

Preschool Development Grants

Development Grants
Expansion Grants

Executive Summaries Overview

May 12, 2014



U.S. Department of Education
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services

Agenda

- Context for Preschool Development Grants
- Big Picture Overview
- Development Grants
- Expansion Grants
- Competition Priorities
- Selection Criteria
- Timeline



The Appropriation

- FY14 Appropriations: \$250 million to support States to build, develop and expand voluntary, high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families.
- Report language: two types of grants
 - Low-capacity States with small or no State-funded preschool programs (**Development Grants**)
 - High-capacity States that have a larger State-funded preschool program (**Expansion Grants**)



A Collaborative Process

- ED/HHS posted the appropriations language and asked for public comment to gather feedback.
- Through 2 Web Site postings, we received over 500 comments.
- We also held a public testimony session.
- Executive Summaries were published on May 5, 2014 for public input with comments due 5:00p.m, May 16th.



The Big Picture

- Competition will support State efforts to:
 - Develop or enhance capacity to deliver High-Quality Preschool Programs, and
 - Implement and sustain High-Quality Preschool Programs for eligible children in High-Need Communities.
- Two types of grants: **Development** or **Expansion**
- All States, DC and PR eligible to apply for either one or the other, based on:
 - Percentage of children served in state-funded preschool, and
 - Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge status



The Big Picture (cont.)

- Governor applies and designates a Lead Agency
- Grant period: Up to four-years
- Annual **continuation** awards, subject to Congressional appropriations



The Big Picture (cont.)

- Funding bands based on population of four-year olds from families at 200% FPL and below
- State must identify high-need communities in which to concentrate their efforts and establish preliminary MOUs **with subgrantees serving those high-need communities**



Executive Summaries

- Purpose
- Eligibility Requirements
- Award Information
- Priorities
- Selection Criteria
 - A. Executive Summary
 - B. Commitment to High-Quality Preschool Programs
 - C. **Ensuring Quality in Preschool Programs (Development) OR Commitment to State-Funded Preschool Programs (Expansion)**
 - D. Collaborating with Subgrantees
 - E. Strong Partnerships between Subgrantees and LEAs or other Early Learning Providers
 - F. Alignment within a Birth through Third Grade Continuum
 - G. Budget and Sustainability
- Definitions



Development Grants

- **\$80M**
- **Award range:** \$5M-\$20M/year (\$20M-\$80M/4 years)
- **Eligibility:**
 - Currently serves less than 10% of four-year olds; and
 - Not have received an RTT-ELC grant
- **Number of States eligible:** 16
 - Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Puerto Rico, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming



Expansion Grants

- **\$160M**
- **Award range:** \$10M-\$35M/year (\$40M-\$140M/ 4 years)
- **Eligibility:**
 - Currently serves 10% or more of four-year olds in state-funded preschool; or
 - Have received an RTT-ELC grant
- **Number of States eligible:** 36
 - Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin



Absolute Priority – Development

- **Priority 1:** Absolute Priority – Building a High-Quality Preschool Program
 - Applicant must demonstrate how it will increase access to High-Quality Preschool Programs for Eligible Children by proposing a plan to:
 - (1) Develop or enhance state infrastructure and capacity to deliver high-quality preschool, and
 - (2) No later than year four of the grant period —
 - Subgrant at least 90% of funds to implement preschool services in one or more high-need community
 - Use no more than 10% for infrastructure and quality improvements



Absolute Priority - Expansion

- **Priority 1:** Increasing Access to High-Quality Preschool Programs in High-Need Communities
- Applicant must have a plan to:
 - (1) Subgrant at least 90% of its Federal grant award to implement and sustain High-Quality Preschool Programs to reach and serve additional Eligible Children in two or more High-Need Communities; and
 - (2) Use no more than 10% of its Federal grant award for preschool program infrastructure and quality improvements
- Priorities 2 and 3 will distinguish between RTT-ELC grantees and those states without RTT-ELC awards



Competitive Preference Priorities

- **Contributing matching funds**
 - State (including FY14 funds), local and philanthropic funds
 - Points on sliding scale based on 50% match
- **Supporting birth through third grade continuum**
 - Supports and interventions for a cohort of **Eligible** children
 - Foster partnerships and leverage resources from existing early childhood programs
 - Ensure smooth transitions for children and families
- **Addressing the needs of children in Promise Zones**



Selection Criteria

A. Executive Summary

B. Commitment to High-Quality Preschool Programs

- 1) State Early Learning and Development Standards
- 2) Financial investment in preschool programs and number of children served
- 3) Pending or enacted legislation in the State
- 4) Quality of early learning programs
- 5) Coordination of preschool programs and services

C. Ensuring Quality in Preschool Programs (Development)

OR Commitment to State-Funded Preschool Programs (Expansion)

- State-level infrastructure and quality improvements
- Monitoring preschool services



Selection Criteria (cont.)

