



Request for Proposals

For Afterschool Program Sites either currently providing or with an interest in providing STEM activities for youth

The Maryland Out of School Time Network would like to invite Out-of-School Time (OST) Program Sites in Maryland to apply for inclusion in a statewide out-of-school time STEM learning community of 40 sites—20 currently providing STEM and 20 not currently providing STEM—to be launched in the 2013 – 2014 school year. Participating sites will be offered data gathering, professional development, technical assistance, and, for the sites not currently providing STEM programming, assistance on curriculum selection and implementation.

Background

The Maryland Out of School Time (MOST) Network is one of 40 statewide afterschool networks supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, with matching investment from local partners. MOST is a broad-based coalition working to expand the quantity and quality of afterschool and summer opportunities available to Maryland's youth.

As part of a grant from the Noyce and C.S. Mott Foundations, MOST has recently embarked on an initiative, titled MOST sySTEM, to address the growing demand for quality STEM programming in the out-of-school hours. MOST's goal is to provide STEM OST program providers and partners a set of tools and resources to support the growth of STEM OST programs across the state. The long term vision of MOST sySTEM is that all school-age, Maryland youth have access to high quality STEM learning opportunities in the out-of-school hours that develop critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration skills that will lead to success in career, work and life in the 21st century.



Purpose & Priorities

This Request for Proposal is being issued by MOST for the purpose of developing a statewide out-of-school-time learning community with the following goals:

- Increase afterschool program staff confidence in implementing STEM;
- Support increased quality of existing afterschool STEM learning;
- Expand the number of afterschool programs offering high quality STEM; and
- Measure the impact of participation in afterschool STEM on youth engagement with STEM learning

MOST sySTEM is committed to providing access to STEM learning for youth from populations currently underrepresented in STEM careers and higher education programs. Programs that share MOST's emphasis on equity of opportunity will receive a higher selection priority. Additional priority goes to programs serving High School age youth. Site selection will include an effort to create balanced representation of Maryland's diverse urban, suburban, and rural regions.

I. FOR SITES CURRENTLY PROVIDING OST STEM PROGRAMMING

Eligibility

Out-of-school time program sites in Maryland serving 20 or more children at least 3 days per week, running throughout the school year are eligible to apply. Determination will be made on an individual site by site basis, but programs with multiple sites can apply for up to five sites.

To be considered as a site currently providing OST STEM programming, the STEM programming offered must be:

- Research-based
- Specifically-designed for informal/OST settings
- Must be offered at least 1.5 hours per week
- Must have been offered for at least one school year

MOST defines OST STEM as programming that integrates the content and skills of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, bridging youth development and education by



offering young people access to intentional, hands-on, relevant and engaging STEM learning opportunities in these uniquely positioned settings. High quality OST STEM will provide young people with avenues to demonstrate mastery of STEM skills (i.e., critical thinking and problem solving), expand awareness of pathways to STEM higher education and careers, and inspire further exploration of the nature of the universe.

If your site does not offer STEM programming that meets these criteria, please see section II of the application for sites not currently providing STEM programming below.

Selection Benefits

Sites selected for participation will be provided with:

- Program quality observations by MOST staff on a research-tested and validated assessment tool (at least 1 per site)
- Research-tested and validated surveys for youth and program staff (both pre and post)
- Program coaching, professional development, and technical assistance (up to 5 hours)

Expectations

Sites participating in this process must agree to:

- Enter a data-sharing Memorandum of Understanding with MOST
- Include this project on parental consent forms for students
- Collect students' unique IDs for surveying
- Allow MOST access to collect survey and observation data
- Participate in training and professional development offered by MOST
- Provide additional program evaluation and outcome data if available



II. FOR SITES NOT CURRENTLY PROVIDING STEM PROGRAMMING (AS DEFINED ABOVE)

Eligibility

Out-of-school time program sites in Maryland serving 20 or more children at least 3 days per week, running throughout the school year are eligible to apply. Determination will be made on an individual site by site basis, but programs with multiple sites can apply for up to five sites.

For criteria on what is considered a site currently providing STEM programming, see the eligibility portion of section I above.

Selection Benefits

Sites selected for participation will be provided with:

- Program quality observations by MOST staff on a research-tested and validated assessment tool (at least 1)
- Research-tested and validated surveys for youth and program staff (both pre and post)
- Program coaching, professional development, and technical assistance (up to 10 hours)
- Curriculum selection from among MOST's recommended curricula (including but not limited to the NPASS2, NASA's BEST, 4H, and other research based and field tested curricula to be identified).

- Guidance on curriculum implementation
- Subsidy for materials to support curriculum implementation (based on available funding)



Expectations

Sites participating in this process must agree to:

- Enter a data-sharing Memorandum of Understanding with MOST
- Include this project on parental consent forms for students
- Collect students' unique IDs for surveying
- Allow MOST access to collect survey and observation data
- Participate in training and professional development offered by MOST
- Provide additional program evaluation and outcome data if available
- Implement one of the STEM Curriculum options recommended by MOST with students for at least 1.5 hours per week
- Purchase materials required to implement the chosen curriculum up to \$300 if no materials stipend becomes available

To apply, please answer the following questions in 2 to 5 pages and submit to aaxel@mdoutofschooltime.org by Friday, May 10th, 2013. For each site to be considered (up to 5 per organization), please fill out a separate form.

Application Form for Out-of-school time STEM Sites

1. Are you applying as a site currently offering STEM programming (as defined above) or one that is not currently offering STEM programming, but would like to?
Circle one: CURRENTLY OFFERING STEM NOT CURRENTLY OFFERING STEM
2. Site name and address
3. Organization (if applicable)
4. Main contact name, phone number, and email address
5. Hours of operation
6. Number of kids served overall and number of kids served (or to be served) in STEM
7. Ages of kids served
8. Average daily attendance
9. Does your program target any specific populations?
10. Data currently collected at site (check all that apply)
 Program Quality Observation Instrument Youth Surveys Parent Surveys Staff Surveys
 Program attendance School day attendance School test scores Other (describe)
11. General program design/schedule (be sure to indicate where STEM does/would fit in).
12. Would/do students select STEM among multiple program offerings, and how (e.g. daily, weekly, monthly)?
13. If your site currently offers STEM programming, please describe it below. If your site does not currently offer STEM programming (as defined above), please indicate that, and describe your goals for STEM programming.
14. If your site has any STEM partners (e.g. curriculum providers) please list them.