

LEAPS Grant Information for Randall & Smith Families

YWCA Cortland's School-Age Program is the proud recipient of the LEAPS Grant (NYS Learning and Enrichment After School Program Supports) for the 2024-2025 school year.

What does this mean for the families at Randall and Smith? A FREE after-school program for the 2024-2025 school year which includes **enriching programming for children AND parents**. Please note that this grant will ONLY cover after-school care; payment is still required for before-school care at these sites.

Disclaimer: This free after-school program is entirely contingent on state funding. We will update you on the program as we develop and move forward with the contract development.

Benefits for Children:

Children enrolled in this program will have access to after-school tutoring for Math and ELA as well as weekly social-emotional programming using several curriculums implemented by YWCA Cortland Mentoring Director Mindy Gardner (G.I.R.L.S., Building Champions, and Kingian Nonviolence, etc).

These additional offerings aim to enhance participants' social-emotional competencies, promote empathy and conflict-resolution skills, and foster a sense of community. Group activities, facilitated by program staff, aim to encourage teamwork, cooperation, and peer interaction through various games, exercises, and projects. Different activities are planned each week to maintain engagement.

Benefits and Requirements for Parents:

To receive this free care and as a benefit of the program, families are required to attend AT LEAST one session of an Empowered Parenting program from Empowered Educator Jenn Rafferty. The program is called Inspiration to Integration and will teach better, more effective communication strategies with children, how to deal with emotional stress, and how to increase a child's self-esteem by supporting their social-emotional development. Jenn has found that parents who show up for themselves can more easily show up for their children!

Families can choose from three different options to complete this requirement: four live interactive workshops, ten virtual coaching sessions, or seven audio training courses. More information to follow.

Benefits for our YWCA:

Thanks to this grant, YWCA staff will receive training from Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health trainer Tammy Goddard and OPEN Physical Education Curriculum National Trainer Nick Kline. They will also receive guidance from Cortland School District on teaching and reinforcing "ROAR" (Respectful, Open-Hearted, Act Safely, Responsible) values and expectations.