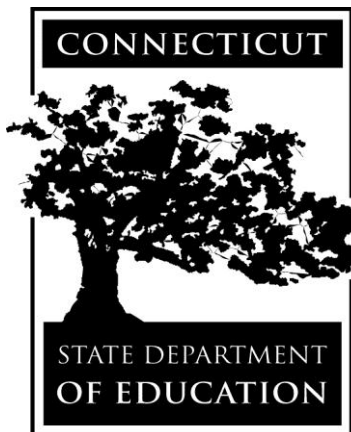


CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Application for Priority School Readiness District Municipalities



Legislative Authority

**Connecticut General Statutes
Sections 10-16o through 10-16r and Sections 10-16t through 10-16u**

RFP 053

**Due Date
May 17, 2013**

CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Stefan Pryor
Commissioner of Education

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Levy Gillespie
Equal Employment Opportunity Director
Title IX /ADA/Section 504 Coordinator
State of Connecticut Department of Education
25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, CT 06457
860-807-2071

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

**SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM
PRIORITY SCHOOL**

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PRIORITY SCHOOL READINESS

OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION OF GRANT

Purpose of Grant as outlined in Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 10-160 is to:

- (1) provide open access for children to quality programs that promote the health and safety of children and prepare them for formal schooling;
- (2) provide opportunities for parents to choose among affordable and accredited programs;
- (3) encourage coordination and cooperation among programs and prevent the duplication of services;
- (4) recognize the specific service needs and unique resources available to particular municipalities and provide flexibility in the implementation of programs;
- (5) prevent or minimize the potential for developmental delay in children prior to their reaching the age of five;
- (6) enhance federally funded school readiness programs;
- (7) strengthen the family through: (A) encouragement of parental involvement in a child's development and education; and (B) enhancement of a family's capacity to meet the special needs of the children, including children with disabilities;
- (8) reduce educational costs by decreasing the need for special education services for school age children and avoiding grade repetition;
- (9) assure that children with disabilities are integrated into programs available to children who are not disabled; and
- (10) improve the availability and quality of school readiness programs and their coordination with the services of child care providers.

It is expected that all children who participate in quality school readiness programs will demonstrate the skills at kindergarten entry that have been delineated in **THE CONNECTICUT PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM and ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORKS** developed by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and available from the Bureau of Early Childhood Education.

Eligible Recipients

Priority School Districts are defined under section 10-266p of the CGS. Eligibility is determined for a five-year period based upon the applicant's designation as a Priority School District for the initial year of application except that if school district that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as a Priority School District at the end of such five-year period, such former Priority School District shall continue to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to C.G.S. 10-16p(c).

Grant Duration and Submission Requirements

This grant application is for a two-year period based on the availability of funds. In each Priority School District, the Chief Elected Official and the Superintendent of Schools, in conjunction with the School Readiness Council, shall develop and submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds. Submission of materials must include all local responses to requests for proposals along with their scores grouped into the following categories: a) those that the School Readiness Council recommends for funding; b) those that the School Readiness Council would consider funding with additional allocations; and c) those that the School Readiness Council did not approve for funding. **All requests shall be solicited through public notice using the local RFP (see Appendix A).** Eligible applicants must submit an application for July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. For Year 2, the CSDE will require applicants to submit a cover letter signed by the Chief Elected Official and Superintendent of Schools with attached budget pages, updated information regarding programs, staff, space capacity, accreditation/approval timeline/status, and any revisions/changes to the information submitted in the Year 1 application. Grant award letters will be issued annually based on the annual appropriation of the Connecticut Legislature and the grant recipient's compliance with the program requirements.

Submission

The School Readiness Grant Application (original and one [1] copy) must be received by 4:30 p.m. on **Friday May 17, 2013**, irrespective of the postmark dates and means of transmittal. Facsimile copies of the application will not be accepted. Only applications with original signatures will be accepted.

