<table>
<tr><td colspan="3" align="center">**Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)**
Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG)
2019 RFP Webinar FAQ
Webinar Date: 4/24/19
Some questions paraphrased to encompass several similar questions</td></tr>
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#	Question	Answer
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#	Question	Answer
THIS SECTION APPLIES TO CURRENTLY FUNDED PROGRAMS ONLY **Please begin at "General Information" on Page 4 if you are not a currently funded program.**		
1	Do currently funded programs need to apply through this RFP if we want to keep the current number of spots we are serving?	No, programs not currently funded or those wishing to add additional slots should apply through this RFP. Currently funded programs who want to maintain their current number of slots should not apply through this RFP. Currently funded programs will be notified when the FY20 continuing grant application becomes available in IWAS.
2	If I am a currently funded program and want to keep the current number of spots we are serving but add additional quality components (i.e. parent educator, parent coordinator, instructional leaders, transportation, salary increases, reduce caseloads etc.) do I apply for additional funding through this RFP?	No, this is not the avenue to request additional funding. Should this opportunity become available, currently funded programs will be notified and provided details on how to do so.
3	Do the currently funded FY19 grants have funding for a total of 5 years?	The grant period for FY19 funded grants began July 1, 2018 and will extend from the execution date of the grant until June 30, 2019. Funding in the (4) subsequent years will be contingent upon a sufficient appropriation for the program and satisfactory progress in the preceding grant period.
4	Do currently funded programs wishing to add additional slots need to complete the entire RFP or just the budget?	Programs wanting to add slots will need to complete the entire RFP.

5	Several requirements have changed from the FY19 PI RFP to the FY20 RFP, including removing the requirement to incorporate a full home visiting model into the center-based approach. Do programs who received FY19 funding follow the FY19 RFP guidelines and Prevention Initiative Compliance Checklist (PICC), or should they follow the new FY20 guidelines? Will there be an updated PICC?	Currently funded PI programs will follow the revised FY20 checklist.
6	If a current program asks for additional slots, what can those funds be used for? Additional children, additional teachers, and additional Family Support staff? Can we also ask for an Infant Mental Health consultant to support the additional slots?	Currently funded programs may apply for funds to increase the number of children served as well as the staff to support the classroom.
7	Our PFA program was funded for 32 students, but we served 50 students this year. To get funded for the additional 18, do I need to write a RFP?	Yes
8	If we are working toward becoming a more inclusive program by including special education students are we able to write for this grant to add funding for the special education students, which were not previously served under the PFA grant?	Yes, any student with an IEP being served within a Preschool for All classroom is considered a Preschool for All student and funding can be requested. Special education services and needs (i.e. special education itinerant teacher, speech pathologist, adapted materials) cannot be funded through the Preschool for All grant and IDEA or local funds must be used. See Inclusion Model and Guidance Document
9	If a program chose an upward amendment would it be for a single year or the remainder of the grant?	If this opportunity becomes available, information will be shared.
10	Can a district apply only for the Birth to 3 grant if we do not apply for the Preschool for All grant?	Yes, each grant is separate. You may apply for the PI grant only.
11	Can existing grantees apply to serve more families in communities outside of our awarded contract?	Yes, this is for additional slots. Early Childhood Block Grant programs have no boundaries for students they can serve.

12	If a grantee has existing half-day PFA slots and would like to convert a portion of them to full-day slots following the PFA-E model, what is the appropriate method of doing this?	This is not an option right now.
13	If I am a currently funded program who has half day PFA slots, can I convert them to full day PFA slots?	Contact your principal consultant to discuss this.
14	How do we know if our current programs are funded again?	Currently funded programs will be notified when the FY20 continuing grant application becomes available in IWAS.
15	Do districts that already have funding have an advantage and receive additional points?	Currently funded programs will not receive additional points. See scoring criteria within the RFP.
16	Are PFA programs allowed to write for funding for family engagement staff or early childhood mental health staff, or is that reserved for PFAE?	See RFP Program Narrative Requirements, Objectives #13
17	The PFAE RFP states children served must be at least 3 years old and not age eligible for kindergarten. Eighty percent of enrolled children must have at least two risk factors or one highest priority selection factor according to the state determined weighted eligibility form. Will this apply to currently funded Expansion classrooms?	This applies to both new and current PFAE programs.
18	If the program is currently written for 20 seats per classroom, would we be able to add additional slots by submitting for classrooms of 15 and adding another class?	This RFP is to add additional slots. If you are restructuring the current classroom organization, contact your principal consultant.

