

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EQUITY FUND
FAQs**

January 14, 2020

Q: Who is eligible to apply?

A: To apply for an Early Childhood Equity Fund grant, the following eligibility criteria must be met:

- (1) Be a culturally specific organization or operate a culturally specific early learning program
- (2) Serve communities within the geographic boundaries of Oregon or serve communities within Indian country of a federally recognized Indian tribe that is within the geographic boundaries of Oregon
- (3) Demonstrate experience providing outreach, support and resources to children and families who experience systemic disparities because of two or more of the following factors:
 - (a) Race
 - (b) Ethnicity
 - (c) English language proficiency
 - (d) Socioeconomic status
 - (e) Geographic location (urban, rural, neighborhoods)
- (4) Have people in leadership positions (e.g., directors, managers and board members) that belong to the cultural community served.

If your organization meets the above criteria, you are eligible to apply.

Q: What do you mean by “culturally specific organization” and “culturally specific program”?

A: According to definitions included in the draft Early Childhood Equity Fund rules:

“Culturally Specific Organization” means an organization that serves a particular cultural community and is primarily staffed and led by members of that community; these organizations demonstrate intimate knowledge of lived experience of the community, including but not limited to the impact of structural and individual racism or discrimination on the community; knowledge of specific disparities documented in the community and how that influences the structure of their program or service; ability to describe the community’s cultural practices, health and safety beliefs/practices, positive cultural identity/pride/resilience, immigration

dynamics, religious beliefs, etc. and how their services have been adapted to those cultural norms.

“Culturally Specific Early Learning Program” means a program that is designed to serve a particular cultural community and is primarily staffed and led by members of that community and designed by or adapted by members of the cultural community that it serves.

Q: Will we be able to use this funding to develop new program services within existing agencies or will there be specifically targeted areas that are prioritized?

A: Applicants may apply for program grants and/or planning grants. Program grants are grants to deliver culturally specific programs (see below). Planning grants are designed to help culturally specific organizations build their capacity to deliver culturally specific early learning programs.

Early Childhood Equity Fund grants are available for the following programs:

- **Parenting Education:** Education programs focusing on enhancing parenting practices and behaviors such as developing and enhancing positive parenting techniques, learning age-appropriate child development skills and milestones, promoting positive play and interaction between parent and children and locating accessing community services and supports.
- **Parent-Child Interaction:** Programs based on direct coaching of the parent to positively influence the parent’s interactions with the child and as a result positively influence the child’s behaviors and bonding between the parent and child.
- **Kindergarten Transition:** Targeted intervention programs that help incoming kindergartners begin school on common ground and ready for success regardless of their preschool experience or background.

Q: Can a single grant [application] address both program expansion and program development [or planning] in one application or are these funding streams separate?

A: Applicants may apply for both a program grant and a planning grant. The aim is for the electronic grant application system to permit a single application from an organization for both types of grant proposals. Check back for more information on this.

Q: Who can be a fiscal agent?

A: “Fiscal Agents” are not part of the Early Childhood Equity Fund Program.

Q: Is this a one year grant opportunity or are there opportunities for multi-year funding?

A: This is a multi-year funding opportunity. Early Childhood Equity Fund grants shall be awarded on a competitive basis by July of each calendar year in accordance with timelines established by the Early Learning Division. Program grants will be made for a period not to exceed a state fiscal biennium and may be renewed for up to two biennia as determined by availability of funds and program outcomes.

Planning grants will be made for a period not to exceed a state fiscal biennium and may be converted to a program grant for up to two additional biennia as determined by availability of funds and program outcomes. Organizations may then reapply for funding.

Q: Regarding Rules: What is the timeline for the rules development and public comment? When will the rule defining culturally specific org be made public?

A: Draft Early Childhood Equity Fund rules are [currently available](#) for public comment. The public comment period closes on January 22, 2020 at 5 p.m. The rules are scheduled to be adopted by the Early Learning Council on January 30, 2020.

Q: Is there a way to see some of the research that was done for the organization that was shown in [the Early Childhood Equity Fund] webinar?

A: For more information on the research portion of the presentation, please reach out to one of the following two presenters:

- Callie Lambarth, Center for Improvement of Child & Family Services: lambarth@pdx.edu
- Amanda Cross-Hemmer, Center for Improvement of Child & Family Services: acrossh@pdx.edu