

Questions and Answers for GC 22-010a - Universal Prekindergarten Expansion Grant for New Full-Day and Half-Day to Full-Day Placements for Four-Year-Old Students (Round 2)

Eligibility to Apply

1. Does my public school district qualify for this funding opportunity?

A: This competitive funding opportunity is only available to public school districts who either did not apply or were not awarded during round one of this grant. The list of districts awarded funding in Round 1 and are not eligible for this round can be found here: [Governor's Office Announcement of Expanded UPK Funding for School Year 2022-2023](#).

2. May non-public schools who provide Pre-Kindergarten education apply for this funding?

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. Interested non-public schools should contact their local school district to discuss possible collaborative opportunities.

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

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

4. 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.

5. Are individuals/nonprofits looking to open a daycare center eligible to apply for the 2023-2024 Universal Prekindergarten program grant?

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.

6. If a district expanded half-day seats to full-day last school year (21-22), but did not access the expansion grant funds, are they still eligible to apply for 22-23 if full-day programming is still being offered?

Questions and Answers for GC 22-010a - Universal Prekindergarten Expansion Grant for New Full-Day and Half-Day to Full-Day Placements for Four-Year-Old Students (Round 2)

A: Yes. All school districts are eligible to apply, if they have not already been awarded funding in Round 1, for this funding to add new full-day placements for four-year-old students or convert current half-day placements to full-day placements, but funding must be spent in the order in which it was awarded.

7. 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, if they have not already been awarded funding in Round 1, for this funding to add new full-day placements for four-year-old students or convert current half-day placements to full-day placements.

Slots

8. Could you please clarify for me that the UPK expansion grant has to be for anticipated NEW seats in the program?

A: This competitive funding opportunity is for the addition of new full-day placements for four-year-old students or to convert current half-day placements to full-day placements for four-year-old students.

Funding

9. What is the difference between Round 1 and Round 2 of this competitive funding opportunity?

A: NYSED is seeking to award up to \$25 million to fund grants for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. In round one, NYSED awarded \$11,692,890 of the \$25 Million. Round two enables all public school districts who either did not apply or were not awarded funding in round one to apply for the remaining \$13,307,110. Districts applying must provide full-day prekindergarten, starting in September 2023, as described in Education Law 3602-e(12)(f) and for four-year olds that runs for 180 days as stated in Commissioner's Regulations 8 NYCRR 151-1.4.

10. Are districts permitted to blend Title I funding for students who meet this criteria and are at-risk?

A: Yes. Grant funding must be used to 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. Grant funds and associated expenditures must be separately accounted for and not commingled with other funds. School district funds must be maintained in, and expenditures made from, a special revenue (special aid) fund account.

Questions and Answers for GC 22-010a - Universal Prekindergarten Expansion Grant for New Full-Day and Half-Day to Full-Day Placements for Four-Year-Old Students (Round 2)

11. Currently not all our Full-Day PreK programs are funded by UPK funding, but for example we have two classes that the district funds. The additional classes have been funded locally. Are we able to apply for funding to cover the additional cost of those full-day programs?

A: Yes. Grant funding must be used to 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.

12. If a district is awarded this grant, is this amount added to their yearly UPK allocation or is it just for one school year?

A: If awarded, this funding will not be added to your yearly UPK allocation. This grant funding is subject to an available appropriation in the State budget for this purpose and provided all requirements of this grant and §3602-ee quality standards have been met, all awarded school districts will retain their 180-day maximum grant award in the 2023-2024 school year and thereafter.

13. Our district has received additional funding through the 2022-2023 enacted State 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 competitive funding opportunity 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.

14. If our district is awarded this funding, we would like to reallocate the CARES funds currently being used to fund Pre-K. Is this allowed?

A: No. Grant funding must be used to 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.

15. If we have not completed the RFP process for CBOs, how do we know how the CBO we will be using will be staffed? Should I use the \$7,000/seat to calculate to be on the safe side?

A: It is recommended that the school district conduct outreach to potential partners to determine projected funding.

16. 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?

Questions and Answers for GC 22-010a - Universal Prekindergarten Expansion Grant for New Full-Day and Half-Day to Full-Day Placements for Four-Year-Old Students (Round 2)

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.

17. 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 funding is subject to an available appropriation in the State budget.

