



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 23, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Training and Technical Assistance for William F. Goodling Even Start Literacy Programs

William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs (Even Start), authorized through Title I, part B, subpart 3 of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, is designed to improve the educational opportunities of low-income families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education, parenting education and parent/child interaction into a unified family literacy program.

Federal statute requires that State Education Agencies which receive Even Start funds provide "through one or more subgrants or contracts, technical assistance for program improvement and replication" to local projects. The purpose of this grant is to create a comprehensive, integrated, responsive system of technical support for Michigan Even Start Family Literacy projects. This coordinated system will: provide Even Start projects with accurate and timely information, resources and support services focused on improving the quality of family literacy services provided by a local project; support individual projects in addressing their goals for continuous program improvement through attendance at conferences; and deliver systematic training based upon the program elements specified in federal statute.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for Training and Technical Assistance for William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs as described in the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 23, 2009.

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MICHIGAN
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Criteria for Training and Technical Assistance for
William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal, and the Board's Vision and Principles of Universal Education.

PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

The criteria for Training and Technical Assistance for William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Programs competitive grants contribute to a pre-k-12 educational system that offers challenging yet supportive avenues for academic success. In addition, these criteria support the Board's expectation of achievement for all children by providing support to programs that intervene in order to achieve improved outcomes for children and families. All activities of Even Start address the tenets of universal education and promote early childhood literacy and school/community relationships.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

Competitive Formula New Continuation

The purpose of Even Start is to improve the educational opportunities of low-income families by integrating early childhood education, adult literacy or adult basic education, parenting education and parent/child interaction into a unified family literacy program. Additionally, the expectation is that the program "promote the academic achievement of children and adults" and "assist children and adults from low-income families to achieve to challenging State content standards and challenging State student achievement standards." The ultimate anticipated outcome is that the children whose families have been enrolled in Even Start will have at least an even start in their school careers, with the hope that they might experience substantial school success. Federal statute requires that State Education Agencies which receive Even Start funds provide "through one or more subgrants or contracts, technical assistance for program improvement and replication" to local projects. The purpose of this grant is to create a comprehensive, integrated, responsive system of technical support for Michigan Even Start Family Literacy projects. This coordinated system will: provide Even Start projects with accurate and timely information, resources and support services focused on improving the quality of family literacy services provided by a local project; support individual projects in addressing their goals for continuous program improvement through attendance at conferences; and deliver systematic training based upon the program elements specified in federal statute.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved 6/13/2006

Defined in Legislation Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder Proposed by Staff

Legislation requires that State Education Agencies which receive Even Start funds provide technical assistance and training through one or more subgrants, contracts, or cooperative agreements with an entity that has experience in offering high-quality training and technical assistance to family literacy providers. Technical assistance should be designed to:

- improve the quality of Even Start family literacy services;
- support the continuous improvement of local programs;
- support the replication of successful programs;
- assist local programs in leveraging additional local funds to expand family literacy services to families;
- develop, implement, and use the State's indicators of program quality;
- provide training in using data to improve participant achievement results; and
- assist programs in implementing high-quality, research-based instructional practices.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Intermediate school districts, local education agencies including public school academies, institutions of higher education, professional organizations, non-profit organizations, and others of demonstrated experience in providing high-quality training and technical assistance specific to Even Start family literacy programs will be eligible to apply for the grant.

Training activities and technical assistance are targeted to the Michigan Even Start programs and their collaborators.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

The total amount available is approximately \$210,000 over three years, pending federal appropriation. The first year award would equal \$70,000, while subsequent years would be dependent on the amount of the congressional appropriation.

LEGISLATION

Even Start is authorized by Title I, part B, subpart 3 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, reauthorized under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, P.L. 107-110. Specific criteria related to the provision of training and technical assistance are referenced in sections 1233(a)(2) and 1234 (c)(4).

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

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