



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

From Applicants for Student Success Act (SSA) Program Grants

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APPEALS

**NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPEALS HAS PASSED.
NO NEW APPEALS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

- 1. I applied for an Early Learning Division program grant (Preschool Promise, Oregon Pre-Kindergarten, and/or Equity Fund) but was not awarded. Can I appeal?**

Yes. An applicant not receiving funding may appeal for review to the Early Learning Council. An appeal must be received by the Council in writing within 15 calendar days (July 17) of the notice of non-funding. Appeals must be sent to 700 Summer St NE, Salem, OR, 97301 or early.learning@state.or.us.

- 2. Can I appeal if I did not receive the full funding amount I requested?**

Yes. The appeal process for partial funding is the same as the appeal process for grants that were not awarded.

- 3. For Preschool Promise, if I submitted an application in multiple Hub regions, do I need to write a separate appeal for each Hub region?**

Yes. A separate appeal will be needed for each Hub region.

- 4. Can I transfer my awarded Preschool Promise slots to a different Early Learning Hub?**

No. Slots are specific to each Hub. Applicants may appeal the funding decision.

AWARD

1. Is there a list of who received funding in my region or statewide?

Yes. Funding decisions are labeled “Intent to Award Reports” and are posted on the ELD website:

[SSA Intent to Award Reports](#)

2. Have the Intent to Award Reports been updated?

The Oregon Pre-Kindergarten and Preschool Promise Intent to Award Reports were updated July 8, 2020.

3. Did the ELD determine which classroom and/or site will be receiving each of my requested slots, or can my organization make the decision internally?

If the Intent to Award indicates a specific location (city or county), then the applicant must adhere to the Intent to Award and services must operate only at sites indicated in the application. If the applicant would like to consult with the program specialist, please send an email to early.learning@state.or.us.

4. I was not awarded the full number of slots that I requested and this has an impact on my budget. What are my options?

The applicant can decline to accept any number of awarded slots and/or appeal the decision.

5. Can I receive feedback about why I wasn't awarded?

During the appeals process, the ELD cannot provide any feedback on the grant awards. ELD staff will be available to discuss your application after the appeal process. Listed below are recordings of the Review Committee meetings for SSA grants:

[Preschool Promise Review Committee Meeting #1](#)

[Preschool Promise Review Committee Meeting #2](#)

[Preschool Promise Meeting #3](#)

[Oregon Pre-Kindergarten Review Committee Meeting](#)

[Early Childhood Equity Fund Review Committee Meeting.](#)

6. Where can I view or save a copy of my grant application?

You can log in to the Survey Monkey Apply (SMA) account you used to apply for the grant to view your application and scores. If you are having issues logging in, you can request assistance directly from SMA by clicking on the following link and opening a help ticket: <https://ode.smapply.org/helpdesk/>.

7. I received an intent to award notification, but I have decided I don't want the funding. What should I do?

Please notify the ELD as soon as possible by emailing early.learning@state.or.us of your decision to withdraw.

8. When will I receive my grant agreement?

We anticipate awarded applicants will receive grant agreements in August, following the close of the appeals process and the Early Learning Council's action on appeals.

9. What is the timeframe for funding disbursement?

Disbursement of funds cannot happen until a grant agreement is fully executed (when all signatures are complete on the agreement). It may take 30 to 60 days to receive funds after the grant agreement is executed.

10. Is funding secure for the duration of the grant?

Funding for the grant remains dependent on state funding. To the extent that any state funded grant is secure, the funding is secure for the grant's duration.

COVID-19

1. In light of new child care guidance due to COVID-19, how might things change for grant funded programs (budgets, class size, etc.)?

Our current guidance is in the revision process. Once the revisions have been approved and adopted, the impact to grants will be assessed.

2. Because of COVID-19 and the delay in award notification, my program launch may be delayed. Will this impact my grant?

The ELD recognizes that the timeline for grant deliverables may need to be adjusted due to these unusual circumstances. *(Revised 8/5/2020)*

3. I am listed in Tier One on the Intent to Award Report; when can I start spending grant funds?

The ELD cannot guarantee funds until the grant agreement has been executed. Grantees who enter into a written agreement with the ELD to deliver services will be able to seek reimbursement for allowable program related expenses beginning July 1, 2020.

