

# RFP GC#15-003: 2016-2021 Bilingual Education Program

## Announcement of Funding Opportunity

### Questions and Answer

1. I am interested in the funding opportunity available for 2016-2021, but have a question regarding the qualifications. It states that eligible applicants are public school districts in NYS and are not currently operating Bilingual Education Programs. Due to Part 154, we are mandated to have a kindergarten and first grade bilingual, but there is a tremendous need for additional bilingual classes in the middle school and high school levels. Are districts still able to apply for the grant or are we considered a school district with a Bilingual Education Program?

*This grant program is designed to promote **new** Bilingual programs in schools and districts **across the State of New York**. School districts that are currently operating Bilingual Education Programs with Federal, State, or local funds are **not** eligible to apply.*

2. As per CR Part 154 regulations, our district began the first Bilingual Spanish Kindergarten class in September 2015. The bilingual program would be new in each grade moving forward. Prior to this school year, we did not have an existing bilingual program in any grade. We would very much like to apply for this grant since we will be in the process of building our program over the next few years. At this point we have a bilingual program in our elementary schools. These programs are funded with state and local funds. Can I apply to begin a bilingual program just in the high school?

*No. This grant program is designed to promote **new** Bilingual programs in schools and districts **across the State of New York**. School districts that are currently operating Bilingual Education Programs with Federal, State, or local funds are **not** eligible to apply.*

3. My district has a Bilingual Education Program at the secondary level...We would like to implement a program at one or more of our elementary schools where there is currently not an existing program...Is our district eligible for this grant?

*No. This grant program is designed to promote **new** Bilingual programs in schools and districts **across the State of New York**. School districts that are currently operating Bilingual Education Programs with Federal, State, or local funds are **not** eligible to apply.*

4. I am interested in pursuing a bilingual education program in our district. However, in the past, there was a minimum number of ELLs speaking one native language needed by grade level in order to be eligible for bilingual education

*There is no minimum number of ELLs speaking one native language needed by grade level in order to be eligible for bilingual education. If applying for a Dual Language program, at least 50% of the students need to be ELL.*

5. Our office is asking for clarification regarding eligible school districts. If a district currently has a bilingual program for one language (Spanish), but is seeking to create bilingual programs in

additional, low-incidence languages, are they eligible? Also, is a school district eligible to receive a grant for each bilingual program (language) created?

*No. This grant program is designed to promote **new** Bilingual programs in schools and districts **across the State of New York**. School districts that are currently operating Bilingual Education Programs with Federal, State, or local funds are **not** eligible to apply.*

6. Are charter schools eligible for this funding opportunity?

*No, Charter Schools are NOT eligible to apply for this opportunity. Eligible applicants are public school districts in New York State that are NOT currently operating Bilingual Education Programs with Federal, State, or Local funds.*

7. The grant paperwork says eligible applicants are public school districts in NYS that are NOT currently operating bilingual programs. We are a BOCES. Currently we do not have any bilingual programs are we eligible applicants? We are interested in developing a bilingual program.

*No, BOCES are NOT eligible to apply for this opportunity. Eligible applicants are public school districts in New York State that are **NOT** currently operating Bilingual Education Programs with Federal, State, or Local funds.*

8. Would a program that supports bilingual excellence for ELLs only be seen as competitive? Or must the applicants include a dual language model to be successful in this competitive grant process?

*Applicants do not need to include a dual language program model to be successful in this competitive grant process. A program that supports bilingual excellence for ELLs only will be seen as competitive.*

9. Regarding the List of Teachers Attachment B, we currently only have an ESL teacher. We would have to hire a bilingual teacher or Bilingual TA and perhaps more ESL teachers if we got the grant and opened a new program. Should we list what staff we have and then list what we would add if we got the grant and then would be opening the program?

*For Attachment B, please list the staff that you currently have as well as what you propose to add if your district is awarded the grant and opened the bilingual education program.*

10. On Attachment A, are we representing year 1 only, or do we need to represent all 5 years?

*Attachment A is for year 1 only.*

11. Are individual Community Schools within NYC DOE eligible to apply on their own?

*In New York City, the eligible applicants are Community School Districts within NYCDOE that are NOT currently operating Bilingual Education Programs with Federal, State, or Local funds.*

12. Is funding disbursed throughout the district (NYC) or to each individual school that has been awarded a grant?

*The awarded applicant would receive the funds. In NYC, eligible applicants are the Community School Districts.*

13. We see that districts that already have bilingual education programs funded with federal, state or local funds are not eligible to apply. What about school districts that are operating bilingual programs using grant funding?

*School districts that are currently operating Bilingual Education Programs with Federal, State, or local funds are **not** eligible to apply.*

14. Does SED have any preference on the grade levels served by this grant program?

*Applications for programs in any language groups and grade levels are encouraged.*

15. Will consortiums get any priority/preferential consideration?

*Consortia are not eligible, however districts may partner with other eligible school districts accomplish program objectives.*

16. Would grant writing services for this application be an allowable cost?

*No, contracts for grant writing services are a "Non-Allowable Expense"*

17. When will grant awards for this RFP be announced? We see that the work plan for year one must begin on July 1, 2016 and are concerned about the amount of planning time needed to plan and implement activities.

*NYSED anticipates making preliminary award notification in May 2016.*

18. Can the 10 page narrative be single spaced? Can any 12-point font be used? Is the budget narrative part of the 10 pages allowed for the narrative? Are there margin restrictions for the application document?

*The application can be single-spaced. The font should be one that is clear and readable for the reviewers, no smaller than 12 point. There are no margin restrictions, but the narrative should be clear and readable for the reviewers. The budget narrative is in addition to the 10 page proposal narrative.*

19. Are certified teacher assistants allowable expenses? Are bilingual teacher assistants allowable expenses?

*Certified teacher assistants and bilingual teacher assistants are an allowable expense for this RFP.*

20. If a bilingual certified teacher is not available, would the following combinations be allowable to teach the dual language program: Common Branch Monolingual Teacher with a Bilingual Teacher Assistant/ Spanish Teacher with a Bilingual Teacher Assistant/ ESL Teacher with a Bilingual Teacher Assistant. What other staffing options would be acceptable if a certified bilingual teacher is not available?

*Personnel qualified to teach in a K-6 bilingual program, as defined in CR part 154-2.3(h)(3) of this Subpart, shall mean a certified common branch K-6 teacher with a bilingual extension, certified pursuant to Part 80 of this Title. Personnel qualified to teach in a bilingual program for grades 7-12 shall mean a certified content area teacher with a bilingual extension, certified pursuant to Part 80 of this Title. HLA must be taught by a certified LOTE teacher.*

21. The RFP requests a list of the proposed teachers and teaching assistants by areas of certification and language qualification. How should we respond to this question if new staff members are going to be hired under this grant funding? Can we provide position descriptions?

*Position descriptions of the proposed new staff members that will be hired under the grant funding are appropriate.*

22. We would like to hand-deliver our application. The security guard in the EBA building requires an SED name and contact number in order to do this; can you provide this information? What is the latest time we can hand-deliver applications on February 12, 2016?

*The applications can be hand-delivered to NYSED on February 12, 2016 with the contact name Kevin O'Brien, OBEWL. They need to be delivered by 3pm on this date. Mailed applications are preferred.*