Inclusive Early Learning and Care Coordination Grant Request for Applications Webinar

December 12, 2018
Inclusion Coordination Grants

- The California Department of Education (CDE), Early Learning and Care Division (ELCD) and Special Education Division (SED), are accepting applications from county offices of education (COEs) for the Inclusive Early Learning and Care Coordination Program grants.
Program Description

This grant program is to support the inclusion of children with disabilities and other exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities, in early learning and care settings pursuant to

(1) Parts B and Part C of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Subchapter II commencing with Section 1411) and

(2) Subchapter 3 (commencing with Section 1431) of Chapter 33 of Title 20 of the United States Code) for infants and toddlers
Purposes (1)

• Ensuring greater rates of enrollment in early learning and care settings for children with disabilities and other exceptional needs, including those with severe disabilities.

• Increasing and building capacity for inclusive early learning and care programs.
Purposes (2)

- Increasing access to early learning and care for children representing a broad range of disability types and different levels of severity.

- Improving child outcomes for children with disabilities and other exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities, as measured by state assessments, achievement of learning objectives, the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) and other state and local measures.
Responsibilities (1)

• Coordinate and collaborate with local resources to support children with disabilities and other exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities within their county or region.

• Coordinate and leverage other state and federal investments directed towards supporting children with disabilities and other exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities.

• Communicate regularly with the CDE ELCD and SED.
Responsibilities (2)

- Coordinate with California Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), Quality Counts California (QCC) to ensure participating ELC sites also are participating in their local QCC.
- Develop broadly applicable resources that can be shared statewide.
- Commit to providing program data through program evaluation by submitting year-end reports for 2019 and 2020.
Overview

• The California Department of Education (CDE) Early Learning and Care (ECLD) announces the availability of $10 million in Prop 98 funds to be dispersed to successful COE applicants.

• The CDE will disburse these funds according to a funding formula to each region according to need, with priority given to areas with low enrollment of children with special needs in regular education programs.
In Statutes of 2018, Assembly Bill 1808, the Inclusive Early Care Pilot Program, now known as the Inclusive Early Learning and Care Coordination Program, shall be established for the purpose of increasing access to inclusive early learning and care programs.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the State Department of Developmental Services and the State Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention, shall develop a grant program for county offices of education to support the inclusion of children with disabilities in early learning and care settings.
Request for Applications

The posted IELCCP RFA can be found at:

https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/f0/r2/ielccp1819rfa.asp
Three Sections of Application

The application includes three types of information:

- Application Information
- Application Narrative and Data Tables
- Itemized Budget Narrative and Budget
Application Information

• Lead COE information, including Superintendent’s signature
• IELCCP Program Lead information
• IELCCP Fiscal Lead information
• If submitted as a consortium, the name and signature of each participating COE must be included
Application Narrative
Form C - Section A
A narrative description and current data and key activities to increase capacity for inclusive early learning and care

• A1. Describe the current key activities and strategies (if any) by the COE to ensure children with disabilities and other exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities, have access to inclusive ELC programs.

• A2. Explain past initiatives for, and a history of working on expansion of inclusive ELC for children with disabilities and other exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities.

• A4. Describe the number of current children birth to five by disability type, in an inclusive environment.
Form C - Section A. 3

- A3. Include the current County/Regional data for children with disabilities and other exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities.

Please see pages 15-16 of the RFA application.
Form C - Section B

A narrative description of past barriers to increase capacity for inclusive early learning and care

• B. What are the barriers to expansion of inclusive ELC within the county/region?
A narrative description of how the COE will utilize this grant to increase capacity for inclusive early learning and care

• C1. Describe how this grant will be used to increase access to subsidized inclusive early learning and care programs for children up to five years of age with disabilities and other exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities. Include strategies used to support key activities described in question A1.
• C2. Describe how you plan to partner with the possible agencies listed below to accomplish these key activities.
  – Alternative Payment Program
  – Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
  – Local Education Agencies
  – Local Planning Council
  – Local Quality Rating and Improvement System, Quality Counts Consortium
  – Publicly funded Early ELC Providers
  – Private ELC Settings
  – Regional Centers
  – Special Education Local Planning Area
  – Tribal Nations
  – Other
Form C - Section C: C3-C5

• C3. How will the applicant coordinate and leverage other state and federal investments directed towards supporting children with disabilities and other exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities? Please specifically address both Part C (Regional Centers) and Part B (SELPAs)

• C4. How will this grant increase capacity for children representing a broad range of disability types and levels of severity?

• C5. Describe the willingness and capacity to share resources developed through the IELCCP on a statewide basis.
Form C - Section C: C6

• C6. How will this grant be used for building local and regional capacity to support increased access for children with disabilities and other exceptional needs, including children with severe disabilities, to inclusive learning and care programs? Describe how increased access will happen through the following activities. Write a narrative after the name of the type of activity.

