

Key Question: How would the TAC like any unspent funds to be distributed?

Background information: How the TAC would like unspent funds to be distributed is valid regardless of the funding levels received in future biennia. DELC has recommended that \$5.1M will be available to Tribes in the 2025-2027 biennium, with a total minimum funding level of \$665k.

- These funds may consist of:
 - 1) \$4.725M in new Tribal Early Learning Fund dollars (5% of the \$4.725M would stay with DELC per the Legislative Concept; leaving \$4.5M in new funding for tribes) which would be a permanent funding stream.
 - 2) Continuation of \$665,000 (previously Tribal Early Learning Hub funding, will become Tribal Early Learning Plan Funds in 25-27) which is the minimum amount of dedicated funding Tribe would receive next biennium
- Should the full \$5.1M be approved by the Legislature, each Tribe would receive ~\$573,900; funds cannot be left unspent at the end of the biennium.

Options: During the October 31 TAC meeting, two primary options were discussed for how to distribute Tribal Early Learning Fund moneys, although any other funding method not yet proposed may be considered:

- 1) Equal Distribution to all Tribes with Reallocation of Unspent Funds
- 2) Needs-Based Application (Tribes specify amount they need each biennium)
- 3) Other method(s) proposed by TAC

Decision Needed: How would TAC prefer to award funds and redistribute unspent or unwanted funds? In an effort to ensure robust discussion in the November/December TAC meetings, we've prepared the proposals for considerations below.

1. Needs-Based (Tribes specify amount they need each biennium)

Recognizing that some Tribes have expressed concern with being able to expend a large amount of funding in the 25-27 biennium, each Tribe could submit a proposed spending plan to DELC as an application for funding.

Application Options	
Process Options	Considerations for Further Discussion
Option 1: Each Tribe submits their full list of funding needs (no maximum) to DELC and OTELA for review. Funding is automatically granted up to the equal distribution amount (\$569,000 under current recommendations).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full list of funding needs provides valuable information to share with the Legislature to demonstrate clear need for investment.• Tribes may need to indicate which projects they plan to fund, and which would require additional investment.

<p>Option 2: Each Tribe submits a list of funding needs up to a certain amount (\$569,000 under current recommendations) to DELC and OTELA for review.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines and application criteria would need to be developed to submit and review applications and determine additional funding amounts.
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2. Equal Distribution with Reallocation of Unspent Funds Proposed Process

Under this proposal, each Tribe would receive a grant agreement in the amount of \$569,000 (or whatever total amount is determined by the Legislature) from DELC. Each Tribe would submit a proposed spending plan to DELC that can exceed the available \$569,000 and report to DELC on the liquidation of funds throughout the biennium. If a Tribe is unable to spend the full awarded amount within the biennium, the unspent funds would be redistributed through one of the options below. Tribes could notify DELC at the start of the biennium if they do not plan to spend their full award amount.

Redistribution Options	
Process Options	Considerations for Further Discussion
<p>Option 1: Any remaining funds in the second half of the biennium are redistributed equally amongst the Tribes on track to fully expend their funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all Tribes may want to take on extra funds. • Some Tribes may only want to take on a limited amount of additional funding.
<p>Option 2: Any Tribe who wants additional funding submits an application to OTELA to determine how unspent funding is distributed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could create another barrier for Tribes to access funding. • Timelines and application criteria would need to be developed to submit and review applications and determine additional funding amounts.
<p>Option 3: Hold back unspent funds for DELC administration (technical assistance, requested support) or to grant to organizations that support Tribal communities (i.e. NAYA).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely to be used for true one-time investments without concern for ongoing costs.

Both an application or automatic equal redistribution would require amending grant awards, which requires amending existing awards. DELC can mitigate some of these challenges through the grant award process.

Current Requirements

TAC requested that DELC share what Tribes are currently asked to submit as part of their Oregon Tribal Early Learning Alliance grant funding (\$69k/Tribe).

- i. For the OTELA (Tribal Early Learning Hub) grants, reporting is as follows:
 - 3 Biannual Progress Reports (7/30/24, 1/30/25, 7/30/25)
 - Quarterly Expenditure Report and Claims (only due if expenditures are made that quarter)
- a. For the Birth Through Five Early Literacy grants (one-time for FY 24-25, distribution in future biennia may be different), the following was requested in the funding request form:
 - i. Select the grant deliverables for which funding is requested.
 - ii. Provide total amount of funding requested for each activity.
 - iii. Include a budget narrative for activities selected, including estimated budget for each activity selected.