

Fiscal Year 2026 Support and Technical Assistance Regional Network (STAR NET)
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated 3/18/25

1. Who are eligible applicants?
 - Public school districts, Regional Offices of Education (ROEs), Intermediate Service Centers (ISCs), special education joint agreements and cooperatives, not-for-profit entities, public universities, public university laboratory schools approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), charter schools, and area vocational centers with the necessary expertise pursuant to this NOFO/RFP and demonstrated experience in providing technical assistance (TA) and training in Illinois are eligible to apply.
2. When is the due date?
 - The application is due by 4 p.m. on April 11, 2025.
3. How is this grant submitted?
 - Completed proposals should be scanned into PDF with all supporting documents and required signatures and submitted via the ISBE Attachment Manager. Choose “Early Childhood RFP” from the dropdown menu in Receiver Information. Submit the application using the button at the bottom of the page. The submission confirmation page should be printed and retained as proof of submission. Please contact earlychi@isbe.net PRIOR to the close of the NOFO/RFP if the ISBE Attachment Manager isn’t accepting applications
4. Can a fiscal agent apply for more than one STAR NET region?
 - Yes, a fiscal agent will indicate any regions they are applying for on Attachment 2.
5. Will applicants receive a receipt of submission when grants are submitted through the ISBE Attachment Manager?
 - The system shows a confirmation message on the screen. Applicants may print this for records.
6. What changes were made to the Program Narrative Requirement and Scoring Rubric regarding evaluation? *Added 3/7/25*
 - The Program Narrative Requirement Section on Page 14, Section III Evaluation a. originally stated, “Describe how ongoing evaluation based on the STAR NET logic model will be completed.” This has been changed to “Describe how ongoing evaluation will be completed

to ensure that the professional development system meets the needs of ECSE staff throughout the state.” A logic model is not required. This change is highlighted in yellow in the RFP.

- The Rubric on Page 17, Section III Evaluation in the first row originally stated, “The applicant demonstrates how ongoing evaluation based on the STAR NET logic model will be completed.” This has been changed to “The applicant demonstrates how ongoing evaluation will be completed to ensure that the professional development system meets the needs of ECSE staff throughout the state.” A logic model is not required. This change is highlighted in yellow on the RFP.

7. If the FY26 RFP award is made after the beginning of the fiscal year, will the grant be retroactive to July 1, 2025? *Added 3/18/25*

- Yes, the grant period is for July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026.