  – Outreach Coordinators
  – Placement Navigators
  – Coordination and provision of resources or adaptive equipment
  – Providing professional learning, certifications or licenses
  – Providing assessment or evaluation tools and licenses
  – Offering training for parents and families
  – Behavioral specialists or mental health professionals
  – Other Coordination
• C7. Describe how you plan to provide program data and participate in overall program evaluation to ensure expanded access to inclusive environments, as specified by the SSPI, as a condition of receiving grant funding. Data must be submitted between June 2019 and June 2020.
Form C - Section D

• **Budget Narrative:** Prepare a narrative that supports the budget, providing full time equivalents and resumes for key personnel and explanation of the functions provided by subcontractors.
Form C - Section E

• **Budget:** Submit an Excel spreadsheet using state accounting (e.g., 1000 for Personnel) and approved indirect rate. Applicants are to separate funding into two fiscal years and provide a total budget, in accordance with the California School Accounting Manual at https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/ac/sa/documents/csam2016complete.pdf.
Application Timelines

- RFA release date: December 12, 2018
- Letter of Intent to apply: January 11, 2019
- Applications due to ECLD: January 25, 2019
- Intent to Award posted: February 8, 2019
- Appeals due to ECLD: February 8-18, 2019
- Final Awards posted: February 20, 2019
- Grant start date: March 1, 2019
Applicant Eligibility

The RFA funding opportunity is available to:

• County Offices of Education
• Several COE agencies may elect to apply as a consortium with one COE acting as the lead.
• The CDE requires that all COEs are included and reserves the right to contact neighboring COEs to partner with a COE that was not included in a letter of intent.
Letter of Intent

- The Letter of Intent to apply for IELCCP grant is due January 11, 2019.

- Form A is the template for the Letter of Intent and can be found on page 14 of the IELCCP RFA document.
Application Submission

Applicants must submit an electronic copy of the application by email on or before January 25, 2019 to IELCCP@cde.ca.gov.

Additionally, applicants should mail (postmarked no later than January 25, 2019), or personally hand-deliver a hard copy application at or before 5:00 p.m. on January 25, 2019 at the following address:

California Department of Education
Early Learning and Care Division
Attn: IELCCP Applications
1430 N Street, Suite 3410
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901
Confirmation of Application

The applicant will receive email confirmation of the submitted application. If changes need to be made, resubmit the entire application prior to the submission deadline.

- The last submitted application will be the one considered for review.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
Application Review Process (1)

- All applications meeting RFA requirements will be read and scored by trained readers from the ELCD and SED. Applications will be randomly assigned to readers, taking into consideration any conflicts of interests. Readers will base their scores on the degree to which an application provides evidence that it meets the RFA requirements.

- Applications will be evaluated by at least two readers.

- Application reviews will occur during the timeframe identified in critical dates.
Application Review Process (2)

• Applicants meeting the approval threshold may also be required to participate in an interview prior to awards being made with the CDE and an opportunity to make the necessary revisions.

• A scoring rubric will be used as the basis for rating applications.

• The score will be based on a competitive review of the quality of the application, the articulated need, and the ability of the COE to meet such needs.
Technical Assistance

Help Desk

Help is available to respond to clarifying questions regarding the RFA. Applicants should submit requests for clarification to IELCCP@cde.ca.gov. Please write IELCCP RFA Question in the subject line.
Appeal Process

To appeal, submit a Letter of Appeal to the CDE. Appeals are limited to the grounds that the application process described in the RFA was not followed.

An applicant wishing to appeal must:

• Submit a full and complete written notice of appeal to the CDE within ten (10) calendar days of the posting of the intent to award announcement, including the reason for appeal, the issue(s) in dispute, legal authority or other basis for the appellant’s position and the remedy sought.
Submission of Appeal

Submit a letter of appeal by mail or in person to:

Inclusive Early Learning and Care Coordination Program
Early Learning and Care Division
California Department of Education
1430 N Street, Suite 3410
Sacramento, CA 95814-5901

Appeals to the ELCD must be postmarked within ten days of posting of the Intent to Award grantees.
Notification of Award

On **February 8, 2019** the CDE will post an Intent to Award list of grantees. This is an initial notification and is not the final list of grantees. The final funding list will be posted on the CDE Web site when all data is verified and appeals are decided. Applicants are advised not to obligate funds based on this list.

The final funding list for award recipients will be posted on the CDE Web site on **February 20, 2019**. Grant Award Notification Letters will be mailed to recipients.
16-month Grant Period

- Grant start date is **March 1, 2019**.

- The end date for the grant is **June 30, 2020**.
Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the RFA, please submit your questions by e-mail to

IELCCP@cde.ca.gov