

# 2021-2022 Universal Prekindergarten Expansion Grant For New Full Day Placements for Four Year Old Students

## Questions and Answers Summary- Updated September 10, 2021

### Location of RFP:

- 1) Where can I locate the prekindergarten grant for the 2021-2022 school year?
  - *The 2021-2022 Universal Prekindergarten Expansion Grant for New Full-Day Placements for Four-Year-Old Students can be found on the [NYSED Funding Opportunity Webpage](#).*

### Notices of Intent:

- 2) On page 3 of the RFP, it states that Notice of Intents are due by **August 25, 2021**. However, on page 12, the RFP states the deadline is **September 8, 2021**. Which date is correct?
  - *All Notices of Intent to apply for this funding should be submitted via email to [PreKRFP@nysed.gov](mailto:PreKRFP@nysed.gov) by **September 8, 2021**. The Notice of Intent is now **NON-MANDATORY**.*

### Eligibility to Apply:

- 3) Can a private school or charter school apply for this funding opportunity on their own?
  - *No. The RFP is only open to school districts. Charter schools and non-public schools can partner with a school district but cannot apply on their own.*
- 4) We are a private school licensed by OCFS and currently do not have a prekindergarten program. Are we eligible to apply for this funding?
  - *No. Only public school districts are eligible to apply for this funding. School districts may partner with charter schools and non-public schools to assist in running their prekindergarten program.*
- 5) Are Catholic schools eligible to apply for this funding opportunity?
  - *No. Only public school districts are eligible to apply for this funding. School districts may partner with charter schools and non-public schools to assist in running their prekindergarten program.*
- 6) We are a charter school who has received approval to operate a prekindergarten program from the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE). Do we qualify for this expansion grant as well?
  - *No. Only public school districts are eligible to apply for this funding directly. School districts are highly encouraged to partner with eligible agencies, including charter schools, to apply for this additional funding opportunity. If the*

*NYCDOE is awarded funding from this RFP, you may qualify to partner with them.*

- 7) I represent a client who already receives UPK allocations and is interested in applying for the new expansion grant. Would they be eligible to apply even if they already receive funding?
- *If your client is a school district they can apply regardless if they already receive funding to operate a state-administered prekindergarten program. If your client is **not** a school district, then they are **not** allowed to apply directly as stated on Page 2 of the RFP and are encouraged to partner with a school district.*
- 8) I was told that there is a specific list of districts that are eligible to apply. Is this correct?
- *No, this is incorrect. As stated on page 1 of the RFP, all school districts are eligible to apply for this funding.*
- 9) If we are a school district who is receiving state-funding as well as receiving additional funding through the \$90 million that was allocated to districts, are we eligible to apply?
- *Yes. All school districts are eligible to apply regardless of what funding they already receive to operate a state-administered prekindergarten program. Grant funding will be awarded to school districts to create new full-day placements for four-year-old students that will supplement and not supplant current local expenditures of federal, state, or local funds on prekindergarten programs and the number of placements in such directly or collaboratively implemented prekindergarten programs from such sources.*
- 10) Each year we have a waitlist of 5-10 students who we cannot currently support due to lack of funding and staff. Are we allowed to apply for this grant?
- *Yes. All school districts are eligible to apply for this funding to add new placements for four-year-old students in a full-day setting.*
- 11) Our district currently has a UPK grant for 210 full-day seats. Can we apply for this expansion grant to add additional seats?
- *Yes. All districts are eligible to apply for new full-day placements for four-year-old students regardless if they already receive UPK funding. Note, any funding awarded through this grant cannot supplant any current expenditures to the district's UPK program.*

**Submission:**

- 12) How do we submit an RFP for this funding?
- *All of the directions to apply for this funding opportunity can be found on the NYSED Grant RFP Web Page located at the [NYSED Funding Opportunity Webpage](#).*
- 13) Is it okay to submit the full application as a PDF?

