

Early Learning Enhancement Grant-Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
March 29, 2013

Application Process

Question	Answer
How do we go about starting the grant process? What is the first step we need to take? Is there information we can have sent to us on how to go about doing this?	All instructions and requirements for this grant are posted on the Office of Great Start website www.michigan.gov/greatstart . Intent to Apply forms should be submitted by April 2.
Are letters of support and collaboration helpful to the grant application?	Letters of support and collaboration are not necessary for this application.

Eligible Applicants

Question	Answer
Please give examples of collaborations.	<p>Two or More Center-Based Agencies. To clarify the following would fit under this category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative arrangement between a Child Care Center and either an Early Head Start, Head Start or GSRP program in which center-based services are provided for all programs in one location. In this model the children would be in the same classroom with the same staff-full day, full year. • A GSRP or Head Start or Early Head Start who offers a classroom with the same staff full day, full year. <p><u>Example:</u> <i>Child A attends a GSRP/Head Start program in the morning from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. However, this child has working parents and needs care before and after the GSRP/Head Start program <u>and</u> on Friday. This grant opportunity allows for this child to stay in the same GSRP/Head Start classroom by providing funding for the hours before the GSRP/Head Start program and after the GSRP/Head Start program and on Friday for a FULL year.</i></p> <p>Early Childhood Providers and Family Child Care Homes or Networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative arrangement between a family/group home provider and either an Early Head Start, Head Start or GSRP program in which services are provided for all programs in one location. <p><u>Example:</u> <i>Child B attends a Head Start partnership classroom in a home setting. The Head Start program is held during a 3 hour portion of the day. This grant funding pays for up to 7 additional hours for the child for a FULL year.</i></p>

<p>Can I apply for this grant if I do not have a current contract/partnership with an Early Head Start, Head start or GRSP program?</p>	<p>Programs must be currently funded by Head Start, Early Head Start and/or GSRP (and in good standing) to qualify for this grant.</p>
<p>Do I understand correctly that this opportunity is for Early Head Start, Head Start, and GSRP enrolled children?</p>	<p>This is an opportunity to provide wrap around (full day, full year) child care services for Early Head Start, Head Start, and GSRP enrolled children who also meet the Child Development and Care (CDC) eligibility guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child being a US citizen residing in MI • Child’s parent(s) must be employed or enrolled and participating in an approved education and training program <p>In addition, the family must meet CDC income eligibility guidelines (these are provided in the application instructions on page 3).</p>
<p>Please clarify applicant eligibility requirements. Do you have to already be blending funding to be eligible?</p> <p>If I am only Head Start, Early Head Start or GSRP am I eligible?</p> <p>What other funding sources can this grant be combined with (i.e. United Way, Title I, city grants, child care subsidy, etc.)?</p>	<p>Programs must currently operate with more than one funding source. Funding sources that will be considered, in addition to Head Start and/or GSRP funding, include Title I, Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), Child Development and Care subsidy, private-pay tuition, foundation/non-profit funding, etc.</p>
<p>Would GSRP/Head Start need to be a full day (school-day) program to be eligible or can part-day programs apply as well?</p>	<p>Part-day GSRP programs/Head Start programs are eligible to apply, but must offer a 10 hour day for the full year to children served with this grant funding.</p>
<p>What does "good standing" with Early Head Start, Head Start or GSRP mean?</p>	<p>Good standing means that you are currently funded and meeting all program requirements/standards.</p>
<p>Does our five star child care center, which operates 5 days a week, 10 hours each day, year round qualify? We accept CDC subsidy, regular tuition and have a GSRP classroom.</p>	<p>This program would be considered an eligible applicant.</p> <p>Any awarded slots must be used to provide wrap around (full day, full year) child care services to the GSRP enrolled children in this program who also meet Child Development and Care (CDC) subsidy eligibility.</p>

