

Libraries and Literacy in Afterschool and Summer

Vermont Agency of Education

April 8, 2026

Eligibility

- Per 16 VSA § 51:
 - *Eligible recipients can be public, private, or nonprofit organizations*
- Libraries are *already eligible* to apply for every grant put forward by the AOE since the inception of the Afterschool Special Fund
- Grant competitions already exist to fund short-term, single-activity programs like summer reading programs

Eligible Applicants:

Per Sec. E.500.1 16 V.S.A. § 4018 was added to read:
§ 4018. AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS

(a) Education Fund grants in an amount equal to the receipts from the sales and use tax imposed by 32 V.S.A. chapter 233 on retail sales of cannabis or cannabis products in this State, net of any administrative costs per subsection (b)(4) of this section, shall be used to fund grant programs for the expansion of summer and afterschool programs with an emphasis on increasing access in underserved areas of the State.

*(b) The Secretary of Education shall administer the grant programs, as follows:
(1) Grants shall be used to support a mixed delivery system for afterschool and summer programming. Eligible recipients can be public, private, or nonprofit organizations.*

Eligible applicants, as outlined by the authorizing legislation, can include public, private and non-profit organizations in Vermont.

Additional Context

- To date (three years of grants) no libraries have applied for funding
- Multiple libraries have contacted our team to discuss grant opportunities, but none have completed an application
- 24 different libraries are listed as named partners across 18 applications
- 40 awardees are engaged in some form of literacy enrichment, including 15 with literacy-centered tutoring programs
- Constantly evolving communication strategy has centered the expansion of awareness of grant opportunities and eligibility
- [2025 Legislative Report: Act 78 of 2023 Afterschool Grant](#)

Awardee Details

- At present, the Agency oversees 61 awards, broken out as follows:
 - 55% LEAs
 - 41% CBOs
 - 4% municipalities
- In FY 25, our average awardee:
 - delivered over 100 days of programming
 - delivered over 360 hours of programming
 - Served 100 youth in the school year
 - Served 260 youth in the summer

Existing Supports

- The Agency publishes one-page grant summaries, step-by-step walkthroughs, 46-page applications guides with helpful information and recommendations on our public-facing Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs webpage months before the submission deadline.
- The Agency hosts multiple virtual training opportunities to talk through the grant program and application process that are open to all eligible entities.
- Agency staff make themselves available up to 10 hours each week during the application window to provide targeted one-on-one support.

Limitations

- **Communications** – the AOE is committed to ensuring that grant opportunities are communicated timely and that potential applicants can take advantage of technical assistance and training offered by Agency staff
- **Grant Management system** – integrating new applicants into the AOE electronic system so that they are eligible recipients of state funds requires time on the part of the applicant and the AOE offers technical support through this process
- **Personnel** – feedback we have received from libraries we have supported through application development indicate that staff resource for libraries has been a barrier. This is not inconsistent with limitations faced by small districts, and small non-profits and other community partners. The AOE continues to work to streamline the applications and offer technical assistance and support to all applicants

Ongoing Work



Working with AOE's Child Nutrition Team and Hunger Free Vermont to identify library-based Extended Learning Opportunity sites



Working with State Librarian's office to discuss how best to serve and support libraries as an applicant category



AOE is currently working to develop our own targeted literacy programming model, which we are conceptualizing as a partnership model

Questions?

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