	General Information	
1	Where can I get the Power Point presentation from today?	The recording of the webinar, along with slides, is posted on the RFP Early Childhood webpage
2	When will applicants be notified if they receive the grant?	It is anticipated that successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award from the state superintendent via e-mail approximately 90 days after the application deadline.
3	How can we request comments from the FY19 RFP application?	Send an email from the authorized official to earlychi@isbe.net to request comments.
4	Will priority be given to programs wishing to braid funds with EHS/HS, or additional slots?	Priority consideration shall be given to awardable proposals from entities that propose to offer services to children who reside in Tier 1 or Tier II district boundaries and that can document a local gap in service provision in their area i.e. an insufficient number of other programs and services to fully serve all children and families who potentially could be at risk. This would include communities with the highest need and least saturation. See FY 2019 EBF Distribution Quick Facts
5	Is there TA available for new applicants?	Information regarding this is not currently available.
6	Page 21 of the PI RFP refers to "Attachment __". Could you clarify the attachment number?	This refers to Attachment 13.
7	How frequently do you anticipate posting Q&As to the Early Childhood RFP website?	The FAQ will be updated as additional questions that have not been previously answered are submitted.
8	What is the turnaround time to receive the FY 19 comments?	These will be sent as soon as possible in the order requests are received.
9	Where can I find a list of Principal Consultants?	Call 217-524-4835 and the Early Childhood Division can let you know who your principal consultant is.

10	The website on the last slide is showing page not valid. What is the correct url?	https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Early-Childhood.aspx
11	Is ISBE offering grant writing services to assist us?	Information will be forthcoming regarding basic grant writing tips.
12	Do "slots" refer to additional students?	Yes, additional slots mean additional students. For example, if you are serving 20 students and want to serve an additional 20 students, 20 students would be considered additional slots.

	Evidence Based Funding District Tiers	
1	Where can I find the information about tiers on the ISBE website?	The list of tiers is linked within the RFP on Page 3, listed as FY 2019 EBF Distribution Quick Facts. You can find out more information on how Evidence Based Funding is calculated by visiting www.isbe.net/ebf2018.
2	Will Tier 3 and Tier 4 school districts be funded?	After all Tier 1 and 2 proposals have been funded, proposals from Tiers 3 and 4 would be considered based on the evidence of need and their score.
3	If community based sites are proposing to serve students in multiple school districts, how do we know if we are considered a Tier 1 or Tier 2 district?	If the applicant is proposing to serve children located within at least one Tier 1 or Tier 2 district/district boundaries, the application will be considered to serve Tier 1 or Tier 2 districts.
4	How does that affect those who are an ROE, and are not getting EBF?	If the applicant is proposing to serve children located within at least one Tier 1 or Tier 2 district/district boundaries, the application will be considered to serve Tier 1 or Tier 2 districts.

	Eligibility	
1	If we were not awarded PFA last year can we apply for this grant again?	Yes
2	Can funding be used to serve students and families who fall under the McKinney Vento Act?	Yes

3	Is CPS eligible to apply for this grant?	CPS has an RFP out as well. Programs proposing to serve children within the city limits of Chicago need to apply through that process. More information can be found at https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/fss/provdrs/child/alerts/2019/april/department-of-family-and-support-services--chicago-early-learnin.html?utm_source=MarketingCloud&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=illinois_policy&utm_term=action_alert&utm_content=dfss_rfp
4	Can an applicant who currently receives PI home visiting dollars through the Ounce of Prevention also request PFA dollars in a separate proposal? (i.e, in addition to being part of the Ounce's proposal for home visiting, can they apply on their own for center-based services)?	Yes you may apply for PFA dollars in a separate proposal
5	Who needs to apply for this RFP?	Programs not currently funded or those wishing to add additional slots may apply through this RFP. Currently funded programs who want to maintain their current number of slots should not apply through this RFP.
6	Can a new Early Childhood Collaboration be the applicant, even if they are not the direct service provider but would contract with LEAs and Private Child Care centers?	Currently funded and new Early Childhood Block Grant applicants from Regional Offices of Education, public school districts, university laboratory schools approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), charter schools, area vocational centers, and 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 are eligible to submit a proposal.
7	Are childcare centers eligible to apply?	Childcare centers are eligible to apply.