We offer an early learning program in partnership with a public school. The public school offers a part-time GRSP program, and our early childhood program (rated 5 stars) offers a full day program. Can we collaborate with the school district to offer a full day program that meets the requirements of the grant? Currently, both programs participate with USDA food programs.	If children are moved from one facility to another to satisfy the full day requirement, this would <u>not</u> be an allowable collaborative model.
If I have a partnership with Head Start does that qualify me?	The partnership must be one in which the program is receiving funding/support from Head Start to implement that program in their own facility.
Is this grant designed for individual programs to apply or should it be through an ISD or region?	Individual programs meeting the eligible applicant criteria may apply for this grant.
Is the grant for both profit and non for profit centers?	Yes.
In the case of GSRP funds flowing through the ISD, would the ISD be considered an agency partner?	No. However, the program may meet the eligible applicant criteria if the program offers GSRP and wrap-around care with the same staff full day, full year.
If we are already providing 10 or more hours of care are we eligible to apply?	Yes, if you meet all other criteria outlined in the grant application instructions.
Can children move from one room to another but remain in the same building (i.e. attends Head Start in morning but moves to child care in the afternoon)?	For this grant opportunity children must remain in the same classroom with the same staff for their entire full year experience.
Does this collaboration have to be in existence or can it be created for this grant?	Applicants must demonstrate that the collaboration currently exists to apply for this pilot opportunity.
Our child care center has a contract with the local school district to deliver the PIE program. Does this count as a collaborative partnership?	No. Please see the examples of acceptable collaborative models above.
Currently our Head Start does all the screening and maintains the list of children in our community. They do not share this list with other GSRP partners, rather they hold to keep children only in their program. Will this program force Head Start to share lists of preschoolers?	To apply for this grant programs will need to demonstrate community collaboration. This includes how they assessed the need for these slots as well as how they've identified the children to fill these slots.
How would a Head Start collaborate with a family child care provider when the Head Start requirements differ so much?	Either the family provider or the Head Start grantee would need to initiate a partnership. There are many models for these types of collaborations across the United States, including Michigan where providers partner with Head Start to implement the Head Start program standards in a family child care setting.
Questions Related to Continuity of Care	
Question	Answer
Can you explain the single classroom part of the requirements? Does GSRP and the child care have to be in the same classroom or in the same building?	The child must stay in the same classroom with the same lead teacher for 10 hours a day for a full calendar year.

<p>Would a GSRP classroom need to operate year-round and on Fridays under this model? Or, can it remain as it currently is and the wrap-around child care is provided when GSRP is not in session?</p> <p>How many days per week? How many weeks per year?</p>	<p>This grant requires that a program operate five days a week for a full calendar year for a minimum of 10 hours per day. Programs will be allowed 20 days for holidays and program closings.</p> <p>In addition, the grant requires that the child remain in the same classroom with the same lead teacher.</p>
<p>Of the ten hour day, what number of hours does the child need to be with the certified teacher? How many of those hours would be with the assistant?</p>	<p>This model is based on a full day child care model. The lead teacher should be present for the majority of the day with assistants and consistent support staff. Licensing regulations require the lead teacher to be on site for 6 hours per day in programs operating 6 or more continuous hours. This requirement would be in place for programs awarded this grant.</p>

Questions Related to Bonus Points

Question	Answer
<p>What is the Child Care Coordination Grant?</p>	<p>A grant opportunity offered by the Head Start Collaboration Office and the Great Start Early Learning Advisory Council at the Early Childhood Investment Corporation.</p> <p>It supports expanding and enhancing recruitment and enrollment activities across Head Start, GSRP and child care in shared service areas to strengthen overall access opportunities for high needs children and families in Michigan.</p>
<p>I share an Early Childhood Consultant through an ISD as part of my GSRP. Is this considered a shared services model?</p>	<p>No. This would not be considered an example of a shared services model.</p>
<p>Will NAEYC accredited programs receive any additional consideration in the grant award process?</p>	<p>No. Priority points are not awarded for NAEYC accreditation.</p>
<p>Can you earn more than one area of bonus points?</p>	<p>Yes. You can earn priority points in more than one area.</p>

