



Be open to new partnerships and new program experiences for youth.



Communicate more regularly with the Environmental Education Organization (EEO).



Talk with other 21st CCLC staff about the program.



Be flexible in working with the EEO.



Identify 21st CCLC site staff to coordinate with EEO staff.

21st CCLC staff reported the following would be helpful in implementing these programs:



Training and implementation guides



Grant opportunities and continued funding



Require that EEOs share grant information with the 21st CCLC site



Get to know partners early on. Set goals and develop the program together. Maintain regular communication.



Be flexible. Have alternative ways to teach the same content and serve different sites.



Keep expectations in check. Understand general limitations of afterschool programming, including attendance and staffing needs. Plan with your specific partners in mind.



Connect with other grantees and organizations.
Learn from them and ask for support.



Think outside the box. Consider methods beyond traditional professional development for 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) staff.



Try new things. Find out what works best for your students and partners.



Know your audience. Tailor the experience for your students and let them help guide the work.



What Worked, According to Environmental Education Organizations (EEOs)



The level of support received from NOAA/NAAEE. Good communication and flexibility with COVID-19 challenges.



Increased capacity for environmental science programming. Allowing for time and resources to implement Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEES).



Providing time and resources to build 21st CCLC relationships, including gaining support from other partners and students in the program.



Positive impact on students through engagement and learning.



Created opportunities to connect with other EEOs and learn from them.



Environmental Education Organizations (EEOs) Feedback on Working with 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) Sites

WHAT'S WORKING:

Developed students' environmental literacy skills.	Fostered relationships with 21st CCLC partners that are likely to continue.	Offered resources and professional development for 21st CCLC site staff.
Created opportunities to get youth outdoors and to connect with the local environment.		Increased EEOs capacity to implement environmental education programming afterschool.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT:

21st CCLC sites demonstrate more prioritization.	Early connections to specific 21st CCLC partners , to better navigate challenges of afterschool implementation.	More consistent student attendance and participation.
Better communication with 21st CCLC partners.	More consistent 21st CCLC staffing.	More outdoor experiences and larger field trips.

Environmental Education Organization (EEO) staff described that the pandemic exacerbated challenges in partnering with 21st CCLC program sites:



Virtual learning created challenges to implementation.



Difficulties arranging field experiences due to challenges like transportation.



Low and inconsistent student attendance, retention, and engagement.



High 21st CCLC staff turnover and burnout creating obstacles in professional development.



Increased communication challenges with 21st CCLC partners.



Difficulty using grant funds due to lack of on-site opportunities.



Challenges with afterschool structure in regards to timing and limited student capacity for additional programming.