Mailing and Delivery Address is:

Deborah Adams, School Readiness Program Manager

Bureau of Teaching and Learning
State Department of Education
165 Capitol Avenue, Room 215
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Program Guidelines

Accreditation/Approvals - Grantees must ensure that all sites are licensed by the Connecticut State Department of Public Health (DPH). If exempt, the Licensing Status Verification Form (see Appendix B) must be completed and submitted with the application and one of the following:

- Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
 - For currently accredited sites, submit a copy of your NAEYC certificate and maintain your accreditation status;
 - For new sites not currently accredited, there is a three-year window in which you must achieve accreditation and submit your certificate. The three-year window commences the month the site begins to serve school readiness children. **Accreditation must be achieved prior to the end of the third year**
- OR**
- Awarded Federal Head Start status.

See Section V for accreditation/approval submission requirements.

General Policies and Program Operations - In 2008, the General Policies (GP) and Program Operations (PO) were designed to revise and consolidate the former ALERT system. These standards and policies are numbered in chronological order and cover a variety of topics to assist grantees and sub-grantees in their adherence to the requirements of the grant. At any time, the CSDE reserve the right to amend these documents. The GP and PO are posted on the SDE web page www.state.ct.us/sde.

Allowable Use of Funds - Allowable costs for School Readiness are administrative *costs*, with the balance of the allocation spent on program space costs.

- A. **Administrative Cost** - Priority School Districts may use up to five (5) percent but no more than seventy-five thousand dollars of their School Readiness Allocation for coordination, program evaluation and administration. If a town provides twenty-five thousand dollars in local funding for early childhood education coordination, program evaluation and administration, such towns may use up to ten (10) percent, but no more than one hundred thousand dollars of such amount for coordination, program evaluation and administration. (This is a statutory requirement and is subject to change.)
- B. **Program Spaces** - School Readiness funds may be used to purchase spaces from center-based programs only, including for-profit or not-for-profit private preschool programs, public preschool programs, Head Start programs, and state-funded day care programs. Programs must be accredited by the NAEYC, or documented as in process of being accredited, or approved by Head Start, or meet the criteria established by the Commissioner of Education. Services may be provided in the four (4) program types (below).

Programs Types Include:

- Full-Day/Full-Year Programs (5 days per week, 10 hours per day for a minimum of 50 weeks per year),
- School-Day/School-Year (5 days per week, 6 hours per day for a minimum of 180 consecutive days)
- Part-Day/Part-Year Programs (minimum of 2.5 hours per day for 180 consecutive days for children not in any other program), and
- Extended-Day (extending hours and/or days for children enrolled in another program to make it a Full-Day/Full-Year Program).

At least 50 percent of the spaces must be Full-Day/Full-Year. For further information and definition of program types see PO 09-04. **At least 60 percent of the children funded with School Readiness funds must be at or below 75 percent of the state median income per site.**

Local Request for Proposals (RFP) - Each sub-grantee that provides school readiness services, or wishes to provide school readiness services, must submit a local proposal to the School Readiness Council for approval. The local RFPs shall be reviewed by a team and scored. The Council shall provide interested local providers copies of the School Readiness GP and PO standards and guidelines. The sub-grantee proposals must be sent to the CSDE, either with the original grant submission package or, if it occurs subsequently in the year, **prior** to the start of the sub-grantee's program.

Contract - Each grantee must have written contracts with their sub-grantees that clearly spell out the terms and conditions of their responsibilities in carrying out the grant program.

Monitoring - Each grantee is responsible for monitoring their sub-grantees to ensure programmatic and fiscal responsibility, accountability for children served, and that each program is implementing the 11 quality components under Section 10-16q of the 2008 Supplement to the CGS, as detailed below.

- (1) a plan for collaboration with other community programs and services and for coordination of resources in order to facilitate full-day and year-round child care and education programs for children of working parents and parents in education training programs;
- (2) parent involvement, parenting education and outreach;
- (3) record-keeping policies documenting essential health-related information and referrals for health services, including referrals for appropriate immunizations and screenings;
- (4) a plan for the incorporation of appropriate pre-literacy practices and teacher training in such practices;
- (5) nutrition services;

- (6) referrals to family literacy programs that incorporate adult basic education and provide for the promotion of literacy through access to public library services;
- (7) admission policies that promote enrollment of children from different racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds and from other communities;
- (8) a plan of transition for participating children from school readiness program to kindergarten;
- (9) a plan for professional development for staff;
- (10) a sliding fee scale for families participating in the program pursuant to section 8 of this act; and
- (11) an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.

