



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



Early Childhood Equity Fund Application Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 03/13/2020

- 1. If the two criteria of the population of focus are (1) low income and (2) rural and do not pertain to race, ethnicity or language could an organization meet the definition of culturally specific as it applies to the provision of services?**

Thank you for this question. Please be encouraged to review the full set of eligibility criteria, as it will help you determine, as an organization, if you are eligible to apply. As a reminder, to be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria (also located on pages four (4) and five (5) of the RFA document):

- 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

In addition to this, Oregon Administrative Rule 414-575-0005 offers the following definitions for “culturally specific organization” and “culturally specific program:”

(4) “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.

(5) “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.

2. How will the grant review committee validate whether the leadership of the organization reflects the designated culturally specific community served? There appears to be no measure for this requirement.

We will validate the applicant’s answers on question 5 in the Eligibility Criteria by requesting specific information on how the organization meets this criteria. This information will be requested during review process.

3. How will the grant review committee validate that the community views the organization as culturally specific? How will this qualification be measured?

As a part of their proposal, applicants will describe how they meet the following culturally specific criteria. This is a scored part of the application. The grant review committee will review and score applicants’ responses to these criteria.

- 1) The community being served recognizes the organization as culturally specific
- 2) The mission and outcomes align with expressed community needs
- 3) The services reflect the values, beliefs, practices and worldview of the community served
- 4) Meaningful community engagement occurs at all levels of the organization
- 5) Recognition of the impact of systemic racism is embedded throughout the organization’s strategies and programming occurs
- 6) Interventions are designed or adapted by and for members of the community
- 7) Services and materials are provided in the first language of the community served
- 8) Programming sustains shared history, identity, language, and pride
- 9) The culture, language, identity and lived experience of community members and staff are honored as assets

10) Staff and leadership see themselves and their organization as accountable to the communities they serve

4. Does the \$4k per student include admin expenses or it is \$4k plus admin for the parent-child interaction category?

Yes. Please see the budget template, which specifies that admin costs may not exceed 15% of total costs. The budget template can be found on page 14 of the RFA (Appendix A).

5. Regarding priority program areas: Is it possible to combine Kindergarten Transition with Parent-Child interaction (or any other categories) under the same application? If so, would this qualify us for a larger sum per child?

Applicants are encouraged to propose program models and approaches that meet the needs of the communities they serve. Under this type of example, organizations may either apply for both program types under one proposed model in one application or may choose to submit separate applications. It is important to note that the Early Childhood Equity Fund RFA has word limits for question responses. Applicants may want to consider this when deciding how to apply.

Regardless of how organizations choose to apply, please propose a budget that supports what the organization will need to implement the proposed model.

6. If our operational program budget is higher than the allocated amount per child, will that affect our ability to compete for funds?

No. Please proposed a budget that will support what your organization will need in order to implement the proposed program model.

Additional questions can be submitted to: ECEFRFA@ode.state.or.us.