

Transportation Services

Sec. 32d(20) From the amount appropriated in subsection (1), there is allocated an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000.00 for reimbursement of transportation costs for children attending great start readiness programs funded under this section. To receive reimbursement under this subsection, not later than November 1, 2014, a program funded under this section that provides transportation shall submit to the intermediate district that is the fiscal agent for the program a projected transportation budget. The amount of the reimbursement for transportation under this subsection shall be the lesser of the projected transportation budget or \$150.00 multiplied by the number of slots funded for the program under this section. If the amount allocated under this subsection is insufficient to fully reimburse the transportation costs for all programs that provide transportation and submit the required information, the reimbursement shall be prorated in an equal amount per slot funded. Payments shall be made to the intermediate district that is the fiscal agent for each program, and the intermediate district shall then reimburse the program provider for transportation costs as prescribed under this subsection.

Transportation services have always been an approvable use of Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) funds. This includes costs or appropriately prorated costs for child safety restraint systems, additional or extended bus routes/bus runs/mileage, vehicle maintenance or modifications, drivers, bus aides and school buses. Public Act 60 of 2013, Section 32d(5) confirmed transportation as an approvable allocation of funds. Public Act 196 of 2014, Section 32d(20) expands each Intermediate School District's (ISD) allocation specifically to support transportation services with \$150.00 per slot in addition to the FY15 slot allocation. 32d(20) funds may only be used for transportation services. The per-slot transportation allocation will be added to the slot allocation when GSRP slots are transferred to another ISD.

The ISD may use any amount or all of the transportation allocation. Though a per-slot calculation determines the total transportation allocation to an ISD, the ISD may distribute transportation funds as-needed across subrecipients for those slots served within the ISD. The ISD must create a process to gather pertinent information that will guide decision-making on prioritization of transportation funds. Consider how collaborative child recruiting and public awareness activities, along with a dedicated transportation allocation, can support the goal to identify and serve children and families who may not otherwise be able to access the program. Other considerations include the number/location of GSRP subrecipients currently providing transportation, the number/residence of GSRP enrolled children receiving transportation, family need by programming option, how well existing transportation costs are met, and areas of unmet need for transportation services. The school readiness advisory committee is the appropriate venue for data-based decision-making on distribution of the transportation allocation.

The 2015 MEGS+ Implementation Plan (formerly "Application") has been modified to accommodate FY15 legislation. The 2015 MEGS+ GSRP Implementation Plan includes an additional transportation budget to document use of the accepted transportation allocation for each ISD and/or subrecipient, typically reported under function code 271 with proper object codes and capital outlay as appropriate. While the ISD should prioritize full use of FY15 transportation allocation funds, the FY15 GSRP slot allocation budget may continue to be used to report additional transportation items.

Before submission of the FY15 GSRP Implementation Plan, the ISD must ensure that detailed transportation items in the transportation budget and the slot allocation budget are reasonable for the quality of the activities proposed, include appropriate function codes, and, in total, the maximum administrative costs are not exceeded. Refer to the Budget section of the Implementation Manual for additional budget guidelines.