- *Please see pages 3-4 of the RFP for instructions on application submission . On page 4 of the RFP, it states that application must be received by 5:00 PM, September 17, 2021 to the Department via email [PreKRFP@nysed.gov](mailto:PreKRFP@nysed.gov). The file format must be in Microsoft Word for the abstract, need narrative, program design narrative, program quality narrative, and budget narrative. All other documents can be submitted in a PDF or Microsoft Excel format.*
- 14) Does the Department (NYSED) want districts to email all documents, keeping in mind that those documents won't be signed?
- *Yes, NYSED wants districts to email all documents. Signed documents can be scanned and submitted via email to [PreKRFP@nysed.gov](mailto:PreKRFP@nysed.gov). Hardcopy applications submitted by mail must be signed where required.*
- 15) Is September 9<sup>th</sup> the postmark date, or the date that applications must be received by the New York State Education Department?
- *All applications must be received by NYSED's Office of Early Learning by 5:00 PM on September 17, 2021 as stated on pages 3-4 of the RFP.*
- 16) Will the New York State Education Department consider extending the deadline for the RFP if districts do not submit it by September 9<sup>th</sup>?
- *No. The deadline for the RFP to be received by 5:00 PM on September 17, 2021. No extension of this due date will be granted.*
- 17) Are we allowed to submit the FS-10 as a Microsoft Excel document rather than a Microsoft Word document?
- *Yes. The FS-10 must bear the original signature of the Chief School/Administrative Officer.*
- 18) Can we hand-deliver the RFP to NYSED to ensure it is received by 5:00 PM on September 9, 2021?
- *No. Applications cannot be hand-delivered to NYSED.*

**Funding:**

- 19) How is this grant different than the federal funding a district already received? Do districts need to complete this to access those expansion slots?
- *As part of the 2021-2022 enacted budget, over 230 districts received an [allocation](#) to expand or start a prekindergarten program. That allocational funding was non-competitive and already added to the district's UPK allocation. Districts do **not** need to respond to this RFP for placements already allocated to them.*
  - *This grant is for additional funding that is awarded through a competitive RFP process. If districts wish to apply for additional funding beyond what they currently receive, they must submit an application in response to this RFP, which must be received by 5:00 PM on September 17, 2021.*

- 20) Our district has received additional funding through the federal grant to expand our current prekindergarten program. Can this expansion funding be used towards those seats to increase the per pupil cost?
- *No. This RFP is to open new full-day placements for four-year-old students. Adding funding to current placements to increase the per pupil amount would not meet the requirements of the RFP.*
- 21) Can this funding expand our current program within our school district?
- *Yes. This funding can be awarded to add new full-day placements for four-year-old students to a district's existing prekindergarten program. This funding cannot be used to enhance programming for existing placements. This funding cannot supplant any current local, state, or federal expenditures.*
- 22) Can we use this grant funding to convert our current half-day slots to full-day slots?
- *No. This funding is not for conversion placements. This is for new full-day placements for four-year-old students.*
- 23) What if in the application you put down an amount based on having a certified teacher, but you end up only being able to get a non-certified teacher? Would you automatically get \$7,000 per student?
- *Yes. The district would only receive the proper amount based upon the qualifications of the teacher. If the students are placed with a certified teacher, the district would receive \$10,000 per student. If the students are placed with an uncertified teacher, the district would receive \$7,000 per student. The total amount the district can receive each year cannot exceed their initial grant award amount.*
- 24) What if in the following school year, the non-certified teacher becomes certified? Would the amount per student go up to \$10,000?
- *Yes. Each year the amount would be based upon the placement of students and the qualifications of the teacher, as long as the total grant award amount is not more than what was initially awarded to the district. Please note that the Legislature has all rights not to extend this funding beyond its use in either the 2021-2022 school year or 2022-2023 school year for those districts who wait to run a program.*
- 25) Can this funding be used for construction costs to upgrade our facility?
- *No. This RFP is being awarded to cover the programmatic expenses of new full-day placements for four-year-old students. All districts must submit a proposed FS-10 budget as to how they would spend this grant award.*
- 26) Can NYSED confirm that an acceptable start date for this grant is September 2022?
- *Yes. If a district is awarded this funding and does not plan to start in the 2021-2022 school year because they cannot operate at a minimum of 90 instructional days, the district must run a 180-day program in the 2022-2023 school year.*

27) Can this funding be used to run a summer program for four-year-old students in the district? If so, can this funding be used to cover their program once they turn five since the grant goes through to 2023?

