



# Illinois State Board of Education

## Early Childhood Block Grant FY 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity/ Request for Proposal Technical Assistance Webinar

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Equity • Quality • Collaboration • Community

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# Current Grantees

- Currently funded FY 2019, FY 2020, and FY 2023 cohorts do not have to complete this application **to maintain current funding.**
- Entities may apply for additional slots under this application – do not include current slots or funding in the new application.

# Entities That Are Eligible to Apply

- Regional Offices of Education
- Public school districts
- University laboratory schools approved by the Illinois State Board of Education
- Charter schools
- Area vocational centers
- Public or private not-for-profit or for-profit entities with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to young children and their families
  - Non-school district applicants must be operating at the time grant funds are awarded
- Entities previously not funded are eligible to apply

# Entities That Are Ineligible to Apply

- Entities within the city of Chicago
- Entities that are barred from receiving state or federal funds as a result of being on the Stop Payment list

# Funding Opportunities

Entities may apply for one or all funding opportunities:

- **Preschool for All (PFA)** provides at least 12.5 hours weekly of high-quality preschool 165 days per year.
- **Preschool for All Expansion (PFAE)** provides high-quality preschool programs that include a full school day of instruction 165 days per year and comprehensive services in the areas of medical, dental and mental health.
- **Prevention Initiative (PI)** provides intensive, research-based, and comprehensive child development and family support services for expectant parents and families with children from birth to age 3 in a center-based or home visiting model.

# Funding Information

- Total amount of funding available is contingent on appropriation by the Illinois General Assembly.
- ISBE anticipates making individual grant awards depending on information included in the proposal.
- Awarded funding will reflect the cost of operating a program for a minimum of 165 student attendance days per year.
- ISBE reserves the right to determine the number of slots awarded based on the number of slots the community needs to serve at least 80% of eligible children.
- Applicants may not be awarded for the full number of slots requested.

# Funding timeline

- Funding under this NOFO/RFP is to provide services within the FY 2024 program year by January 2024.
- Applicants that are not able to fully implement the PFA program during the FY 2024 program year will be granted additional time for program start-up.
- The program is expected to be fully implemented and serving children in FY 2025.



# Grant Period

- The competitive grants are to implement programs in FY 2024 and FY 2025.
- The grant period will begin no sooner than July 1, 2023, and will extend from the execution date of the grant until June 30, 2024.
- Funding in subsequent year will be contingent upon a sufficient appropriation for the program and satisfactory progress in the preceding grant period.

# Priority Points

- 20 points - Applicant is offering to provide services in preschool deserts.
- 25 points - Applications with no early childhood programming in place
- 10 points – Community-based organizations



# Preschool Deserts

## Identification

The following data sets were used in Identifying the deserts :

- 2022 Illinois Early Childhood Access Map data
- 2020 Census data
- FY 2023 Early Childhood Block Grant data

## FY 2024 NOFO/RFP Funding Priority

Preschool deserts are areas of the state in need of 15 or more slots to serve at least 80% of low-income 3- and 4-year-olds.

- 196 communities are identified as preschool deserts.
- 108/196 communities have no publicly funded preschool slots.

*A list of the priority communities (deserts) will be linked in the FY 2024 NOFO/RFP.*

*Applicants will locate the deserts by city, state, and ZIP code on the list along with the number of slots needed in that community.*

# Priority List Instructions

## What does the Priority List show?

- The Priority List identifies the district regions, counties, and ZIP codes that are “early childhood deserts.” An early childhood desert is an area of the state where there is an insufficient number of publicly funded slots to serve at least 80% of 3- and 4-year-old children from low-income families.

## Purpose of the Priority List?

The Priority list is designed to assist potential applicants in determining if they are located in a district region, county, or ZIP code that is identified as an early childhood desert.

## What data sources were used in the development of the Priority List?

- 2022 Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map data (i.e., number of Head Start and ECBG programs by county – excluding Chicago)
- 2020 Census data (i.e., data on poverty levels, number of children living in poverty)
- 2023 ECBG data (i.e., newly awarded programs, continuation programs, estimated number of children served, actual number of children served)



# Priority List Instructions

## **How many school district regions are considered preschool deserts?**

- A total of 196 districts/regions are identified with a gap of 15 or more seats.
- A total of 108 of these districts (or 5,100 seats) show a 100% need (i.e., there are as many needed seats as priority eligible children).

## **What requests in the application benefit from the information in the Priority List?**

- (1) Describe the area to be served indicated by high levels of poverty that has an insufficient number of other programs and services to fully serve all children and families who potentially could be at risk.
- (2) Indicate the number of slots needed to serve at least 80% of eligible children in the community and describe how the proposed program and activities align to the budget and will sufficiently meet the identified needs of the population to be served.
- (5) Describe how the program will target those children and families most in need of services who reside in in early childhood deserts and that are in need of additional slots to serve at least 80% eligible children.



# Priority List Instructions

## **How might an applicant use information from the Priority List in the response to Request 1?**

In describing “... the area to be served indicated by high levels of poverty that has an insufficient number of other programs and services to fully serve all children and families who potentially could be at risk,” the applicant may wish to identify the district region(s), ZIP code(s), and or county(ies) that constitute the area served by the applicant. Information on how the program participants does or will “feed” into extant programs – both community-based organizations and districts – is helpful in making a strong case of how the applicant will serve eligible children.

