



SB 101, School Readiness Program Expansion (HQSR-E) FAQs

Grant Information

1.0 Background

The Utah State Legislature provided seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds through the High Quality School Readiness Program Expansion bill, [53A-1b-105](#), to expand access to high quality school readiness programs for economically disadvantaged students, specifically students whose families qualify for free or reduced lunch.

1.1 Purpose

The High Quality School Readiness Program Expansion Grant (HQSR-E) is intended to expand access to high quality school readiness programs for eligible students to increase school readiness, improve academic performance, and reduce remediation costs associated with poor academic outcomes. The HQSR-E Grant program provides grant funds to LEAs with existing early education programs deemed high quality, as determined by the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale ECERS-3, ECERS-R, and some additional rubric criteria (evaluation of quality will occur following grant submission).

1.2 Definitions

See definitions in Senate Bill 101, 53A-1b-105, page 4

<http://le.utah.gov/~2016/bills/static/SB0101.html>

1.3 Who May Apply

Programs must meet all of the criteria listed below:

- Programs providing services to economically disadvantaged, four year old children
- Programs that can illustrate how the funds will be used to expand their current preschool program
- Programs that are deemed as high quality school readiness program as determined by the ECERS-3, ECERS-R, and some additional rubric criteria (evaluation of quality will occur following grant submission)
- Programs meet the quality criteria of the grant application.

1.4 Performance-Based Contract

The contract will be based on a fixed price for the provision of “high quality preschool’ services as defined by 53A-1b-105. All payments to the programs will be paid reimbursements, no more frequently than quarterly, based on actual TANF related expenditures paid by the preschool. The contract is also

performance-based in that penalties will be assessed for failure to meet specific performance standards as outline in 2.0.

1.5 Contract Effective Date

The contract shall commence upon the date the contract is fully executed, but not before July 1, 2017, and will continue through June 30, 2018, contingent upon funding and performance, with the option of third year renewal.

FAQs

1. Can public and private programs apply for funding to obtain a CDA?

- \$500,000 is available through the Division of Workforce Services (DWS) for teachers of four year old children to apply for funding to obtain their *Child Development Associate Credential*.

2. How do we determine Intergenerational Poverty (IGP) students?

- DWS will determine eligibility.

3. Are we going to crosswalk the tool using ECERS and Utah’s Early Childhood Core Standards?

- USOE and DWS will be sure the tool is aligned with Utah’s Early Childhood Core Standards.

4. What kind of reports may be attached?

- Data based documents can be attached such as student assessment data or economically disadvantaged data or other reports to verify information presented in the narrative. Student identifiable data may not be submitted.

5. Is there a page limit?

- The grant application specifies that answers are to be kept within the boxes provided. The table on B9 and can be extended. Any changes in grant format will result in elimination of grant from consideration.

6. Do we list our fees and who approves the fees?

- Yes – LEAs will report on fees (see part C1 of the application).

7. How many days of preschool will Special Education (SPED) funding cover?

- In Utah, the funding for SPED covers what the child needs. If the children attend on additional days, they are still a student in SPED and services will be paid for through SPED funds.

8. Can the funds be used to put a preschool in a high school?

- Yes.

9. Does the preschool classroom need to be in a Title 1 school?

- No, this grant is for low income students (free and reduced lunch or 200% of TANF); however, they can be housed in a non-Title I school.

10. Do we work directly with DWS to advertise to find students?

- LEAs are responsible for recruiting students. If an LEA would like to coordinate with DWS, they may choose to do so.

11. If we have an existing risk assessment, may we use it to determine risk?

- If LEAs would like to use such an assessment in addition to the TANF eligibility criteria that is fine, but not necessary. Students must meet TANF eligibility requirements.

12. If a student was served as a 3 year old on an IEP and exited, would they be eligible under SB 101?

- If they are TANF eligible, then yes, they could be eligible.

13. We have an existing preschool program with 10 students, can we expand to include more students?

- Yes, the funding is to expand access to low income students. Children whose parents don't fit the low income guidelines can still attend preschool by paying a fee based on parental income.

14. Can we use materials for only students who qualify as SB101, or can all students use the materials?

- Materials, such as tables and chairs, would be purchased to support room for additional students, but would not have to only be used by TANF eligible students, but rather would be necessary to expand the preschool program to serve more eligible students.

15. Regarding the identification of finding at risk children, could we hire someone to find those students?

- TANF funding allows for this, but this would be expected to be a temporary position.

16. How much money should be determined for each child?

- The amount of money received for each child is determined by the individual LEA.

17. Does the grant need to include a technology piece?

- No.

18. Is this funding in addition to the UPSTART program?

- Yes - Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) of TANF funding is allocated for home-based educational technology for public and private preschool programs that are deemed high quality through DWS Staff or USOE Staff.

19. If a child was served through HB 96 and the funding has ended, can we use this program to fund the current program?

- HQSR-E is funding to expand access to high quality preschool for low income children. HB 96, HQSR funds program improvement. The grants focus on separate things. You can apply for both grants, but you cannot receive both grants.

20. Is rental cost of a private building an appropriate use of TANF funds?

- Yes.

21. Can TANF funds be used for a presenter to come to our LEA to provide professional development?

- Yes.

22. Can TANF funding pay for snacks for the children?

- Yes, for the TANF eligible students only.

23. Can SB 101 funds be used to increase the number of hours per week currently provided by our Title I preschool? For example, an LEA currently provides 3 days of Title I preschool and would like to increase to 4 or possibly 5 days per week using SB 101 funds. The district would continue paying for the existing 3 day program and use SB 101 funds only to provide the additional hours of services.

- No, TANF funds cannot be used to increase the number of hours per week currently being provided by Title I preschool. You already have slots being used by these children. **SB 101 is intended to expand access to new students and these are not considered new students.**
- The funds can only be used for the TANF eligible students.

Note: As more questions are submitted, USOE will provide answers here. LEAs may email their questions to HQSR-E@schools.utah.gov.