8	Can this be used for Pre K 5 -transitional class?	Refer to the compliance checklist and administrative rules for requirements of the grant. PFA/PFAE Compliance Checklist PI Compliance Checklist
9	If we are looking to change our local-funded EC program from self-contained into all blended, can we use this funding to support this change in programming?	Yes. This funding is to establish new Preschool for All classrooms.
10	If we locally fund a preschool program, are we eligible to apply for this grant or would that be considered supplanting?	Yes, locally funded programs are eligible to apply and this would not be considered supplanting.
Evaluating Proposals		
1	How do I know what my application will be scored according to?	The criteria section of the RFP includes all selection criteria and point values.
2	Will additional documentation outside what is asked for be considered in scoring?	No additional documentation will be considered in scoring.
3	Is an applicant allowed to copy a page of the Narrative Form to answer a question?	Each question has a specific attachment to provide the answer. No additional copies will be accepted.
Establishing Need/Local Gap in Services		
1	Please talk through the point of Priority Consideration?	Priority consideration shall be given to awardable proposals from entities that propose to offer services to children who reside in Tier 1 or Tier II district boundaries and that can document a local gap in service provision in their area i.e. an insufficient number of other programs and services to fully serve all children and families who potentially could be at risk. This would include communities with the highest need and least saturation. FY 2019 EBF Distribution Quick Facts
2	Does "local" mean school district boundaries in regards to for identification of "gap" in services?.	Yes

3	Should we include "private" programs like Montessori and faith based as we are working to identify gaps and prepare to meet the gap?	Include grant funded programs that receive state or federal funds.
4	The Program Community Needs Assessments is basically the survey we give to our district and community stakeholders each year, correct?	The needs assessment would have to document whether or not there is a need for additional services in the community.
5	How do you document a local gap in service provision in our area? There are no other PFA grants in our school district boundaries. We are a tier 1 school.	Local gap in services can be identified through letters from other providers or IECAM data, or completion of Attachments 12 and 13 or information from the programs community needs assessment documenting there is a need for additional slots in the community.
6	As a licensed center can I use my data from current enrollment proving that we have children not being served at other programs in our community?	Need is documented by letters from other providers or IECAM data, or completion of Attachments 12 and 13 or information from the programs community needs assessment documenting there is a need for additional slots in the community.
7	Do we include local programs that may have slots, but require children to be potty-trained, and therefore do not meet the needs of our families in the slot gap analysis? How is that figured in?	You would include grant funded programs that receive state or federal funds. Programs meeting this requirement would not require children to be potty-trained to enter the program.
8	If there are other PFA programs in our area located in public schools that do not provide full day child care services, what is needed to document a "gap in services?" We have may families who could benefit from services, but they do not want to have their children in school based programs and/or not able to transport them from a PFA program to our center.	See RFP on how to document a gap in services. Need is documented by letters from other providers or IECAM data, or completion of Attachments 12 and 13 or information from the programs community needs assessment documenting there is a need for additional slots in the community.
9	What are examples of providers who may submit letters that support a local gap in service?	Current ECBG program in the community, DHS home visiting programs, and Head Start.

| 10 | In previous years, "in your area" is a far larger area than your district. Does that still remain true? We have no PFA or Head Start in our district, but there are local communities that have them (we are a large rural district) | This refers to district boundaries |

	Programmatic Questions	
1	The Program-Specific Terms of the Grant in each RFP identify that travel expenses are subject to the rules for State employees outlined by the Governor's Travel Control Board. My understanding is that grantees are currently not permitted to use ECBG funds for out-of-state travel. Does the new guidance in the RFP change that policy and permit current and new grantees to use ECBG funds for relevant and necessary out-of-state travel? Is there a process for requesting approval?	Out of state travel expenses will be considered in the overall budget approval process. Please contact your Principal Consultant to further discuss this.
2	I am a community based program where would I find information about competitive salaries?	Contact your local school district. Teacher salary schedules are public information.
3	Is there an expected number of new slots to be requesting?	Programs should request the number of slots that are appropriate to your area.
4	Could you give more examples of what you are looking for in regards to experience and qualifications?	Requirements are listed within the RFP, compliance checklist, and administrative rules. PFA/PFAE Compliance Checklist PI Compliance Checklist
5	Could you give any more examples for the types of things you are looking for with regards to the different sections?	Requirements are listed within the RFP, compliance checklist, and administrative rules. PFA/PFAE Compliance Checklist PI Compliance Checklist
6	How soon will the new FY20 PICC be released?	The updated compliance checklists will be posted to the Early Childhood website once updated.

