

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

FY 2020

LOCAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The purpose of the Quality Enhancement Grant Program is to provide funding for School Readiness programs that focus on education and early care that addresses the School Readiness quality components and/or expands comprehensive services for children and families.

Legislative Authority
C.G.S. Section 17b-749c

DUE DATE

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Name: _____
Agency (if applicable): _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Primary Contact: _____
Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

FISCAL AGENT (if applicable)

Name: _____
Agency (if applicable): _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Primary Contact: _____
Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

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OVERVIEW

Purpose:

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) shall establish a program, within available appropriations, to provide on a competitive basis supplemental quality enhancement grants to providers of child day care services or providers of school readiness programs pursuant to Connecticut General Statute (C.G.S.) Section 10-16p and Section 10-16u to enhance the quality of early childhood education programs. Child day care providers and school readiness programs in priority school districts and competitive school readiness municipalities may apply for a quality enhancement grant. These applicants must use their local School Readiness Council to review and recommend projects for funding.

The purpose of the QE grant is to provide funding for early care and education programs to address quality standards and/or expand comprehensive services for children and families. C.G.S. Section 17b-749c identifies the following as appropriate use of grant funds:

1. Help providers who are not accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children to obtain such accreditation;
2. Help directors and administrators to obtain training;
3. Provide comprehensive services, such as enhanced access to health care, a health consultant, a mental health consultant, nutrition, family support services, parent education, literacy and parental involvement, and community and home outreach programs; and provide information concerning access when needed to a speech and language therapist;
4. Purchase educational equipment;
5. Provide scholarships for training to obtain a credential in early childhood education or child development;
6. Provide training for persons who are mentor teachers, as defined in federal regulations for the Head Start program, and provide a family service coordinator or a family service worker as such positions are defined in such federal regulations;
7. Repair fire, health and safety problems in existing facilities and conduct minor remodeling to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act; train child care providers on injury and illness prevention; and achieve compliance with national safety standards;
8. Create a supportive network with family day care homes and other providers of care for children;
9. Provide for educational consultation and staff development;
10. Provide for program quality assurance personnel;
11. Provide technical assistance services to enable providers to develop child care facilities pursuant to C.G.S. Sections 17b-749g, 17b-749h and 17b-749i;
12. Establish a single point of entry system; and
13. Provide services that enhance the quality of programs to maximize the health, safety and learning of children from birth to three years of age, inclusive, including, but not limited to, those children served by informal child care arrangements. Such grants may be used for the improvement of staff to child ratios and interaction, initiatives to promote staff retention, pre-literacy development, parent involvement, curriculum content and lesson plans.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are individuals, agencies, or contractors that wish to compete for accessing or implementing the activities proposed by the municipality in accordance with the purpose of the QE grant.

Cover Sheet

The format for the cover sheet appears on the initial page of this document. The cover sheet must include the name of the individual, agency, or contractor and fiscal agent information, if relevant. The municipality may amend the cover sheet to capture information needed to process contracts.

Application of Activity Implementation

To compete for an opportunity to implement a proposed activity that the municipality has chosen, complete the *Application for Activity Implementation* and any other forms required by the municipality.

Evaluation

Using the *Evaluation Chart*, describe the methods and procedures that will be used to determine if, and to what extent, the objectives of the proposal will be achieved. A narrative page may be added if the applicant needs to provide greater detail than the chart allows. The OEC may use data collected from your evaluations in a report describing the use of the Quality Enhancement funds and the impact of the activities toward the intended goals of the grant.

Budget Forms and Access to Funds

Using the appropriate form(s), indicate how the activity funds will be expended through June 30, 2020. There are no administrative, indirect costs, or carry-over funds allowed. The recipient of the award will work with the School Readiness liaison and/or the School Readiness fiscal agent regarding appropriate fiscal accountability.

Budget Justification

Provide detailed explanation of each line item expenditure in your proposed budget.

Statement of Assurances

The Statement of Assurances must be signed by the applicant.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Obligations of Grantees and Sub-Grantees

All bidders are hereby notified that the grant to be awarded is subject to contract compliance requirements as set forth in the C.G.S. Section 4a-60, 4a-60a and Sections 4a-68j-l et seq. of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Furthermore, the grantee must submit periodic reports of its employment and sub-contracting practices in such form, in such manner and in such time as may be prescribed by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

Freedom of Information Act

All of the information contained in a proposal submitted in response to this Request for Proposal (RFP) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Sections 1-200 et seq. The FOIA declares that, except as provided by federal law or state statute, records maintained or kept on file by any public agency (as defined in the statute) are public records and every person has the right to inspect such record and receive a copy of such records.