4. Are there funds available for providers to meet safety requirements related to COVID-19?

Any updates or materials that are required to meet safety guidelines are an allowable expense that you may include in your programming budget.

5. If a program needs to close down temporarily because of a COVID-19 outbreak, are there any funding related penalties?

No. There is no funding penalty for following the quarantine recommendations or requirements set by the ELD and/or the Oregon Health Authority. Please contact your licensing specialist and your program manager and follow all guidance in the updated Emergency Child Care Guidance.

6. What will Preschool Promise service delivery look like during the COVID-19 pandemic?

The ELD is developing implementation models that include a variety of options to best meet community need and help keep children and staff safe.

7. Because my school district is not opening in the fall, I have several school aged children whose families want to stay enrolled in my child care program. Should I discontinue their care to make space for Preschool Promise children?

This is a provider's business decision. Any provider can decide to not accept the grant. Accepted grant funds need to go toward Preschool Promise eligible children.

ENROLLMENT

1. How does enrollment work for Preschool Promise?

The Early Learning Hubs are responsible for managing family recruitment, determining family eligibility, and selecting children for enrollment in Preschool Promise programs. Providers should connect with their Early Learning Hub to partner on the enrollment process.

2. How do I know if families are eligible for Preschool Promise?

Early Learning Hubs determine eligibility based on income. Please refer any interested family to the Early Learning Hub in your area to submit a Preschool Promise Screening form. Please connect with your local Hub for proper form distribution.

3. Can currently enrolled families continue in my Preschool Promise slots?

Yes, if the local Early Learning Hub has confirmed their eligibility.

4. Do current Preschool Promise families need to apply for eligibility again?

No. Program eligibility is based on a two year period. If a family applied for eligibility last year, they are still eligible to receive care.

5. Do current Preschool Promise families receive priority?

Yes. There are two groups of children who will receive priority for Preschool Promise slots. The first group, “continuing children,” includes children that were enrolled in Preschool Promise prior to June 30, 2020 that are still age-eligible and whose families prefer to stay with the provider with whom they are currently enrolled. The second group, “conversion children,” includes children that were enrolled with a newly awarded Preschool Promise provider prior to June 30, 2020 who are eligible for the Preschool Promise program and whose families prefer to stay with the provider with whom they are currently enrolled.

6. I am a Preschool Promise and OPK/Head Start provider—can I use my ERSA process to determine Preschool Promise eligibility?

Yes. Grantees that are dually funded by Preschool Promise and Oregon Pre-Kindergarten (OPK) should continue using established OPK/Head Start eligibility, selection and placement processes, provided Preschool Promise income eligibility criteria is followed.

PROGRAM

1. If I received additional funding for transportation expenses, what constitutes an eligible transportation expense?

The grant manual allows for rental or lease of a vehicle for transporting children; operating expenses to provide transportation would also be an eligible expense. The cost to purchase a vehicle is not an eligible expense.

2. What are the staffing requirements for Certified Family Preschool Promise programs?

Please see page 29 of the Preschool Promise RFA. [Student Success Act- Request for Applications](#)

3. I requested start-up funds in my application. What’s the process for addressing start-up cost requests?

The ELD has sent out a survey to Preschool Promise applicants to determine individual start-up cost and continuous quality improvement needs. If you have not received the survey, please contact early.learning@ode.state.or.us.

4. Award notifications were delayed. Does this mean the required start date has changed?

Yes. Currently, programs are required to start services no later than October 31st, 2020. The ELD will inform applicants if this date is changed.

5. My question wasn't answered here. Whom do I contact?

Email early.learning@ode.state.or.us with questions about any SSA grant.

The Early Learning Division responds to frequently asked questions on a regular basis. Revisions to responses are indicated in the document with a 'revision date.'