placeholder2

ph3

7	What do I need to do when the application does not hold the information entered?	Only proposals submitted using official RFP forms and attachments will be considered. Additional documents, unless requested, will not be evaluated.
8	Is PFAE the same as the federal PEG program?	PFAE is a similar model to the federal preschool expansion program, but with state money. Please read RFP for details of the grant.
9	If applying for the PFA expansion, does that include the incorporation of a social worker or can we add a social worker in the PFA?	Requirements are listed within the RFP, compliance checklist, and administrative rules. PFA/PFAE Compliance Checklist PI Compliance Checklist Special education services and needs (i.e. special education itinerant teacher, speech pathologist, adapted materials) cannot be funded through the Preschool for All grant and IDEA or local funds must be used.
10	Must an applicant have the Bachelor's level teacher at the time of application. We will have one at the program start date.	Programs need to meet requirements when the program begins, but all elements do not need to be in place to submit an application.
GATA		
1	Could you explain the difference between performance target and performance standard? The second target grantees are expected to meet quarterly is 100% capacity for enrollment, but the performance standard says programs are expected to maintain at least 60% enrollment.	Performance measures list the target level of performance for the program expressed as a measurable objective, against which actual achievement can be compared, including a goal expressed as a quantitative standard, value, or rate. Performance standards provide the minimum thresholds for acceptable performance and should correlate to Performance Measures. Once the grantee goes below this threshold remedial action should be implemented by the program area or the grantee can be removed from the program.

2	What is the stop payment list? How do we find out if we are on the stop payment list?	Grantees and applicants are subject to Section 25(6)(G) through (I) of the grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA; PA 98-0706), which restricts issuing grants, subgrants and Cooperative Agreements to parties that are debarred, suspended or otherwise deemed ineligible for participation in State grant programs or activities. GATA is utilizing a statewide Grantee Compliance Enforcement System (GCES) to drive compliance with grant requirements. More information on the system can be found at https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/GATA/Documents/Resource%20Library/GCES%20Framework%2010-18%20Final.pdf Applicants will need to check their pre-qualification status in the Illinois Grantee Portal https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/
3	Is this the same GATA that DHS-DDD uses for their grants?	Yes, the Illinois GATA legislation applies to all grants issued by state agencies throughout Illinois.
4	We just completed the ICQ & Assessment documents for a DHS_DDD grant. Do we have to do it again for this program?	The Fiscal Risk Assessment or ICQ, found within the Illinois Grantee portal, is only completed once each fiscal year. If you have completed it already, you will not need to do it again for this program. A portion of the programmatic risk will be completed in the Illinois Grantee portal. That portion is not available at this time. An announcement will be released when it becomes available. The program portion of the programmatic risk will only be completed by those entities that are awarded the grant.

	Funding	
1	Will a funding formula be used in awarding grants?	Individual grant awards are based on sufficient appropriation by the Illinois General Assembly. ISBE anticipates making individual grant awards with priority given to proposals from entities that propose to offer services to children who reside in Tier 1 or Tier II district boundaries and that can document a local gap in service provision in their area. Awarded funding will reflect the cost of operating a program. Applicants should request funds to facilitate services to the most at-risk families.
2	Is there a target or average cost per child applicants should be aware of when developing their budgets?	Individual grant awards are based on sufficient appropriation by the Illinois General Assembly. ISBE anticipates making individual grant awards with priority given to proposals from entities that propose to offer services to children who reside in Tier 1 or Tier II district boundaries and that can document a local gap in service provision in their area. Awarded funding will reflect the cost of operating a program. Applicants should request funds to facilitate services to the most at-risk families.
3	If funded, will these slots be refunded in years to come? What is the grant period?	Funding is for 4 years total pending state funding. The grant period will begin no sooner than July 1, 2019 and will extend from the execution date of the grant until June 30, 2020. Funding in the (3) subsequent years will be contingent upon a sufficient appropriation for the program and satisfactory progress in the preceding grant period.
4	Will grant awardees receive the same dollars per student as the FY19 grant?	Funding information is not available at this time.