Questions Related to Child Eligibility

Question	Answer
<p>Do both parents need to be in training or employed to qualify? Is full or part time employment acceptable?</p>	<p>Yes, both parents must be employed or enrolled and participating in an approved education and training program. Part-time employment and/or school attendance is acceptable for the purposes of this grant.</p>
<p>Can you explain the parental income requirements more thoroughly?</p>	<p>Children/families participating in this opportunity must meet CDC income eligibility criteria. This is outlined on page 3 of the application instructions.</p>

What is considered to be an approved training program for parents?	Generally speaking training activities geared at employment preparation would be considered as approved training programs. Further guidance will be provided to successful grantees as part of one of the required technical assistance sessions.
"Parents must be enrolled in an educational program or employed" Is this funded through the grant?	No. This is one of the CDC subsidy eligibility requirements for parents to demonstrate a need for assistance.
Would foster children be eligible for this grant? Would a family be eligible if we employed them at our center, they are attending school and meet income guidelines.	Yes, if they meet the CDC eligibility guidelines required for this grant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child being a US citizen residing in MI • Child's parent(s) must be employed or enrolled and participating in an approved education and training program • Family meeting CDC income eligibility guidelines (on page 3 of the application instructions) For foster children, these requirements would apply to the foster parents/family.
Questions Related to Grant Payments	
Question	Answer
After reimbursements have been submitted, what's the anticipated time frame for remittance?	We anticipate no longer than a two week turnaround period for payments.
Do programs that receive a grant for the designated number of slots still bill the department for CDC subsidy or just for the grant?	Programs receiving this funding will only receive this CDC funding. They will not receive additional CDC subsidy funding. Payments will be made through MEGS, not the child care billing system.
If the public school is closed due to weather emergencies, will the grantee be required to open? If the grantee closes due to weather conditions will those dates count towards the 20 days of closure allotted by the grant?	Programs will be allowed 20 days for holidays and program closings. Programs will be asked to report these closures on their program reports.
I am assuming that a child does not have to be there for the full 10 hour day. How many hours would the child need to be there to count their enrollment? Is the child required to attend 10 hours every day and all year? Or are we only required to provide access of 10 hours per day, all year?	The child must generally be in attendance for 8 hours a day, five days a week for a full year. This includes the Early Head Start/ Head Start program and/or GSRP portion of the day.
Is this a reimbursement program, meaning that programs must expend money before receiving funds?	Yes. Programs awarded a grant will receive monthly payments for the number of slots they have been awarded.

Are there funds for starting the program or do we use general funds and receive reimbursement?	Funds are not for startup. Programs should already be operating.
Can the grant be used to open and or start a center based program?	

Questions Related to Great Start to Quality Ratings

Question	Answer
We are a GSRP site but have not been rated yet. Will this prohibit us from applying?	GSRP programs should be entering their self-assessment as soon as possible for validation. At a minimum you must have completed a self-assessment so we can verify the status of your validation and rating as part of the application process.
If agency is on "Alternate Path" and waiting for PQA rater to visit, how might that affect agency's ability to compete if we have not received a rating yet?	Programs waiting for a PQA have already been validated at a 4 star level. The Office of Great Start will determine the status of their validation and rating as part of the application process.
Do child care programs need to have their rating published in order to qualify? Can they simply be validated at a 3 or higher?	Programs must be validated. You can ensure validation by completing your self-assessment.
If a provider is in the process of requesting a PQA for Great Start to Quality, but does not receive it by April 23, does that mean they are not eligible?	Programs must demonstrate that they have entered their self-assessment. The Office of Great Start will determine the status of their validation and rating as part of the application process.
Is it true that all of the collaborative partners providing child care must have Great Start to Quality rating of 3 or higher?	The program offering Head Start/GSRP and wraparound care must have achieved a 3 star or higher rating to be considered for this grant opportunity.

