

FY 2027 After School Programs – Non-School Districts Frequently Asked Questions

Updated August 4, 2026

Question 1: How can I access the NOFO since it is not posted on the After School Programs webpage?

Answer: The FY27 After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO can be accessed via the After School Programs Non-School Districts NOFO system listing in IWAS. You may also print a copy of the NOFO by clicking on the ‘Application Print’ tab to request a print job. Once ISBE has processed your print request, a link will appear on this page under ‘Completed Print Jobs’ that you may print.

Question 2: I logged into IWAS looking for the After School grant opportunity and it is not listed. I have an RCDT Code and completed the Intent to Apply. How can I access the grant?

Answer: To access the FY 2027 After School Programs – Non-School Districts Grant login to IWAS -> System Listings -> After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO. **If you do not see this option under your Active Grants listing, click on ‘Want to Signup for Other Systems?’ at the bottom of that page. This will allow you to request access. Only entities that have completed the Intent to Apply and have a valid RCDT code will be granted access.

Question 3: Can we propose to serve schools that are currently being served in our FY 2026 grant, in the FY 2027 After School Programs – Non-School Districts application? The schools meet all criteria.

Answer: Entities may propose to serve schools that have previously been served. Current grantees should ensure they are tracking activities and expenditures for the proposed schools to be served in their FY 2027 application separately from their reappropriated FY 2026 grant funds if they are continuing to provide programming from those grant funds through June 30, 2027.

Question 4: Is there a maximum amount of money we can apply for?

Answer: Applicants should apply for funding based on need, as determined by the applicant and the results of the needs assessment. ISBE reserves the right to determine

the number, and the amount of awards based upon the total funds appropriated for this program. Grantees may not be awarded the full amount of requested funding.

Question 5: Several Clubs asked us a Question about the link they shared in the application to use to find schools over that 90% eligibility - I just want to confirm that the “Eligibility Percentage” column is the info we should be looking at. If so, we have many schools that fall over that 90% threshold.

Answer: Yes, the “Eligibility Percent” column is where you should confirm a school’s Free and Reduced-Price Meal Eligibility Data.

Question 6: In the Schools to be Served section of the application, we are asked to input the Region-County-District-Type-Site Code. Where can I find this information?

Answer: In the NOFO application, on the Schools to be Served page, the RCDTS (Region-County-District-Type-Schools) Code should be included for each school that you propose to serve. Please use this [RCDTS-Lookup](#) to find the appropriate code for each school.

Question 7: I need to give IWAS access to staff so they can review NOFOs. How do I do that?

Answer: Please refer to page 12 of the [IWAS User Guide](#) for these steps.

Question 8: Will these funds be available through the next fiscal year (i.e., June 30, 2028) like in previous years?

Answer: The funding for this grant will end on June 30, 2027. Grant applications should be written with the expectation of this end date.

Question 9: In the Overview, Gata Note section of the NOFO in IWAS, it states that applicants should complete "the FY 2027 Programmatic Risk Assessment that is found within the electronic Grants Management System budget". Should this Programmatic Risk Assessment be completed prior to completing the FY27 After School Programs - Non-School Districts grant application? If so, can you provide more details on where to locate this assessment within the IWAS system?

Answer: The Programmatic Risk Assessment (PRA) is only required for successful applicants (i.e., applicants that were awarded funding) after final award notices have been sent. If you are awarded funding, the PRA will show up as a new page within your current application that will need to be completed before ISBE can release any of the awarded funding.

Question 10: We submitted our Intent to Apply for FY27 ISBE Non-School District funding. Will we be eligible to receive this funding if we roll over our FY26 ISBE funding?

Answer: Yes, entities that received funding for the FY26 After School Programs Non-School Districts grant are eligible to receive FY27 funding. Although FY26 and FY27 programming may run simultaneously, they should not overlap. These funds are considered different fiscal years, and all expenses and backup documentation should be kept separate. For example, if awarded FY27 grant funds, current FY26 grantees should ensure they are tracking activities, students served, and expenditures for the proposed schools to be served in their FY 2027 application separately from their extended FY 2026 grant funds.

Question 11: For competitive priority points, if an applicant serves a mix of qualifying and non-qualifying schools, must all proposed schools meet the criterion, or is it sufficient that only one or more schools meet the criterion?

Answer: A proposal must receive a minimum of 60 points to be considered for priority points. At least one school must meet the 90% low-income requirement to receive priority points.

Question 12: Can you explain the grant periods to me for FY26 funding vs. The FY27 intent to apply?

Answer: The FY26 After School Programs Non-School Districts grant funding began July 1, 2025, and has an extended end date of June 30, 2027. The FY27 After School Programs Non-School Districts grant will have a begin date of July 1, 2026, and an end date of June 30, 2027.

