



**DELC RFA# 58800-00010740**

**Early Childhood Equity Fund**

**Birth Through Five Literacy Grants**

**Questions & Responses**

**Q1:** I'm in the process of obtaining the license, I hope to receive a response very soon to schedule the safety inspection. Would I be eligible for this program even if I do not have the license yet but planning to open soon?

**Response:** To be eligible for this Grant opportunity, the applying entity needs to meet all the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 1.3 of the RFA. There is not a requirement for an entity to be licensed in order to apply.

**Q2a:** Can a licensed childcare facility apply or does the applicant have to be an agency?

**Response:** As long as the childcare facility meets all of the requirements listed in section 1.3 of the RFA, they are eligible.

**Q2b:** Second question if the applicant has to be an agency can my provider network apply?

**Response:** If the individual providers meet the eligibility criteria listed in section 1.3 of the RFA, they are eligible to apply.

**Q3:** On page 1 of the RFA the deadline is published as 8/2/24 at 5 pm. In the Oregon Buys system, it's listed as 7/30/24 at 5 pm. Can you clarify what the correct deadline is?

**Response:** The correct deadline is August 2, 2024, 5:00 PM PT. Please see Addendum #1.

**Q4:** I am also a Preschool Promise Program (PSP) provider for two locations. Can I apply and can I apply for both locations?

**Response:** Yes, you can apply for both locations if you meet the eligibility criteria listed in section 1.3 of the RFA. One application can be submitted for both sites.

**Q5:** The school district is not a ECEF grantee, but is an organization that closes opportunity gaps for children and families who experience systemic disparities that may be attributed to race, income, ZIP code, or language by providing early learning services rooted in culture, home language, and lived experience. Please will you confirm whether we are eligible to submit a Grant Application?

**Response:** If the district operates programs that meet the eligibility criteria listed in section 1.3 of the RFA, then the district may apply. Confirmation of eligibility is based on information provided in application.

**Q6:** I would like to apply for multiple grants through ODE (student success grants) and I wanted to make sure that I would still be able to apply for them if I also apply for the DELC Birth-5 Literacy Grant?

**Response:** Applying for ODE Grants does not impact your ability to apply for this RFA. For ODE eligibility, please check in with them.

**Q7:** Can we use these funds to educate the current families/children who are already enrolled in our classroom?

**Response:** If you are not a current Early Childhood Equity Fund (ECEP) grantee, you may only apply to use the funds for the activities listed in Section 2.4 under "New applicants".

**Q8:** With the two locations that I currently have, can I add both locations together and apply or do I have to apply separate for both locations?

**Response:** Both locations can be included in a single application.

**Q9:** In Section 1.4, Schedule, the issuance of notice of intent to award is not included. Will funds cover expenses as of July 1, 2024?

**Response:** Funds will cover expenses incurred from the date of execution of the grant agreement through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Grant agreements will not be ratified back to July 1, 2024.

**Q10:** Referencing page 6 of RFA, Section 2.4., 'Funds may be used for staffing only if approved by Agency and if application articulates the need for a limited duration position and/or ability to sustain with other funding sources.'

**Q10a:** What's the process for having the Agency approve that we can apply for funds for staffing? Do we do that before we apply or is that part of contract negotiations if awarded?

**Response:** You may include the need for staffing (limited duration/ability to sustain with other funding sources when grant cycle ends). You do not need agency approval to include it in your application.

**Q10b:** Question: If we are proposing to expand through new staff, does the sustainability need to be secured or can it be planned?

**Response:** The resources to sustain new staff can be either secured or planned. If planned, then the application narrative should include information on what will occur if planned resources are not received. Please refer to Section 2.4 "Allowable Activities" of the RFA.

**Q11:** Referencing page 6 of RFA, under the third bullet point for the allowable activities. Will proposals be considered in their entirety only (funded or not funded), or could a proposal be accepted at reduced funding for some of the activities proposed, and not others? In other words, might the Agency agree to fund some proposed allowable activities and not others?

**Response:** The agency may make a full or partial award for allowable activities proposed in the application. Please refer to Section 5 for information on awards and negotiations.

**Q12:** Is expanding existing and/or creating new childcare slots an eligible activity for existing ECEF-funded programs? If so, what expenses would be eligible under the grant? I understand capital expenses are ineligible.

**Response:** Creating new childcare slots is not an allowable activity for this grant opportunity, therefore no expenses for childcare slots are allowable with this opportunity.

**Q13:** Is it possible to request costs for staffing if the positions will be funded by Preschool for All funds after the 1-year grant period?

**Response:** Yes, it is possible to request costs for staffing that can be sustained by other funding sources. The application narrative should include information on how staff positions will be sustained beyond June 30, 2025

**Q14:** For applicants that are not currently receiving ECEF two activities were outlined for how funding can be used, our question here is do both activities need to be completed or do we choose one?

**Response:** An applicant can choose one or both of the activities listed in Section 2.4 for applicants that are currently not ECEF grantees.

**Q15:** Is there any time-specific expectations for the activities? For example, how many trainings or events would we need to provide, and in what time frame?

**Response:** Activities must be completed by June 30, 2025. There is not a 'set number' of trainings or events that an applicant must include in the application.

**Q16:** How is "culturally relevant" being defined in relation to early literacy training and professional development?

**Response:** Culturally relevant means incorporating awareness, understanding, and responsiveness to the beliefs, values, customs, and institutions (family, religious, etc.) of an individual.

**Q17:** What expenses are allowed and which ones are not allowed. The RFA says building purchase expenses and such are not allowed. Can you please share a sample budget?

**Response:** Please refer to Attachment D for a sample budget. Expenses must be necessary, appropriate, and reasonable for the implementation of the applicant identified literacy activities.

**Q18:** Can we use the funds to educate families on how to help them and have family meetings and teach families how to help their children?

**Response:** Please refer to Section 2.4 for more information. Existing ECEF grantees may apply to deliver literacy resources and materials for parenting education. Both existing and new grantees may develop and/or deliver culturally relevant early literacy training and professional development activities for both early childhood and early grade educators (kindergarten through third grade), providers, and/or other staff that would benefit from literacy training opportunities.

**Q19:** Is there a financial guideline which income is eligible for us to help?

**Response:** There are no income eligibility guidelines for early educators or families to participate in activities provided by this grant.

**Q20:** When preparing the budget, what is the award amount that we have to use (ex; \$200,000 total for the year 24/25)? Is there a specific amount that we have to show per child or per year?

**Response:** Applicants can request up to \$200,000. The amount requested should align with the scope of the activity(ies) the applicant plans to do. There is not a predetermined per child amount. Please refer to Section 2.4 for allowable activities.

**Q21:** In the Program Budget there is a section for personnel expenses in the budget template, though it's our understanding there are limitations on staffing expenses. Should we wish to add staff and/or a contractor to support implementation of program activities, do these expenses need to be approved prior to application submission?

**Response:** Please include in the application as much information as possible to describe how you plan to successfully implement the activities you identified. If staff and/or a contractor are part of the plan include this information even if it is an estimate of expected expenses. These expenses do not need to be approved by DELC prior to submission of the application.

**Q22:** Is there a word limit for responses to Questions 3.1 and 3.2?

**Response:** There is no word limit for responses to Questions 3.1 and 3.2.