Teacher- By July 1, 2015, any program accepting state funds from the School Readiness Grant, Child Day Care Contracts, or State Head Start Funds, must have at least 50 percent of teachers assigned to each classroom in the program hold an Associate's degree with an early childhood concentration and at least 50 percent of teachers hold a Bachelor's degree with an early childhood concentration. By July 1, 2020, there needs to be a teacher in each classroom that holds a Bachelor's degree with an early childhood concentration (see GP 13-04 for guidance). Until such time, the current educator requirements remain in place. Each classroom that provides services under the School Readiness Grant must be staffed according to GP 13-04, by a teacher who at minimum has a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and 12 credits in early childhood education or child development from an institution of higher learning accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education, or an Associate Degree or a four-year degree with 12 credits in early childhood education or child development from an institution of higher learning accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education, or a Connecticut teaching certificate with an early childhood or special education endorsement. **Any School Readiness classroom operated by a public school must employ appropriately certified teaching staff if one or more children in the class are claimed for Education Cost Share (ECS) reimbursement.**

Reports – All Priority School Districts must submit school readiness reports, including fiscal data, and monthly space utilization reports, and any other additional requests for data. Grantees are also expected to participate as requested in all state-level evaluation activities.

SECTION II

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Priority School District Municipalities
(A Non-Competitive State Grant Program)

This grant is supported by the Connecticut State Departments of Education

GRANT PERIOD

July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014

GRANT COVER PAGE

To Be Completed and Submitted with the Grant Application

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>APPLICANT AGENCY:</u> (Name, Address, Telephone, Fax) | <u>LOCAL PROGRAM TITLE:</u> <u>PROGRAM FUNDING DATES:</u> From July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 |
| <u>AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:</u> (Name, Address, Telephone, Email, Fax) | <u>ESTIMATED FUNDING:</u> |

We, _____, the undersigned authorized chief administrative officials submit this proposal on behalf of the applicant agency, attest to the appropriateness and accuracy of the information contained therein, and certify that this proposal, if funded, will comply with all relevant requirements of the state and federal laws and regulations.

In addition, funds obtained through this source will be used solely to support the purpose, goals and objectives as stated herein.

Signature: (Chief Elected Official)

Name: (typed) _____ Title: _____
Agency: _____ Date: _____

Signature: (Superintendent)

Name: (typed) _____ Title: _____
Agency: _____ Date: _____

TO BE SIGNED IF FISCAL AGENT IS OTHER THAN THE MUNICIPALITY OR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Signature: (Fiscal Agent)

Name: (typed) _____ Title: _____
Agency: _____ Date: _____

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM
School Readiness Council

1. Identify the Chairperson or Co-Chairs of the municipality’s School Readiness Council for the School Readiness Grant Program in **FY 2014 and FY 2015**

Chairperson
or Co-Chair: _____ Affiliation: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax:: _____

Co-Chair: _____ Affiliation: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

2. School Readiness Council Members 2013-2014

Council members shall be representative of the community and include the Chief Elected Official or designee, the Superintendent of Schools or designee, parents, representatives from local programs associated with young children such as Family Resource Centers, non-profit and for-profit preschool programs and Head Start, a public librarian, and other local community organizations that provide services to young children.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Address</u> | <u>Telephone/Fax</u> | <u>Role/Affiliation</u> |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | Mayor/Designee |
| | | | Superintendent/Designee |
| | | | Public Librarian |
| | | | Parent(s) |
| | | | Other (please name role) |

3. Applicants must describe how the School Readiness Council participated in the writing of the grant application and what the ongoing role of the Council will be in carrying out the goals and objectives of the grant.
4. Submission of the local School Readiness Council’s written policies regarding administration and coordination of the School Readiness grant will be required in the mid-grant cycle (FY 15). Refer to GP 09-02 for guidance.

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

OTHER COMMUNITY GRANTS

Please check those grants that are currently in your community. Please describe how each grant/program collaborates with the School Readiness program.

- Adult Education**

- Discovery Grant**

- Early Reading Success**

- Even Start**

- Family Resource Center**

- Head Start**

- Young Parents Program**

- Preschool Special Education**

- Education Reform Plan**

How does your community promote meaningful, inclusive practices for young children with disabilities?