Management Control of the Program and Grant Consultation

The Grantee must have complete management control of this grant. While the OEC staff may be consulted for their expertise, they will not be directly responsible for the selection of sub-grantees or vendors, nor will they be directly involved in the expenditure and payment of funds.

State Monitoring

The State may conduct site visits to grantees and sub-grantees funded under this grant program to monitor a community's progress and compliance with the intent of the legislative act.

Delivery of Applications

Delivery of the Local RFP for the School Readiness Program application is required by _____ on _____.

1. Original, hard-copy signature pages (Statement of Assurances) must be mailed or hand-delivered to _____.
2. The RFP and original signatures **must be received by _____ on _____, IRRESPECTIVE OF POSTMARK DATE.** Faxed or scanned copies of signatures will not be accepted.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Late or incomplete applications MAY not be considered for funding.

Mailing/Delivery address and email is:

Review of Proposals and Grant Awards

The municipality shall review all applications and put forward to the OEC those proposals that show favorable promise in the implementation of the proposed activity.

Other Program Requirements

Within sixty (60) days after the close of the fiscal year, each grantee must file a financial statement of expenditures with the OEC on such forms as the OEC may require.

Reservations and Restrictions

The School Readiness Council or the Office of Early Childhood reserves the right not to fund an applicant or grantee/sub-grantee if it is determined that the grantee/sub-grantee cannot manage the fiscal responsibilities required under this grant.

STATEMENT OF NEED, GOALS AND INDICATORS OF PROGRESS

For each proposed activity, please provide a detailed description of the need for the activity, the intended goals and indicators of progress toward the goals. Provide the expected cost of each activity and the resources that could support the implementation of the activity. Copy this page as needed to describe each activity and provide a summary on the chart provided.

Town:	Contractor:
<i>Activity and Activity Description:</i>	
<i>Expected Cost:</i>	
<i>Possible Resources:</i>	
<i>Population (number of children, staff, and programs served by this activity):</i>	
<i>Statement of Need:</i>	
<i>Goals:</i>	
<i>Indicators of Progress:</i>	
<i>Grant Objectives Addressed:</i>	
<i>Plan for Activity Evaluation:</i>	

BUDGET

Each applicant is required to complete a **School Readiness QE Local Budget Workbook** (see attachments) which contains two tabs: (1) Budget Justification and (2) ED114.

On the **Budget Justification** tab, provide a brief explanation justifying each line item expenditure proposed in the grant budget. Justifications for line item expenses must reflect the programs needs to ensure high-quality programming for children.

The ED114 is a detailed line item budget that reflects the programs requested use of funds for **FY 2020**. (*Budget total must equal the requested Quality Enhancement funds*).

BUDGET OBJECT CODES

General Description

The OEC is using object code definitions from the United States Department of Education publication "Financial Accounting for Local and State School Systems." (<https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2015/2015347.pdf>) Per federal definition, an object is used to describe the service or commodity obtained as the result of a specific expenditure. Please review the instructions for specific grant budget development carefully before requesting an ED114 form from the Bureau of Grants Management.

Master Budget Form Object Code Descriptions/Includable Items

111A Non-Instructional

Amounts paid to administrative employees of the grantee not involved in providing direct services to pupils/clients. Include all gross salary payments for these individuals while they are on the grantee payroll including overtime salaries or salaries paid to employees of a temporary nature.

111B Instructional

Salaries for employees providing direct instruction/counseling to pupils/clients. This category is used for both counselors and teachers. Include all salaries for these individuals while they are on the grantee payroll including overtime salaries or salaries of temporary employees. Substitute teachers or teachers hired on a temporary basis to perform work in positions of either a temporary or permanent nature are also reported here. Tutors or individuals whose services are acquired through a contract are not included in the category. A general rule of thumb is that a person for whom the grantee is paying employee benefits and who is on the grantee payroll is included; a person who is paid a fee with no grantee obligation for benefits is not.

