



## Early Childhood Equity Fund Application Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 02/28/2020

### 1) Where do we find out how much we can apply for?

As described on pages seven (7) and eight (8) of the Early Childhood Equity Fund RFA, eligible applicants can apply for two types of grants: Program Grant and Planning Grant.

*Program Grant:*

The following table illustrates the distribution of funds across multiple program types. It also provides funding targets for each program, with the corresponding anticipated number of children to be served. Finally, it includes the estimated total allocation available for each program. If you are applying for a Program Grant, please use the table below to help estimate costs for your proposed program.

Program Grant Targets				
Program Type	Funding Distribution by Program	Number of Children Served	Estimated Cost per Child/ Family	Total Allocation Available
Parenting Education	5%	125	\$1,000	\$125,000
Parent-Child Interaction	65%	1625	\$4,000	\$6,500,000
Kindergarten Transition	30%	750	\$3,000	\$2,250,000
Tribal Language Preservation and Revitalization is allowable within any of the above program types.				

*Program Grant:*

There is an estimated \$400,000 available for planning grants in order to promote the capacity of culturally specific organizations to deliver culturally specific early learning programs. Planning grants are one-time grants that provide resources for outreach and engagement with families and communities, and other activities that may be required before delivering or expanding services to children, families, and communities.



**2) Will there be continue funding after first year?**

Yes, we anticipate continued funding. Early Childhood Equity Funds awarded for the 2020-21 program year may be extended for up to two additional biennia (or four years), depending on availability of funds as well as program performance.

**3) My question is about eligibility element of leadership mirroring the population that we are serving. Our program is primarily focused on addressing poverty and homelessness; what would that look like for our leaders to belong to this population.**

Thank you for this question. Applicants should thoroughly review the eligibility criteria to determine whether their organization is eligible to apply for an Early Childhood Equity Fund grant. The criteria is available on pages 4 and 5 of the Early Childhood Equity Fund RFA; it reads as follows:

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- 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
- 4) Provide 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)
- 5) Demonstrate how people in leadership positions (e.g., directors, managers and board members) belong to the cultural community served



**4) How is low income defined and determined within context of rural communities?**

Typically, Early Learning Division considers 200% of the Federal Poverty Level or below to be low-income based on our program qualifications. However, within the context of Equity Fund, there is no codified definition of low-income. Applicants are encouraged to define low income in terms or socioeconomic status compared to others in their area.

**5) How are rural communities defined?**

Oregon defines rural as “any geographic area ten or more miles from the centroid of a population center of 40,000 people or more”. Organizations that are not in the following counties but meet the minimum rural threshold (using the aforementioned definition) may apply for consideration:

Baker	Hood River	Sherman
Clatsop	Jefferson	Tillamook
Coos	Josephine	Umatilla
Crook	Klamath	Union
Curry	Lake	Wallowa
Douglas	Lincoln	Wasco
Gilliam	Linn	Wheeler
Grant	Malheur	
Harney	Morrow	

**6) How will the measure of being considered a culturally specific organization with culturally specific leadership be validated?**

Oregon Administrative Rules [414-575-0000](#) clarifies the characteristics of culturally specific organizations. This will be evaluated based on applicant responses to questions in Section 3 of the RFA (see page 12).



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**7) Should applicants describe all programs the organization offers or only focus on early childhood programs?**

Organizations should focus on the programs intended to serve children 0-5 through one of the following types of 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 child, and locating and accessing community services and supports.
- **Parent-Child Interaction:** Programs that serve both the parent and child together in order to support positive parent-child interactions and, as a result, promote healthy attachment, bonding, and child development.
- **Kindergarten Transition:** Targeted programs that help prepare children, families, and schools for the transition between the early childhood period into kindergarten. These programs provide children and families the opportunity to get familiar with kindergarten skills, routines, and expectations, and help schools to prepare to serve children and families.
- **Tribal Language Preservation and Revitalization:** Early childhood programs that integrate efforts to preserve, revitalize, restore, or maintain the tribal language through one of the previously described models above, or in partnership with an existing early care and education program or public school.

**8) For salaries, if we have more than one FTE in a position, should we include the total across all FTE**

Yes, please include all personnel you anticipate will work on the Early Childhood Equity Fund program. The salary portion should reflect a combined total of all FTE's.



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*Additional questions can be submitted to: [ECEFRFA@ode.state.or.us](mailto:ECEFRFA@ode.state.or.us).*