Question 13: Three of the schools we anticipate serving do not have Illinois Report Cards available. How do we answer the question as to whether they are Comprehensive, Targeted, or Intensive for these schools?

Answer: Schools such as alternative schools or early childhood education centers do not report school accountability data for the Illinois Report Card as part of Illinois's State Plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Therefore, they do not receive an annual summative designation of intensive, comprehensive, targeted, commendable, or exemplary, and are not eligible for priority points under Section 4b of the priority considerations within the Review Criteria. Entities may still propose to serve schools without an annual summative designation in their proposal as long as those schools meet the minimum 90% low-income requirement.

Question 14: Is there a way to upload letters of support or any documentation proving student needs in the IWAS application?

Answer: The FY27 After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO application does not provide a space for letters of support or documentation to be uploaded. Please refer to the FY 2027 After School Programs – Non-School Districts NOFO which states, ISBE ss required to design and execute a merit-based review and selection process for applications. This process is incorporated by reference in all applicable funding opportunities. Please review the [Merit-Based Review Policy](#) for more information.

Question 15: Can subgrantees serve Teen REACH funded participants with ASP funding as well?

Answer: Yes, but only if there is no duplication of funding. Programs may serve participants who are also enrolled in a Teen REACH- funded program; however, After School Programs Non-School Districts grant funds may only be used to support allowable after school program activities and costs that are not already being paid for with Teen REACH or any other funding source. Grantees must maintain clear documentation demonstrating that costs are allocated appropriately and that there is no supplanting or double charging between funding sources. If both funding sources support the same program, grantees must be able to clearly distinguish which costs are charged to each grant and ensure all expenditures meet the requirements of the respective grant program.

Question 16: What is a typical award amount and the funding ceiling for awards?

Answer: Applicants should apply for funding based on need as determined by the applicant and the results of the needs assessment. ISBE reserves the right to determine the number, and the amount awarded based upon the total funds appropriated for this program. Grantees may not be awarded the full amount of requested funding.

Question 17: We work with older high school students. Many of them are on the brink of graduation, so all of our sites have some programming that addresses the post-secondary transition needs of our students. Can funds from the Illinois After School Program grant be used to pay for certificates such as Serve Safe Food Handler certification?

Answer: Yes, ServSafe Food Handler cards are an allowable expense under the After School Programs grant, provided the certification is necessary to support the approved program activities.

Question 18: I am wondering what the max Indirect Cost Rate we can use in our application is? It looks like 15% but I just want to be sure.

Answer: Programs eligible for an unrestricted indirect cost rate--institutions of higher education, not-for-profit entities, community/faith-based organizations, and other non-LEA subgrantees--shall utilize rates negotiated through the Governor's Office of Management and Budget (GOMB) centralized process where they will have the option to:

- Select the de minimis rate as set forth in 2 CFR 200.414(f),
- Submit documentation supporting a rate determined through negotiation with their federal cognizant agency, or
- Negotiate a rate.

Non-LEA grantees may initiate the unrestricted indirect cost rate negotiation process through the GATA grantee portal at: <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>.

Federal programs requiring the use of a restricted indirect cost rate, institutions of higher education, not-for profit entities, community/faith-based organizations, and other non-LEA subgrantees shall utilize:

- A federally negotiated restricted indirect cost rate or
- If the non-LEA's federal negotiated indirect cost rate agreement does not have a negotiated restricted rate, the maximum rate allowed will be the lesser of 8% of the Modified Total Direct Cost or your calculated indirect cost rate.

Costs associated with Fiscal Support Services (2520), Internal Support Services (2570), Staff Support Services (2640), Data Processing Services (2660), and Direction of Business Support Services (2510) charged to the Educational Fund are properly budgeted as indirect costs.

Question 19: We are currently writing our grant application. Are we allowed to write for K-12 or specific school levels only?

Answer: The program aims to serve school-aged youth in after-school programming and out-of-school time opportunities. Entities may propose to serve students in kindergarten through grade 12.

Question 20: We are planning to include a funding request for technology for student use in our application. We saw in the NOFO that such purchases require prior ISBE approval. Is that approval required prior to submission of our application?

Answer: Applicants are not required to obtain approval for technology services or any other budget line item prior to submitting an application. Approval is only required after an applicant has been awarded funding under this grant opportunity.

Question 21: I am under the impression that the maximum amount to apply for is \$500,000, but another entity mentioned that they were awarded over \$500,000 last year. Is there a limit that we have to apply for?

Answer: There is no maximum award amount for this grant. The proposed budget must be reasonable and proportional to the number of students to be served, the scope of the proposed program, and the size and capacity of the organization. Budgets should clearly demonstrate that requested funds are necessary and appropriate to support the proposed activities.