Questions Related to Awards

Question	Answer
Is there a limit on the number of slots an applicant can request?	No, but applicants must demonstrate a need for the number of slots they request as well as a capacity to fill and serve those slots.
Can an agency ask for less than 75 slots?	Yes.
Can you provide in the FAQs a description or scenario example of how this grant if secured, would work. I'm asking for an example of how it would be "stacked" or combined with other funding, and under what circumstances.	Each applicant is asked to fill out a budget with a narrative description. This would demonstrate how you would utilize multiple funding sources to support a child's early learning experience for a full day full year program.
Please restate all of the topics that will be covered in the required TA sessions.	At a minimum we will hold training sessions on: eligibility determination and maintenance of records; financial reporting; drawing down funds; performance reporting and monitoring.
When will the programs be required to start?	Funding for the slots awarded will begin October 1, 2013. Children would need to be enrolled and attending at that point and time.

If funds are distributed in October, do programs start then, or are the funds available to start in September?	Funds will not be available for periods prior to October 1. Programs choosing to start before this period should have other funding designated for these periods.
Are you looking to spread out these services throughout the state? Or concentrating them within a small area? How much does the location of our center come into play for this grant?	Our goal is to distribute these grants across the state to ensure a variety of participants during the pilot.
I am confused about what you mean by "slots". How many children or classes are you proposing to fund?	For the CDC subsidy programs currently bill by the hour for the child’s attendance. For this grant we are purchasing a “slot” so the program is paid for the slot, not the hours of care that is provided. We will be funding 180 slots. Thirty of which are designated for infants/toddlers.
How many awards are going to be allocated?	No minimum or maximum number of grant awards has been specified due to uncertainty regarding the number of slots for which programs will be applying. 180 slots will be awarded for each fiscal year.
General Questions	
Question	Answer
How does a program become eligible to receive CDC funding?	Licensed and registered programs are eligible to receive CDC funding unless they have been disqualified by the CDC program for violation of program rules.
What are the required qualifications of the staff?	Staff must meet Head Start/Early Head Start and GSRP program requirements in addition to meeting all child care licensing requirements.
So this is not a grant to improve our programs, but to help families afford quality care?	The grant is intended to increase access to high quality early learning and development programs for those children with the highest needs prior to kindergarten entry and to provide incentives for early childhood providers to strive for higher quality ratings in Great Start to Quality, the state’s tiered quality rating and improvement system.

<p>How many meals and snacks need to be provided?</p>	<p>At a minimum, programs must follow child care licensing rules. If the program has funding sources that require additional meals and snacks above and beyond the licensing requirement, those regulations must also be followed.</p> <p>Child care licensing rules require the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four hours to 6 hours of operation: a minimum of 1 meal and 1 snack. • Seven hours to 10 hours of operation: a minimum of 1 meal and 2 snacks, or 2 meals and 1 snack. • Eleven hours or more of operation: a minimum of 2 meals and 2 snacks.
<p>How did you arrive at the proposed funding amount?</p>	<p>The department convened a workgroup that helped us explore the guidelines for this pilot. The rates were determined by looking at current billing processes for CDC as well as current rates. It was decided that the rates for this pilot would be slightly higher than the current subsidy rates.</p>
<p>Are the staff to child ratios the same throughout the day? Are they based on licensing guidelines?</p>	<p>Staff to child ratios for the wrap-around portion of the day should be determined based on licensing regulations. Ratios during the Head Start and/or GSRP portions of the day must meet the requirements for those programs.</p>
<p>Can this funding be used to fill in gaps where we are not currently funded?</p>	<p>The funds should be used to provide the necessary enhancements to current programming to allow for full day, full year early learning opportunities with the same staff/level of quality.</p>
<p>Can we charge participating families co-payments?</p>	<p>In order to charge parental co-payments, your budget must include these fees and demonstrate that this funding is necessary, when combined with other sources, to provide a full day, full year early learning opportunity.</p>