

Questions and Answers for GC 22-010 - Universal Prekindergarten
Expansion Grant for New Full-Day and Half-Day to Full-Day Placements for
Four-Year-Old Students

Eligibility to Apply

1. Is there opportunity for competitive funding to increase the number of four-year old prekindergarten placements currently offered and/or to add a three-year old program?

A: Yes. The following link will take you to the 22-23 competitive grant to expand full-day UPK placements for four-year-old students or convert current half-day placements to full-day placements. Currently, this funding is only open to public school districts and for expansion of a four-year-old program. This competitive grant does not allow for the upstart of a three-year-old program. Please see the following link for more information: <https://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/currentapps.html#prekrfp2022>.

2. Can a private school or charter school apply for this funding opportunity on their own?

A: No. The Request for Proposal (RFP) is only open to public school districts. Charter schools and non-public schools can partner with a school district but cannot apply on their own.

3. Is this funding open to CBO programs or Head Start Programs?

A: No. Currently, this competitive funding is only available to public school districts. However, an eligible agency may partner with a school district to administer its UPK program as part of its 10% minimum collaboration requirement.

4. Our school district plans to apply for the UPK Expansion grant. Is there anyone within the Office of Early Learning who would be able to help navigate the grant?

A: No. Due to the Office of Early Learning being in a restricted period, we are unable to assist any district in any way to complete a grant that is competitive.

5. 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?

A: 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.

6. 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?

A: Yes. All school districts are eligible to apply for this funding to add new full day placements for four-year-old students or convert current half-day placements to full day placements.

Funding

7. With the rising cost of salaries and benefits, the UPK Grant could not fund all our classrooms this year. Are we allowed to apply for the expansion grant to fund those seats?

A: This competitive funding is for districts to add full-day placements or to convert existing half-day placements to full-day placements for four-year-old students and to not supplant any current funding the district uses to implement its state-administered prekindergarten program.

8. If we used federal stimulus money to convert seats last year, are we eligible to apply for the expansion funding this since was a temporary funding stream?

A: Yes. Since the funding was temporary, the district could still apply to permanently convert 4-year-old half-day placements to full-day placements or add new full-day placements for four-year-old students.

9. Our district has received additional funding through the 2022-2023 enacted budget to expand our current prekindergarten program. Can this expansion funding be used towards those seats to increase the per pupil cost?

A: No. This RFP is to open new full-day placements or to convert current half-day placements to 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.

10. The RFP states that preference will be given to programs serving high levels of four-year-old students that are economically disadvantaged.” What is considered a “high level”?

A: For this RFP, preference will be given to districts who clearly demonstrate the needs of the school district’s four-year-old students, families, and community to be served, and the current gaps in community resources to meet those needs and the extent to which the school district would prioritize awarded grant funds to identify and maximize the number of economically disadvantaged eligible four-year-old students, including preschool students with disabilities and language diverse Emergent Multilingual Learners.

11. What is considered “economically disadvantaged”?

A: Economically disadvantaged students are those who participate in, or whose family participates in, economic assistance programs, such as the free or reduced-price lunch programs, Social Security Insurance (SSI), Food Stamps, Foster Care, Refugee Assistance (cash or medical assistance), Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Safety Net Assistance (SNA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), or Family Assistance: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). If one student in a family is identified as low income, all students from that household (economic unit) may be identified as low income.

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12. How will preference be given to students who are economically disadvantaged?

A: According to the evaluation rubric (Appendix E), an applicant who clearly documents the resources and needs of the community to be served by the proposed new prekindergarten placements serving four-year-old students, the needs of the population to be served, and gaps in services currently available may be awarded up to 25 points.

13. What if in the application you put down an amount for new full-day placements 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?

A: Yes. The district would only receive the proper amount based upon the qualifications of the teacher. If the students are placed in a new full-day placement with a certified teacher, the district would receive \$10,000 per student. If the students are placed in a new full-day slot 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.

14. What if in the following school year, the non-certified teacher becomes certified? Would the amount per student go up to \$10,000?

A: 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 2022-2023 school year or 2023-2024 school year for those districts who wait to run a program.

15. Can this funding be used for construction costs to upgrade our facility?

A: 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.

16. Can NYSED confirm that an acceptable start date for this grant is September 2023?

A: Yes. If a district is awarded this funding and does not plan to start in the 2022-2023 school year because they cannot operate at a minimum of 90 instructional days, the district must run a 180-day program in the 2023-2024 school year.