200 Personal Services - Employee Benefits

Amounts paid by the grantee on behalf of the employees whose salaries are reported in objects 100 or 111A and 111B. These amounts are not included in the gross salary, but are in addition to that amount. Such payments are fringe benefit payments and, while not paid directly to employees, nevertheless are part of the cost of personal services. Included are the employer's cost of group insurance, social security contribution, retirement contribution, tuition reimbursement, unemployment compensation and workmen's compensation insurance.

320 Professional Educational Services

Services supporting the instructional program and its administration. Included are curriculum improvement services, assessment, counseling and guidance services, library and media support, and contracted instructional services.

321 Tutors (Instructional Non-Payroll Services)

Payments for services performed by qualified persons directly engaged in providing learning experiences for students. Include the services of teachers and teachers' aides who are not on the payroll of the grantee.

- 322 In-service (Instructional Program Improvement Services)
Payments for services performed by persons qualified to assist teachers and supervisors to enhance the quality of the teaching process. This category includes curriculum consultants, in-service training specialists, etc., who are not on the grantee payroll.
- 323 Pupil Services (Non-Payroll Services)
Expense for certified or licensed individuals who are not on the grantee payroll and who assist in solving pupils' mental and physical problems. This category includes medical doctors, therapists, audiologists, neurologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, contracted guidance counselors, etc.
- 324 Field Trips
Costs incurred for conducting educational activities off site. Includes admission costs to educational centers, fees for tour guides, etc.
- 325 Parental Activities
Expenditures related to services for parenting including workshop presenters, counseling services, baby-sitting services, and overall seminar/workshop costs.
- 330 Employee Training and Development Services
Services supporting the professional and technical development of school district personnel, including instructional, administrative, and service employees. Included are course registration fees (that are not tuition reimbursement), charges from external vendors to conduct training courses (at either school district facilities or off-site), and other expenditures associated with training or professional development by third-party vendors.
- 340 Other Professional Services
Professional services other than educational services that support the operation of the school district. Included, for example, are medical doctors, lawyers, architects, auditors, accountants, therapists, audiologists, dieticians, editors, negotiations specialists, paying agents, systems analysts, and planners.
- 341 Audit
Direct cost for the audit of the grant program by an independent auditor. This category is separated from object code 340 as many grants do not include this cost as an eligible grant expenditure.
- 350 Technical Services
Services to the school district that are not regarded as professional, but that require basic scientific knowledge, manual skills, or both. Included, for example, are data-processing services, purchasing and warehousing services, and graphic arts.
- 400 Purchased Property Services
Services purchased to operate, repair, maintain, and rent property owned or used by the grantee. These services are performed by persons other than grantee employees. While a product may or may not result from the transaction, the primary reason for the purchase is the service provided.
- 500 Other Purchased Services
Amounts paid for services rendered by organizations or personnel not on the payroll of the grantee (separate from Professional and Technical Services or Property Services). While a product may or may not result from the transaction, the primary reason for the purchase is the service provided.
- 600 Supplies

Amounts paid for items that are consumed, worn out, or deteriorated through use, or items that lose their identity through fabrication or incorporation into different or more complex units or substances.

700 Property

Expenditures for acquiring fixed assets, including land or existing buildings, improvements of grounds, initial equipment, additional equipment, and replacement of equipment.

M. REQUIRED LANGUAGE (NON-DISCRIMINATION)

References in this section to “contract” shall mean this grant agreement and to “contractor” shall mean the Grantee.

- a) For purposes of this Section, the following terms are defined as follows:
- 1) “Commission” means the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities;
 - 2) “Contract” and “contract” include any extension or modification of the Contract or contract;
 - 3) “Contractor” and “contractor” include any successors or assigns of the Contractor or contractor;
 - 4) “Gender identity or expression” means a person’s gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person’s physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person’s core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose;
 - 5) “good faith” means that degree of diligence which a reasonable person would exercise in the performance of legal duties and obligations;
 - 6) “good faith efforts” shall include, but not be limited to, those reasonable initial efforts necessary to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements and additional or substituted efforts when it is determined that such initial efforts will not be sufficient to comply with such requirements;
 - 7) “marital status” means being single, married as recognized by the state of Connecticut, widowed, separated or divorced;
 - 8) “mental disability” means one or more mental disorders, as defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association’s “Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders”, or a record of or regarding a person as having one or more such disorders;
 - 9) “minority business enterprise” means any small contractor or supplier of materials fifty-one percent or more of the capital stock, if any, or assets of which is owned by a person or persons: (1) who are active in the daily affairs of the enterprise, (2) who have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise, and (3) who are members of a minority, as such term is defined in subsection (a) of Connecticut General Statutes §32-9n; and
 - 10) “public works contract” means any agreement between any individual, firm or corporation and the State of any political subdivision of the State other than a community for construction, rehabilitation, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of a public building, highway or other changes or improvements in real property, or which is financed in whole or in part by the State, including, but not limited to, matching expenditures, grants, loans, insurance or guarantees.