## **How might an applicant use information from the Priority List in the response to Request 2?**

The applicant may wish to use local information (i.e., data that the applicant possesses to make a case for need) and information in the Priority List (i.e., how information in the Priority List supports the local information) to indicate “... the number of slots needed to serve at least 80% of eligible children in the community ...”

## **How might an applicant use information from the Priority List in the response to Request 5?**

The applicant could build off and use information to the responses to Requests 1 and 2 to describe how the program will target eligible families in a district region, county, or/and ZIP code.



# Order of Awards

Proposals scoring over 60 points will be awarded in the following order:

- Applicants that demonstrate a seat gap of 100% and no available programming will be awarded first.
- Next, those applicants with a seat gap of 100% and evidence of some local programming will be awarded.
- Finally, all other awardable applications will be served.

# Joint Applications

- Joint applications for funds may be submitted by any combination of eligible applicants.
  - An administrative agent shall be designated.
  - A school district or other eligible applicant shall only participate in one proposal for a specific program.
- DCFS-licensed family child care homes are eligible to apply in joint applications with an administrative agent from a Local Education Agency or another eligible applicant.



# Grant Accountability and Transparency Act

- The Grant Accountability and Transparency Act requires applicants to complete prequalification requirements before applying for any grant.
- This includes completion of the grantee registration and prequalification process through the [Illinois GATA Web Portal](#).
- Grant applications must be submitted by the application deadline indicated in this NOFO/RFP.
- Applicants are advised to complete the prequalification requirements well in advance of the NOFO/RFP deadline.

# Grant Award Notice

- It is anticipated that successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award via email approximately 90 days after the application deadline.
- The award letter is NOT an authorization to begin performance or expenditures.
- After the merit-based appeal timeframe has ended, awardees will receive additional information from the program area that includes the next steps for finalizing the grant.

# Content and Form of Application Submission

- Each application must be submitted in the format outlined in the NOFO/RFP to be considered complete.
- A complete application will include all required components (the numbered items in the RFP) and signatures when required .
- Please use the checkboxes in front of the numbers as a checklist when assembling your application.
- It is advised to attach a copy of the completed checklist with the application.

# Program Narrative

- Program Narrative, Objectives, and Activities
  - Questions 1-16
  - Attachment 4
- Evaluation Design
  - Questions 17-18
  - Attachment 6
- Each question should be answered on the corresponding attachment.
- One page per question (**Do not include any additional information.**)

# Compliance Checklist

- Specific requirements for implementing each grant can be found within the Grant Compliance Checklist.
  - [Preschool for All/Preschool for All Expansion](#)
    - PFA Items 1-20; PFAE Items 1-37
  - [Prevention Initiative](#)
- Programs should refer to these requirements when responding to the questions in Attachment 4 and Attachment 6.



# Review Criteria

- Proposals that score under 60 points will not be funded.
- Selection Criteria
  - Section 1: Population to be Served (30 Points)
  - Section 2: Quality of Proposed Program (40 Points)
  - Section 3: Experience and Qualifications (20 Points)
  - Section 4: Cost Effectiveness (10 points)
  - Section 5: Priority Consideration (55 Points)
- Each criteria is worth up to 5 points.
- The attachment and question number in the parentheses following the criteria indicates where in the Program Narrative the evaluator will look to determine if the criteria has been met.

# Budget

- Budget Summary and Payment Schedule
  - Attachment 7
  - The budget **MUST** be submitted on this form. No other budget form will be accepted.
  - The payment schedule should be based on the projected date of expenditures.
  - For current grantees that are requesting additional seats, the budget should refer to **only the new slots** being requested.
- Budget Summary Breakdown
  - Attachment 8
  - Must include descriptions of the anticipated expenditures, correlated to the line items set forth on the Budget Summary and Payment Schedule.

# Submission Deadline

Two options for proposal submission:

- Proposals can be submitted electronically through the [ISBE Attachment Manager](#).
- Proposals can be emailed to [earlychi@isbe.net](mailto:earlychi@isbe.net).
- Proposals are due no later than 4 p.m. on June 14, 2023.



# Technical Assistance: Birth to Five Regional Team

- Share NOFO/RFP applications, Training and Technical Assistance dates, and any other relevant news via all 39 regional social media outlets and newsletters.
- Target outreach in preschool deserts to share the information, encourage providers to apply, and offer to support accessing data and other required materials.
- Convene stakeholders to discuss PFA needs in the region and identify possible applicants.
- Organize community meetings (co-hosted with community partners and council members) on the need for PFA (including how to apply).
- Connect applicants (especially CBOs) to grant-writing support where possible (including sharing past PFA NOFO/RFPs as examples).



# In Conclusion

- Make sure you are applying for the intended funding opportunity.
- Read through the NOFO/RFP in its entirety.
- Include all grant requirements - be thorough.
- Provide only what is listed in the RFP.
- Use ISBE links and resources for questions and more information.
- Proposals must be received no later than 4 p.m. on June 14, 2023.
- All RFP-related information can be found on the ISBE Early Childhood webpage.

# Questions

For more information, please visit the [ISBE Early Childhood Department webpage](#).

ISBE Early Childhood Department

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