Other state or federal grants, private grants _____

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM DATA

The following forms are SAMPLES only. An Excel workbook file will be sent via e-mail to the liaison. Please complete the forms based upon the workbooks you have collected from your sites and print **two** copies: one for your records and one to be inserted into the School Readiness Program Data section of your RFP. Once your electronic forms are complete and ready for submission, please e-mail your entire workbook to Alissa Marotta at Alissa.Marotta@ct.gov. Detailed directions on how to complete the workbook are located within the electronic file.

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM
PROGRAM APPLICANTS FOR FY 2014*

List every application received by the School Readiness Council for the grant period July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014. For each applicant, indicate Council decision and scores.

| Site / Sites | Address | Town | Zip | First Name | Last Name | Phone | Score |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
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SAMPLE

* A new grid for FY 2015 must be submitted in Year 2

Accreditation and Approval of Programs FY 2014 and FY 2015

LICENSING AND ACCREDITATION or APPROVAL

Applicants must meet the program requirements and quality standards for participation in this grant program as described in CGS Section 10-16q (a) of the 2008 Supplement to the CGS.

1. Applicants must attach a copy of each current license from the DPH for each site requesting school readiness funds. If site is exempt from DPH licensing requirements, (i.e. public schools,) complete and submit Appendix B.
2. All program sites must be accredited/approved or in process of becoming accredited/approved. The following documentation must be submitted along with the completion of the Program Accreditation/Approval form as an electronic submission indicated in the directions at the beginning of Section V.
 - a. Programs accredited by NAEYC must submit current accreditation certificate.
 - b. Programs in process for initial NAEYC accreditation and NAEYC re-accreditation must submit their application number and documentation of their current status on the following page. Please see the website link below for NAEYC accreditation dates and timelines:
http://www.naeyc.org/files/academy/file/Timeline_Currently_Accredited.pdf
 - c. Programs approved by Head Start must submit a copy of their most recent Financial Assistance Award Letter from the United States Department of Health and Human Service, Administration of Children and Families. In addition, submit a copy of the Head Start approved Quality Improvement Plan demonstrating progress toward correcting any areas of deficiencies and/or non-compliances.

**SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM
PROGRAM ACCREDITATION/APPROVAL STATUS**

| SITE | LICENSING | | | | NAEYC STATUS | | | | | HEAD START | |
|------|-----------|-------------------|--------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------|----|
| | Yes | License Exp. Date | Exempt | Pending | ID# | Certificate Exp. Date | 3-yr window Due Date | Candidacy Date (see NAEYC timeline) | Expected Date of Visit (3-month window) | Yes | No |
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SAMPLE

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM PROGRAM SPACE GRID FOR FY 2014*

| Site | Start Date | # FD / FY Spaces | Total FD / FY Cost* | # SD / SY Spaces | Total SD / SY Cost** | # PD / PY Spaces | Total PD / PY Cost*** | # ED / EY Spaces | Total ED / EY Cost**** | Total # Spaces | Total Cost |
|--------|------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------|
| SAMPLE | | | | | | | | | | | |
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* A new grid for FY 2015 must be submitted in Year 2

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Grant Fiscal Agent

Identify the fiscal agent for the School Readiness Grant Program for FY 2014 and FY 2015.

Please be advised that if the fiscal agent for this grant program is other than the municipality or the municipality's school district, the fiscal agent must sign the Grant Cover Page and the grant's Statement of Assurances to certify compliance with all relevant requirements of this State grant program.

Fiscal Agent Information

Identify Fiscal Agency: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Primary Contact Person: Name: _____ Email: _____

Federal ID #: _____

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Grant Budget FY 2014

Directions

1. The applicant agency must complete the ED 114 State Budget Form with anticipated line item total expenditures for the municipality and the Budget Justification Page.
 - a. On the Budget Justification Page, provide a brief explanation justifying each line item expenditure proposed in the grant budget.
2. Grantees must include a copy of each sub-grantee Budget Page ED 114, in an appendix with the submission of their grant application. Each ED 114 must identify the name of the program, address, telephone number and the name of the primary contact person for each program that will be funded in FY 2014.
3. Grantees must submit a new ED 114 State Budget Form and Budget Justification page in Year 2.