- *No. As part of Commissioner's Regulations, a summer program may only be run if the district can show that they are not able to run a regular 180-day program during the school year for extenuating circumstances that will require approval from the Commissioner. This funding cannot be used for students once they turn five as those students do not meet the definition of an eligible child under Commissioner's Regulations. For clarification, this funding works in 2 ways. A district can choose to use this funding to run at least a 90-day program in the 2021-2022 school year to add new full-day placements for four-year-old students. If the district cannot run a minimum of 90-days in the 2021-2022 school year, this funding can be used to run a 180-day program for new full-day placements for four-year-old students in the 2022-2023 school year.*

28) How long does this funding last?

- *This funding can be used to run a 90-day program in the 2021-2022 school year or a 180-day program in the 2022-2023 school year. Any continuation of this funding will be decided on by the enacted New York State budget each fiscal year.*

29) Can these funds be used to expand a prekindergarten for 3-year-old students?

- *No. This RFP is for districts to expand their current prekindergarten program for four-year-old students by opening new placements within the district.*

### **M/WBE Requirements:**

30) Does the Office of Early Learning want us to email all M/WBE paperwork (which would be submitted unsigned)?

- *Yes. Signed forms can be scanned and submitted via email.*

31) Is there an M/WBE requirement associated with this grant? We saw a PowerPoint in the Spring that stated there was no M/WBE requirement with round.

- *The PowerPoint that is referred to is for the \$90 million non-competitive funding that has already been allocated to districts. That funding is different than this competitive grant. This competitive grant has an M/WBE requirement.*

32) On the M/WBE calculation, can you confirm all funds going to CBOs are excluded from the calculation? We see this on the calculation worksheet (page 31) but not in the text on page 16.

- *If the funds are going to a collaborating CBO to provide direct educational services, this amount is excluded from the M/WBE calculation.*

### **Scoring System/Rubric:**

33) In previous RFPs, applicants were awarded bonus points depending on if they were a high-needs district. Does this system still apply for the 2021-2022 RFP?

- *No. Since all school districts are eligible to apply, there are no extra points awarded. The scoring rubric shows how points are awarded based upon the different sections of the RFP.*

#### **Collaboration Requirement:**

34) What level of programming is required from the collaborating CBOs? Are they required to provide all programming for students for a portion of time; or, is it okay if they only provide enrichment activities? For example, if students took a tour of the public library and attended a story hour, would the public library be considered a CBO?

- *In the example above, the library is not functioning as a prekindergarten collaborating CBO. CBOs are prekindergarten program providers that operate for 5 hours a day, 5 days a week, for 180 days.*

35) Can this grant be used with a current contracted PreK program?

- *It is up to the school districts, based on an RFP process, as to whom they plan to partner with. Partnerships with existing CBOs can be expanded or the district can decide to partner with additional CBOs.*

36) Are districts applying for this expansion grant required to send out an RFP to all available PreK providers located within the district's boundaries to ascertain interest?

- *Yes. If a district is awarded this grant funding, there is a 10% minimum set-aside collaboration requirement. All districts must send out an RFP to find potential collaborators to assist the district in running these expansion placements.*

37) What agencies are eligible to collaborate with districts?

- *Any CBO who fits the definition of an "eligible agency" in Commissioner's Regulations 151-1.2(b) or who is listed on the RFP are eligible to partner with the district in running the program.*

#### **Student Selection:**

38) Can we prioritize low-income/at-risk families with the expansion grant?

- *The district can prioritize the **recruitment** of economically-, ability- and language-diverse four-year-old students and families. If there are more applicants than placements available, the district must then use a random selection process (lottery) to determine which students will be placed and which students will be waitlisted. There is no prioritization in the random selection process.*

#### **Future Expansion Grants:**

39) Will there be another opportunity to apply for the grant for the 2022-2023 school year for districts who are not ready to apply this year?

- *At this time, we cannot speak towards any further expansion grants beyond this current RFP. This is all dependent on each year's enacted state budget.*

**General RFP Question:**

40) Page 27 of the RFP is blank. Is this intentional or is there content missing?

- *This is a formatting error. There is no content missing from the RFP.*