D. Collaborating with Subgrantees

- Identify High-Need Communities to be served
- Establish preliminary agreement with Subgrantee/s

E. Strong Partnerships between Subgrantees and LEAs or other Early Learning Providers

F. Alignment within a Birth through Third Grade Continuum

G. Budget and Sustainability

- Coordinate existing early learning and development funds
- Projected costs and number of children to be served
- Program sustainability after grant period



Program Requirements

- A State that receives a grant must—
 - Participate in other early childhood programs
 - Participate in ED/HHS **TA and** evaluation
 - Provide researchers with access to data
 - Have a longitudinal data system linking early childhood and K-12 data
 - Serve the same proportion of children with disabilities in programs as in State
 - Supplement not supplant Federal, state or local funds otherwise available for improving quality or expanding access to high-quality preschool



Key Definitions

High-Quality Preschool Program means an early learning program that includes structural elements that are evidenced-based and nationally-recognized (e.g., Head Start Program Performance Standards or National Institute for Early Education Research) as important for ensuring program quality, including at a minimum:

- (a) High staff qualifications, including a teacher with a bachelor degree in early childhood education or a bachelor degree in any field with a State-approved alternate pathway which may include coursework, clinical practice and evidence of knowledge of content and pedagogy relating to early childhood, and teaching assistants with appropriate credentials;
- (b) High-quality professional development for all staff;
- (c) A staff-child ratio of no more than 1:10;



High-Quality Preschool Program Definition (Cont.)

- (d) A class size of no more than 20;
- (e) A full-day program;
- (f) Full inclusion of children with disabilities
- (g) Developmentally appropriate, evidence-based curricula and learning environments that are aligned with the State Early Learning and Development Standards, for at least the year prior to kindergarten entry;
- (h) Individualized accommodations and supports so that all children can access and participate fully in learning activities;
- (i) Instructional staff salaries comparable to Kindergarten through grade twelve teaching staff;
- (j) Program evaluation to ensure continuous improvement;
- (k) Onsite or accessible comprehensive services for children; and
- (l) Evidence-based health and safety standards.



Key Definitions (cont)

- **Subgrantee** means an Early Learning Provider serving a High-Need Community or Communities that is receiving a subgrant from the State and is participating in the State's ambitious and achievable plan.
- **Early Learning Provider** means an entity that carries out an early childhood education program, including a local education agency, charter school, educational service agency, Head Start, licensed child care provider, municipality or other local government agency, tribes and Indian organizations, institution of higher education, and other eligible providers as defined by the State, or a consortium thereof.



Key Definitions (cont.)

- **Eligible Children** means four-year old children from a family whose income is 200 percent or below of the federal poverty line.
- **High-Need Community** means a geographically defined area, such as a city, town, county, neighborhood, district, rural area, tribal lands, or consortium thereof, with a high-level of need or distress as determined by the State.



Timeline

- **May 16th:** Public comment on Executive Summary ends
- **Early Summer:** Post **Notice Inviting Applications** in the Federal Register
- **Late Summer:** Intent to Apply due
- **Early Fall:** Applications due
- **Fall:** Peer review
- **Late Fall:** Announce awards



Contact Information

- **Preschool Development Grants**

- Program:

<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/preschooldevelopmentgrants/index.html>

- Public Comment:

- **Development Grants:** <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2014/05/development-grants-executive-summary/>
- **Expansion Grants:** <http://www.ed.gov/blog/2014/05/expansion-grants-executive-summary/>

- E-mail: PreschoolDevelopmentGrants@ed.gov

- **HHS:** www.acf.hhs.gov

- **ED:** www.ed.gov/early-learning