18. If our district was awarded the expansion grant and wanted to expand with one of our current CBOs, do we still need to follow a new RFP process and go out to bid with other interested organizations?

A: While a district may be happy with their current providers, there may also be other eligible agencies in the community that would like the opportunity to participate in the PreK program. The district should take into consideration the capacity of the current providers to serve additional UPK children and be in continued compliance with Commissioner's Regulations 8 NYCRR 151-1. Districts should also consider other factors such as the ease with which families can use the current providers and whether there are unserved areas of the district.

19. Is the district expected to pay the full per pupil amount to the CBO (either \$10,000 or \$7,000) for the number of students that they will be serving? Or can the district enter into negotiation with the CBO to determine a per pupil amount as long as the 10% minimum is reached?

A: This is a local decision and should be negotiated in the District/CBO contract. It is recommended that districts consult their procurement policies.

20. If the CBO commits to serving a specific number of students and does not, what is the district obligated to pay the CBO?

A: This is a local decision and should be negotiated in the District/CBO contract. It is recommended that districts consult their procurement policies.

21. How could a non-public religion-based school be a partner in a district's provision of secular, non-ideological UPK programming?

A: As a provider of child-care and early education, a day care provider, early childhood program or center, or community-based organization, a non-public

Questions and Answers for GC 22-010a - Universal Prekindergarten Expansion Grant for New Full-Day and Half-Day to Full-Day Placements for Four-Year-Old Students (Round 2)

religion based school are eligible to partner with a school district. Religious instruction could not be a part of the five hour prekindergarten instructional day.

M/WBE Requirements

22. In our application we are applying for funding for two full-day classes that will be operated by the district, do we need M/WBE participation?

A: M/WBE requirements apply when an applicant submits an application for grant funding that exceeds \$25,000 for the full grant period.

23. Does this mean that if the collaborating agency employs minorities or the executive director is a minority, that will meet compliance? If the teachers of the agency are minorities or women, does that meet compliance?

A: Compliance can be achieved by one of the three methods described below. Full participation by meeting or exceeding the M/WBE participation goal for this grant is the preferred method. M/WBE participation includes services, materials, or supplies purchased from minority and women-owned firms certified with the NYS Division of Minority and Women Business Development. Not-for-profit agencies are not eligible for this certification. For additional information and a listing of currently certified M/WBEs, see the [NYS MWBE Directory](#).

24. 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.

25. 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

26. Due to the 12/8/2022 announcement, our district already submitted our grant proposal. Do we need to resubmit?

A: No, you would not need to resubmit unless the submission did not meet all the requirements stated in the Round two RFP. Please ensure all application documents on the application checklist have been submitted, including:

- FS-10 proposed budget,
- Appendix C: Grant award and Collaboration Calculator with both workbook tabs completed

Questions and Answers for GC 22-010a - Universal Prekindergarten Expansion Grant for New Full-Day and Half-Day to Full-Day Placements for Four-Year-Old Students (Round 2)

- Appendix F: Prekindergarten Community Based Organization Certification Waiver when applicable
- Appendix G: Prekindergarten Variance from collaboration Requirement when applicable.
- M/WBE Documents

Additional application materials can still be submitted until the application deadline.

27. Are there suggested page limits for the sections other than needs?

A: Page 23 of the RFP outlines the proposal requirements including, but not limited to, formatting as well as the page limits for each section.

28. Please explain what is meant by a program that has longer hours and the implications of this criterion for existing UPK programs.

A: As per Education Law 3602-ee(7), slots shall only be awarded to support programs that provide instruction for at least five hours per school day for the full school year and that otherwise comply with the rules and requirements pursuant to section thirty-six hundred two-e of this part except as otherwise provided in this section.

Appendices

29. 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.

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

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.

31. In Appendix C, do I count the CARES funding as "Prekindergarten Funding from Federal Sources"?

A: Yes. CARES Act funding should be included in Appendix C as "Prekindergarten Funding from Federal Sources".

32. Do we need to fill out Appendix D – the Quality Assurance Protocol?

A: No. Appendix D 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.

Questions and Answers for GC 22-010a - Universal Prekindergarten Expansion Grant for New Full-Day and Half-Day to Full-Day Placements for Four-Year-Old Students (Round 2)

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.

33. 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 preliminarily awarded a grant. Upon the official announcement from the Governor's office, a list will be made available to the public.