CALL FOR REVIEWERS
Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports (ELISS)
Competitive Grant Program Application

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is seeking qualified individuals to serve as grant reviewers to read and score the 2017-2018 Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports (ELISS) Competitive Grant applications. A one-day face-to-face training for the selected grant reviewers is scheduled to be held in Greensboro, North Carolina on Monday, October 2, 2017. The review process is being managed for the NCDPI by the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG). Interested individuals should apply by September 13, 2017. The application process is described below. Please email Beth Thrift (bthrift@serve.org) at the SERVE Center if you have questions about the application process.

What is the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports (ELISS) Grant Program?
For the 2017-2018 school year, the General Assembly of North Carolina appropriated six million dollars ($6,000,000) from the At-Risk Student Services Alternative School Allotment for the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports (ELISS) Competitive Grant Program. The purpose of the Program is to fund high-quality, independently validated extended learning and integrated student support service programs for at-risk students that raise standards for student academic outcomes.

Nonprofits and nonprofits working in collaboration with local school administrative units may participate in the ELISS program. Programs must serve one or more of the following student groups:
- At-risk students not performing at grade level as demonstrated by statewide assessments
- Students at risk of dropout
- Students at risk of school displacement due to suspension or expulsion as a result of anti-social behaviors

For the purpose of the ELISS grant, extended learning is defined as services and activities that are offered to at-risk students in times outside of the traditional school day. Extended learning may include ELISS programs offered before school, after school, Saturday, summers, and intercessions.

According to research conducted by Child Trends in 2014, integrated student supports are a school-based approach to supporting students’ academic success by developing or acquiring and coordinating supports that target academic and non-academic barriers to achievement.

Programs should align to the State performance measures, student academic goals, and/or the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and may feature activities that: a) promote STEM learning opportunities for reading development and proficiency instruction; b) minimize student class size when providing instruction, instructional
supports, or interventions; c) deploy multi-tiered supports in school settings to address student barriers to achievement, such as strategies to improve chronic absenteeism, anti-social behaviorism, academic growth, and enhancement of parent and family engagement; d) expand student access to high-quality learning activities and academic support that strengthen student engagement; e) leverage community-based resources which may include mentoring or private sector employer involvement; and/or f) use digital content or resources to expand learning time.

Grant participants are eligible to receive grants for up to two years in an amount of up to five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000) each year. The NCDPI expects to receive up to 150 applications by October 13, 2017 for funding for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information on the ELISS Program administered by the NCDPI, visit http://www.ncpublicschools.org/program-monitoring/eliss/.

What will be required of Grant Reviewers?
1. Reviewers will read and score their assigned grant applications from October 18- November 5, 2017. Depending on the number of applications submitted, reviewers may be asked to score up to 10-15 applications. Based on feedback about similar past review processes, each review will take approximately 2 hours per application, for a total of up to approximately 20-30 hours to be completed over the 2½ -week period.

2. The reviewers will record their scores using a web-based grant management system. Thus, reviewers must have computer and Internet access to conduct their reviews. The web-based grant management system will be explained during the grant reviewer training provided to the selected reviewers.

3. Selected reviewers must review all materials provided before training; attend a one-day, face-to-face training currently scheduled for October 2, 2017, in Greensboro; and participate in a follow-up 90-minute webinar, if needed. Once the applications are assigned to reviewers, there may be a short conference call to answer any final questions before scoring begins.

4. Reviewers will use a rubric provided by the NCDPI to guide their scoring. In addition, reviewers will be expected to provide summary comments for each application briefly describing strengths and weaknesses.

5. Reviewers will be required to sign a Confidentiality Agreement and a Conflict of Interest Statement prior to beginning the review process.

6. Reviewers cannot be associated with a nonprofit organization, or partnering LEA or school that is submitting an ELISS grant application in October 2017.
Reviewer Qualifications
We are seeking reviewers who have one or more of the following qualifications:

• experience with Integrated Student Support services, case management of at-risk student services, out-of-school or extended-day programs or knowledge of research or practice on these topics (for example, written publications, etc.);
• experience with or knowledge of research and practice in designing, implementing, or evaluating interventions for at-risk students from low-performing schools;
• experience with conducting evaluations of education programs or community programs for at-risk youth not performing at grade level;
• experience with conducting evaluations of education programs or community programs for students who are at risk of dropping out of school;
• experience with conducting evaluations of education programs or community programs for students who are at risk of school displacement due to suspension or expulsion as a result of anti-social behaviors;
• experience with working with communities to forge meaningful partnerships that foster commitment to improving the lives of youth and their families;
• relevant experience as an educator or social worker, guidance counselor, etc. in schools serving at-risk students or high poverty communities;
• experience as a grant reviewer (preferably in education); and/or
• experience as a project director/manager/coordinator of a grant-funded project.

Preference will be given to applicants who have more than one of the above qualifications.

Reviewer Compensation
The reviewers selected will receive $250 (which is inclusive of any travel costs) to attend a one-day face-to-face training in Greensboro on October 2, 2017; and if necessary, a follow-up 90-minute webinar. Reviewers will be compensated for grant reviews at the rate of $75 per application reviewed with the expectation of reviewing up to 10-15 applications. The SERVE Center at UNCG will pay reviewers upon their completion of all grant reviewer responsibilities as outlined.
How to Apply:

Instructions for Submitting an Extended Learning and Integrated Student Support (ELISS) Grant Reviewer Application and Résumé

If you are interested in applying to become an ELISS Grant Reviewer, please complete the following steps by September 13, 2017.

1. Access and complete the online application at:  
   https://uncg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8Cv2uVIxsz1BPEh.  
   a. Ensure you complete all questions in the application.  
   b. You will be asked to provide professional references as part of the application.

2. Upload a current three-page (or less) résumé which includes your education and work history, and relevant publications/skills/experiences.  
   a. You can upload your résumé as either a Microsoft Word document or an Adobe PDF file (see Section J – Submitting your resume – in the application for instructions and the upload button).  
   b. Use the naming convention Resume_LastName_FirstName for your résumé. For example: Joan Jones’ résumé file would be named: Resume_Jones_Joan.

3. Your submission must be received via email by 11:00 pm on September 13, 2017.

You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your materials. If you do not receive an email notification of receipt of your materials, please email Beth Thrift (bthrift@serve.org) and request a confirmation of receipt.

We will notify reviewers of their selection by September 22, 2017, and provide details about the face-to-face training.

Thank you for your interest in serving as an ELISS grant application reviewer.