For purposes of this Section, the terms “Contract” and “contract” do not include a contract where each contractor is (1) a political subdivision of the state, including, but not limited to, a community, (2) a quasi-public agency, as defined in Connecticut General Statutes § 1-120, (3) any other state, including but not limited to any federally recognized Indian tribal governments, as defined in Connecticut General Statutes § 1-267, (4) the federal government, (5) a foreign government, or (6) an agency of a subdivision, agency, state or government described in the immediately preceding enumerated items (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5).

- b) (1) The Contractor agrees and warrants that in for performance of the Contract such Contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such Contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut; and the Contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by the Contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved; (2) the Contractor agrees, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, to state that it is an “affirmative action-equal opportunity employer” in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commission; (3) the contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which the contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which the Contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission, advising the labor union or workers’ representative of the Contractor’s commitments under this section and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; (4) the Contractor agrees to comply with each provision of this Section and Connecticut General Statutes §46a-68e and §46a-68f and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §46a-56, 46a-68e and 46a-68f.; and (5) the Contractor agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the Contractor as relate to the provisions of this Section and Connecticut General Statutes §46a-56. If the contract is a public works contract, the Contractor agrees and warrants that he will make good faith efforts to employ minority business enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers of materials on such public works projects.
- c) Determination of the Contractor’s good faith efforts shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following factors: The Contractor’s employment and subcontracting policies, patterns and practices; affirmative advertising, recruitment and training; technical assistance activities and such other reasonable activities or efforts as the Commission may prescribe that are designed to ensure the participation of minority business enterprises in public works projects.
- d) The Contractor shall develop and maintain adequate documentation, in a manner prescribed by the Commission, of its good faith efforts.
- e) The Contractor shall include the provisions of subsection (b) of this Section in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the State and such provisions shall be binding on a subcontractor, vendor or manufacturer unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §46a-56; provided if such Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the Contractor may request the State of Connecticut to

enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the State and the State may so enter.

- f) The Contractor agrees to comply with the regulations referred to in this Section as they exist on the date of this Contract and as they may be adopted or amended from time to time during the term of this Contract and any amendments thereto.
- g) (1) The Contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the Contract such Contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or the State of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their sexual orientation; (2) the Contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which such Contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under this section, and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; (3) the Contractor agrees to comply with each provision of this section and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §46a-56; and (4) the Contractor agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the Contractor which relate to the provisions of the Section and Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-56.
- h) The Contractor shall include the provisions of the foregoing paragraph in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the State and such provisions shall be binding on a subcontractor, vendor or manufacturer unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §46a-56; provided, if such contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the Contractor may request the State of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the State and the State may so enter.
- N. The grant award is subject to approval of the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and availability of state or federal funds.
- O. The applicant agrees and warrants that Sections 4-190 to 4-197, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes concerning the Personal Data Act and Sections 10-4-8 to 10-4-10, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies promulgated there under are hereby incorporated by reference.
- P. The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood reserves the right to negotiate terms, including the withholding of funds, based on the grantee's inability to comply with the assurances.
- Q. The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood reserves the right to de-fund sub-grantees of the School Readiness Council based on the sub-grantee's inability to comply with School Readiness General Policies.

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES SIGNATURE PAGE

I, the undersigned authorized official; do hereby certify that these assurances shall be fully implemented.

Signature of Official: _____

Name: (please type) _____

Title: (please type) _____

Date: _____

To be signed below **ONLY** if the Fiscal Agent is other than the program applying for the funds:

Signature of Fiscal Agent: _____ **Date:** _____

Name & Title (please print): _____