

Early Head Start Expansion and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership Grants Frequently Asked Questions

November 9, 2018

1. In the section that identifies factors that make a program ineligible to apply (pg. 19) one of the factors is if a program has been chronically under enrolled. If a program were in the category of under enrollment however we met enrollment of 97% or above prior to the 12 month period of time identified by our Region IX office and are now under what is called "maintenance". Does the fact that they are under maintenance for enrollment make their program ineligible to apply or would we be ok to move forward?

Head Start or Early Head Start agencies on under-enrollment plans are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity. However, agencies that have completed plans and are officially designated as chronically under-enrolled prior to final funding decisions may be disqualified from funding under this announcement.

2. Is a public institution of higher education (not a 501-c organization) eligible for this opportunity? Per Grants.gov, eligible applicants include City or township governments, State governments, For profit organizations other than small businesses, Small businesses, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), Private institutions of higher education, Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, Public and State controlled institutions of higher education, Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, County governments, Independent school districts and Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities.

3. Is the grant application limited to center based slots or could home based slots be added? In addition, what would be the minimum number of slots that could be requested?
Yes, it is allowable for applicants to propose expanding home-based slots for their current EHS program or a new EHS program. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) does not provide direct guidance or instruction in the development of an applicant's project design or in writing their applications. Applicants should use their best judgment in determining whether they are able to meet the requirements contained in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), whether they are able to develop an application they believe to be responsive to the FOA and in designing and writing their applications.

4. Can you please send more information about the funding opportunity, please?
The complete Funding Opportunity Announcement has been posted to grants.gov all applicants are encouraged to carefully read this document. Also, *Section VIII. Other Information* lists websites where additional information can be found.

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5. Will applications to support our converting from Home Base services to Center Based programming be considered? Will this funding only fund those counties designated as opportunity zones?

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) does not provide direct guidance or instruction in the development of an applicant's project design or in writing their applications. Applicants should use their best judgment in determining whether they are able to meet the requirements contained in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA), whether they are able to develop an application they believe to be responsive to the FOA and in designing and writing their applications. Funding under this opportunity is not limited to counties designated as opportunity zones.

6. Do I understand that requests must be for \$750,000 or more? And is there any guidance on the number of slots?

Per *Section II. Federal Award Information*, of the funding opportunity announcement, the award floor is listed at \$750,000 per budget period. Which is the minimum amount ACF will award in response to this funding opportunity announcement. You are encouraged to review and Section I. Program Description to determine the minimum number of slots to be requested.

7. Are Rhode Island non-profits are eligible to apply for the Funding Opportunity listed?

Applicants are encouraged to review *Section III.I Eligible Applicants* of the funding opportunity announcement for additional information on what entities are eligible to apply for funding through this opportunity. Additionally, funding for HHS-2019-ACF-OHS-HP-1386 is allocated by our ACF geographic regions. You are encouraged to review the Appendix section of the funding opportunity announcement that lists the regional allocations.

8. Do we need to be an already existing Early Head Start program? If there is already one in the area, can we still apply? or is permission from Head Start required? Lastly, there is one county in the region not served by EHS at all, can we still apply there?

Per the Executive Summary section of the funding opportunity announcement "New or existing Head Start, EHS, and EHS-CC Partnership grantees can apply to establish or add new traditional EHS slots through Non-Partnership EHS Expansion."

9. The company is considered an S corporation though. Would we still be able to apply for Early Head start funds?

Applicants are encouraged to review *Section III.I Eligible Applicants* of the funding opportunity announcement for additional information on what entities are eligible to apply for funding through this opportunity.

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10. We recently overcame an EHS under enrollment plan due to a slow start up, as we had not previously had EHS before. We are also under a Head Start under enrollment plan that ends next month. The funding announcement says that no program can apply that is on a plan. With ours ending next month, would it be worth our time to submit, or will we be tossed out? You are encouraged to review *Section V.2 Review and Selection Process* of the funding opportunity announcement for information on “Additional review and funding considerations”.

11. 1 - If an existing Early Head Start program wins an award does it become a part of their on-going regular grant(s) or does this establish a completely different grant cycle and review process, etc.? 2 - Is the funding on-going assuming the grantee meets all regulations and no violations of the Head Start act? 3 - Is there a per child cost cap or limit for any specific Early Head Start model? Specifically, center-based?
You are encouraged to review *Section II. Federal Award Information* in the funding opportunity announcement that speaks to the content of your question. It’s important to note that based on the outcomes of the competition each individual application receives a unique 5 year grant award.

12. Is an agency allowed to submit 2 expansion applications, 1 for each of our current service areas? While the Office of Head Start cannot advise you on this decision, it’s important to note that based on the outcomes of the competition each individual application receives a unique 5 year grant award.