage no-cost extension to August 31, 2025, how will that work for existing grantees that need to continue to expend current funds that would overlap for a year with new awards if they receive them?
A32	See A27 and A28.
Q33	<i>Existing Empire grants will be expiring this June. Will priority be given to these contracts if they plan to reapply?</i>
A33	No. All applicant proposals will be evaluated as stated in RFP Section 6.0 Minimum Criteria/Evaluation Process. Please note Empire contracts are ending August 31, 2024.
Q34	What is the planned transition process for school districts that were formerly Empire State After School grantees?
A34	School districts are encouraged to check the OCFS and SED websites for other grant funding opportunities. If the district is listed on RFP Attachment 10, districts can partner with eligible local NFPs who can submit applications to serve youth in their district through LEAPS. Programs can also consult with their regulator, if applicable, and local CCR&R regarding options and alternative youth services in the area.
Q35	<i>In NYC, DYCD will be issuing a competitive RFP for after-school funding very shortly. Can a Club or CBO apply to both funding sources and if accepted for both, possibly decline acceptance? It would not be good business to risk only applying for one, thus taking a chance of not being awarded for either without applying to both.</i>
A35	Yes. Prospective applicants serving districts on Attachment 10 of the RFP are encouraged to maximize the possibility of positive outcomes for their organizations by applying to any/all sources of funding for which they are interested and eligible.

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Q36	<p>a. Is this the only option for funding for Advantage Programs that are now ending?</p> <p>b. What do we tell families after having served them for the past 24 years through our Advantage program that funding is no longer available to [their community]?</p>
A36	<p>a. OCFS recommends that interested parties monitor the OCFS funding website for current and future opportunities: https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/contracts/funding/.</p> <p>b. Current Advantage Afterschool contractors may be eligible to apply for LEAPS funding if they meet the RFP Section 3.1 Minimum Qualifications and they are proposing to serve an eligible school district listed on Attachment 10. Eligible contractors are encouraged to apply.</p>
Q37	<p>Can we propose to provide services at a site that we currently operate an Advantage After School program from, and if funded, LEAP will take the place of Advantage and be the only funded program at that site, therefore not supplementing other NFP funding, but only supplementing other school funding and services?</p>
A37	See A28.
Q38	<p>Can other public funds be used to support the children being funded by the LEAPS grant?</p>
A38	See A27.
Q39	<p><i>In Section 2.3, it is indicated that the funds should "supplement," not "supplant" other funds. The school district we seek to partner with has been awarded a 21st Century Learning Community grant and some of the same students might be identified for this grant proposal.</i></p> <p>If we can demonstrate the funding from LEAPS is separate for certain students from 21st Century funding, is this allowed? Or do they have to be separate students served?</p>
A39	See A27 and A40.
Q40	<p>a. If awarded, can the funding be used to support a program site that is currently receiving funding from 21st Century Learning Center grants?</p> <p>b. Can it be used to fund additional spots at that site?</p> <p>c. Can it be used to support the current number of students at that site with additional programming?</p> <p>d. Are there any other restrictions in regards to overlapping funders?</p>
A40	See A27. LEAPS funding is determined based on the SACC registered capacity and applicants can not apply for funding for only some of the capacity (slots).
Q41	<p>If a CBO already has a 21st CCLC award through NYSED at a school, can we apply for LEAPS funds to expand the program to additional students and/or additional hours?</p>
A41	See A27 and A40.
Q42	<p>We would like to inquire about the availability of funding to enhance our STEM classes, particularly focusing on coding and robotics.</p>

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A42	Pursuant to Section 5.2 of the RFP, allowable costs include curriculum materials related to after-school programming.
Q43	a. Are we allowed to use other funding to support our after-school program? b. Does it matter if the funding is public or private?
A43	a. Yes. See A27. b. No.
Q44	a. Can we propose to enhance our current after-school/summer services at a site that is currently funded with City &/or State dollars? b. Do we need to increase numbers of youth served, or can we increase number of staff and services provided to students?
A44	a. See A27. b. See A27.
Q45	<i>We understand OCFS expects applicants to secure additional dollars to support these programs.</i> a. Does that mean, for example, if we have an NYC DYCD contract to serve 100 students at a particular school, can we propose through this grant to serve those same 100 students with additional services not covered through the core contract (i.e. same students but expanded programming, so not duplicative)? b. Can staff be shared across contracts (e.g. a director who is allocated 50% to both contracts)?
A45	a. See A27. b. Yes, if there is adequate staff time allocated to perform required duties, staffing ratios are met and staff do not exceed 100% of time between all contracts.