

Fiscal Year 2025 Early Childhood Block Grant

Preschool for All, Preschool for All Expansion, and Prevention Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions -- Updated March 27, 2024

Question	Answer
1. When is the proposal due?	Proposals are due no later than 4 p.m. on May 16, 2024. (4:01 p.m. is considered late.)
2. How do I find the proposal?	The first step is to submit an Intent to Apply notification. The authorized official will be given IWAS access to the RFP systems. Any other staff members can go into IWAS and request access to the systems. The authorized official will need to grant access and an access level.
3. Can applicants apply for Prevention Initiative to provide home visiting services?	ISBE will not award new Prevention Initiative home visiting seats in FY 2025. The portion of the 25% PI set aside will be used to work toward aligning the ISBE home visiting program salaries with the Illinois Department of Human Services home visiting base salary requirements. This is a step toward the alignment of home visiting services across funding streams in Illinois.
4. Is this RFP for current grantees to maintain or increase funding?	The FY 2025 Early Childhood Block Grant RFPs are only for new grantees or current grantees that are wishing to add new slots (serve more children) . The RFP is not for current grantees to maintain funding or request additional funding for their current slots.
5. Can family child care homes apply by themselves?	Only eligible applicants may apply directly to ISBE for funding. Family child care homes licensed by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services are eligible to apply in a subcontracted effort with an administrative agent from a Local Education Agency or other eligible applicant.
6. Should an entity with multiple locations apply per site?	An RFP should be submitted by the fiscal agent. Each location where children will be served should be specified on the sites page.

<p>7. Should currently funded slots be included in the proposal narrative and budget?</p>	<p>The FY 2025 RFP should only be written for new slots. The budget in the application should only reflect new slots.</p>
<p>8. Can currently funded programs complete the grant to request additional funding to support the current program?</p>	<p>The FY 2025 RFPs are only for new slots.</p>
<p>9. If an entity has current preschool slots funded by district funds, can it apply to move these slots to the Preschool for All grant?</p>	<p>Any eligible applicant can apply for slots that are not currently funded by an Early Childhood Block Grant.</p>
<p>10. Can an entity that is not on the deserts list apply?</p>	<p>The list of preschool deserts will be used for priority points and to demonstrate need; however, any eligible applicant may apply.</p>
<p>11. Would current programs with two half-day sessions in each classroom be eligible to apply for the Preschool for All Expansion grant to turn those into full-day spaces (understanding funds from the original PFA award would need to be returned)?</p>	<p>Programs may write for Preschool for All Expansion for current PFA slots, but please keep in mind that the start dates for the continuation funds and for the newly awarded grants may not align.</p>
<p>12. What extent of services are required for medical, dental and mental health for a PFAE grant?</p>	<p>Please refer to the PFA/PFAE compliance checklist for grant requirements.</p>
<p>13. My center is not listed in a town as a desert area but the town directly next to us (and in the same county) is on the list. Does this still make us a desert area since we do have children from this town next to us?</p>	<p>Applicants that indicate a site location that is within a district region on the deserts list will be given priority points.</p>
<p>14. If we are writing to serve children in a licensed center, do we put the applicant's RCDT code or the code where the center is located?</p>	<p>Use the RCDT code at the top of your IWAS application. If the program already has a site code, use it; if the site is new, enter 0000.</p>
<p>15. If the locally funded program offers full-day preschool should it apply for the PFA or PFAE?</p>	<p>Please refer to the PFA/PFAE compliance checklist for grant requirements and the funding tab in the RFP for estimated funding amounts.</p>

16. Is the budget to be written for one year or two years?	The budget should reflect FY 2025 only.
17. Can a family child care be in more than one collaboration?	No, a family child care may only be in one application per funding opportunity.
18. What amount will be awarded?	Please refer to the funding tab in each RFP for the approximate per pupil amount to be funded.
19. How do we determine what to include in the budget?	When creating the budget, please review information in the RFP and program requirements stated on the compliance checklists for each grant.
20. What can indirect costs be used for?	Indirect costs can be used for any expenses not directly specified in the budget.
21. Can we apply for center-based Prevention Initiative if we don't have a preschool program?	Yes, entities can apply for center-based Prevention Initiative if they don't have a preschool program.