
Contracting with Community-Based Organizations for at Least 30% of the Total Slot Allocation

Authorizing Language

Section 32d(13) An intermediate district or consortium of intermediate districts receiving a grant under this section shall conduct a local process to contract with interested and eligible public and private for-profit and nonprofit community-based providers that meet all requirements of subsection (4) for at least 30% of its total slot allocation.

(a) The intermediate district or consortium notified each nonparticipating licensed child care center located in the service area of the intermediate district or consortium regarding the center's eligibility to participate, in a manner prescribed by the department.

(b) The intermediate district or consortium provided to each nonparticipating licensed child care center located in the service area of the intermediate district or consortium information regarding great start readiness program requirements and a description of the application and selection process for community based providers.

Guidance

2016-2017 legislation continues to require that ISDs distribute minimally 30% of the slot allocation to community-based providers. Removed from legislation were the requirements to contact all licensed centers twice, with minimally one electronic notification, at least one notification made via the United States mail and one notification made within 7 days after MDE notice of slot allocations. New this year is replacement language which offers MDE more flexibility regarding establishing structure and process, and requires each grantee to notify only licensed centers which are not current subrecipients regarding the center's eligibility to participate along with information regarding GSRP requirements and a description of the application and selection process.

MDE requires that ISDs review their policies and procedures related to the process to choose subrecipients and award slots for appropriate changes.

New or modified features are highlighted below:

- The Great Start Collaborative (GSC) school readiness advisory committee must still be involved in the process to determine the regional need for GSRP,

determine the current capacity to meet the established need, determine how successful the ISD has been to meet the need for GSRP.

- A strong partnership is still expected between the ISD and GSC. The GSC is an avenue to support the ECC initiative to create/strengthen connections with administrators of the licensed child care centers in the region. A collective impact approach prioritizes systematic plans to strengthen efforts within the region for all young children and their families. The full GSC partners with the ISD regarding effectiveness of ISD outreach to gain licensed sites in areas of need, outreach efforts to strengthen community based organizations to become viable GSRP subrecipients and partners in ongoing efforts to establish consistently high quality settings for all young children.
- The policy must describe minimally one ISD notification made to licensed centers which serve preschoolers and are not current subrecipients, regarding
 - The center's eligibility to participate;
 - Information regarding GSRP requirements; and
 - A description of the subrecipient application and selection process.
 - An exception to this requirement is provided for a licensed center which is not a current GSRP subrecipient and for which the ISD has documentation on file that the current licensee administration has declined partnership with GSRP.

The ISD must work with stakeholders to determine the most effective timing and method for notification(s).

- The policy must continue to describe the competitive application and selection process for current subrecipients which addresses the following:
 - How current subrecipients learn of the conditions for the continued awarding of slots,
 - How current subrecipients request a continued, expanded or reduced slot award,
 - When the application is made available to current subrecipients and when it is due, and
 - When the ISD notifies current subrecipients of the results of the slot request.
- The policy must continue to describe the competitive application and selection process for potential (new) subrecipients, with priority to meeting the legislatively mandated award of at least 30 percent of slots to CBOs, which addresses the following:
 - When the ISD informs potential subrecipients of the factors the ISD will consider in making the decision to award slots;
 - When the application is made available to potential subrecipients and when it is due; and

- When the ISD notifies potential subrecipients of the results of the partnership and slot request.
- The policy must continue to address how the ISD will provide a list of subrecipients, with their related Great Start to Quality ratings, to participating families and to the public.
- If the requirement to have 30% of the slot allocation be distributed to CBOs cannot be fulfilled, the ISD must complete and submit a Request of Waiver from Penalty for Noncompliance form to MDE. This form is on the GSRP website or can be obtained from GSRP staff.

ISDs have flexibility to retain or adopt existing policy/procedure that may be more stringent than MDE requires.

This guidance will be used to update two sections in the GSRP Implementation Manual: Funding and ISD Administration of GSRP.