M/WBE Requirements

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

A: Yes. Signed forms can be scanned and submitted via email.

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18. 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 18.

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

Submission

19. How do we submit an RFP for this funding?

A: All directions to apply for this funding opportunity can be found on the NYSED Grant RFP Web Page. Please see the following link for more information:
<https://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/currentapps.html#prekrfp2022> .

20. Is it okay to submit the full application as a PDF?

A: Please see pages 3-4 of the RFP for instructions on application submission. On page 3 of the RFP, it states that application must be received by 5:00 PM, September 16, 2022 to the Department via email 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.

21. Is September 16th the postmark date, or the date that applications must be received by the New York State Education Department?

A: All submissions must be received by NYSED's Office of Early Learning by 5:00 PM on September 16, 2022 as stated on pages 3-4 of the RFP.

22. Will the New York State Education Department consider extending the deadline for the RFP if districts do not submit it by September 16th?

A: No. The deadline for receipt of RFP submissions is by 5:00 PM on September 16, 2022. No extension of this due date will be granted.

23. Can we hand-deliver the RFP to NYSED to ensure it is received by 5:00 PM on September 16, 2022?

A: No. Applications cannot be hand-delivered to NYSED.

Appendices

24. What information should be included on the Grant Calculator (Appendix C)

A: The district should indicate how many additional new full-day placements they are applying for or how many half-day placements they are looking to convert to full-day placements with this expansion funding.

25. In Appendix C, under District PreK Funding, what amount do we put in? How do we know if we have State or Federal funding?

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A: The district should indicate the amount it is allocated for each year based upon the [allocation charts](#) on the Office of Early Learning's website. The charts will also indicate to the district if they receive state funding, federal funding, or a combination of both.

26. Does Appendix F, Prekindergarten Community Based Organization Certification Waiver, only apply to our eligible agencies, or the district as well?

A: The district should indicate the number of uncertified and certified teachers within their eligible agencies they are partnering with as well as the number of students served by those respective teacher(s).

27. Do we need to fill out Appendix D?

A: No. This does not need to be completed by the district upon submission of their RFP. This is for informational purposes only since part of the requirement of this competitive funding requires an onsite visit from the Office of Early Learning. This is the Quality Assurance Protocol that is used to ensure the district is implementing a high-quality, innovative PreK program as outlined under Education Law Section 3602-ee.

28. Will there be a list of districts who are awarded this funding?

A: Yes. School districts will be notified as to whether they have been preliminary awarded any of the competitive grant. Upon the official announcement from the Governor's office, a list will be made available to the public.

29. When creating our FS-10 budget for the RFP, what project number do we use?

A: This can be left blank as the district will not receive a project code for this funding unless they are awarded part of it. Leaving the project number blank will not impact the score of the proposal.

30. What proposal number do we use for Appendix E?

A: The district does not fill this out; this is for informational purposes only as this is the rubric used to score all proposals. The proposal number is for NYSED internal use only.

31. Is there a list of districts who have received competitive funding in the past?

A: Yes. Any district can look at the 2014-2015 Statewide Universal Full-Day Prekindergarten award chart and the 2021-2022 Award chart on the Office of Early Learning's website to see who has received funding in past competitive grants.
[2021-2022 Statewide Universal Full Day PreK Award Chart](#)
[2014-2015 Statewide Universal Full-Day PreK Award Chart](#)

Collaboration Requirement

32. 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?

A: In the example above, the library is not functioning as a prekindergarten collaborating CBO. CBOs are prekindergarten program providers that operate for the minimum time required under Education Law Section 3602-e, Section 3602-ee and Commissioner's regulations 151-1.

33. Can this grant be used with a current contracted PreK program?

A: 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 upon or the district can decide to partner with additional CBOs to accommodate the increase in the number of placements.

34. 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?

A: Yes. If a district is awarded this grant funding, there is a 10% minimum set-aside collaboration requirement. For the purposes of this grant, the applicant school district must utilize its competitive process to develop a collaborative arrangement with available PreK providers within the district's boundaries. In running these expansion placements within the district's boundaries.

35. What agencies are eligible to collaborate with districts?

A: 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. They can also be found on page 2 of the RFP.

Scoring System/Rubric

36. In previous RFPs, applicants were awarded bonus points depending on if they were a high-needs district. Does this system still apply for the 2022-2023 RFP?

A: No, but up to 25 points may be awarded to those applicants who clearly document the resources and needs of the community to be served by the proposed new prekindergarten placements serving four-year-old students, the needs of the population to be served, and gaps in services currently available.