An "Explanation of Budget Codes" is attached for reference.

FISCAL YEAR 2014

ED 114 BUDGET FORM: Community Budget

| GRANTEE NAME: | | TOWN/AGENCY CODE: | | |
|--|--|--|-------------------------|----------|
| GRANT TITLE: | | School Readiness Grant Program | | |
| PROJECT TITLE: | | Priority School District Municipalities | | |
| ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION: FUND: 11000 SPID: 17043 YEAR: 2014 PROG: 82056 CF1: 170002 CF2: | | | | |
| GRANT PERIOD: 07/01/2013 – 06/30/2014 | | AUTHORIZED AMOUNT: \$ | | |
| AUTHORIZED AMOUNT BY SOURCE: | | | | |
| LOCAL BALANCE: | | CARRY-OVER DUE: | CURRENT DUE: \$ | |
| CODES | DESCRIPTIONS | Administrative Budget Amount | Space Allocation Amount | Start-up |
| 111A | Administrators / Supervisors Salaries | | | |
| 112B | Clerical | | | |
| 119 | Other | | | |
| | | | | |
| 200 | Personal Services – Employees Benefits | | | |
| | | | | |
| 330 | Other Professional Technical Services | | | |
| 331 | Audit | | | |
| | | | | |
| 530 | Communications | | | |
| 580 | Travel | | | |
| 590 | Other Purchased Services | | | |
| | | | | |
| 612 | Administrative Supplies | | | |
| | TOTAL | | | |
| Original Request Date: | | | | |
| Revised Request Date: | | <i>Connecticut State Department of Education Program Manager Authorization</i> | <i>Date of Approval</i> | |

**SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM
Priority School District Municipalities**

EXPLANATION OF BUDGET OBJECT CODES

SALARIES (100)

- 111A Administrator/Supervisor Salaries:** Amounts paid to administrative employees of the grantee not involved in providing direct services to pupils/clients. Include all gross salary payments for these individuals while they are on the grantee payroll including overtime salaries or salaries paid to employees of a temporary nature.
- 112B Clerical:** Salaries for employees performing clerical/secretarial services. Include all gross salaries for these individuals while they are on the grantee payroll including overtime salaries or salaries of temporary employees.
- 119 Other:** Salaries for any other employee not fitting into objects 111A, 111B, 112A or 112B. Include the gross salaries for these individuals including overtime salaries or temporary employees. Included can be janitorial personnel costs, grant activity coordinators, salaries, and food service personnel.

BENEFITS (200)

- 200 Personnel Services - Employee Benefits:** Amounts paid by the grantee on behalf of the employees whose salaries are reported in objects 111A, 111B, 112A, 112B or 119. These amounts are not included in the gross salary but are in addition to that amount. Such payments are fringe benefit payments and, while not paid directly to employees, nevertheless are parts of the cost of personal services.

Included are the employer's cost of group insurance, social security contribution, retirement contribution, tuition reimbursement, unemployment compensation and workmen's compensation insurance.

PURCHASED SERVICES (300)

- 322 In Service (Instructional Program Improvement Services):** Payments for services performed by persons qualified to assist teachers and supervisors to enhance the quality of the teaching process. This category includes curriculum consultants, in-service training specialists, etc., who are not on the grantee payroll.
- 330 Other Professional/Technical Services:** Payments for professional or technical services that are not directly related to instructional activities. Included are payments for data processing, management consultants, legal services, etc.
- 331 Audit:** Direct cost for the audit of the grant program by an independent auditor. This category is separated from object code 330, as many grants do not include the cost as eligible grant expenditures.

PURCHASED PROPERTY SERVICES (400)

- 400 Purchased Property Services:** Expenditures for services to operate, repair, maintain and rent property owned or used by the grantee. These are payments for services performed by persons other than employees of the grantee.

OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES (500)

- 530 Communications:** Payments for services provided by persons or businesses to assist in transmitting and receiving messages or information. This category includes telephone, FAX services, postage, and postage machine rental.
- 580 Travel:** Expenditures for transportation, meals, hotel and other expenses associated with staff travel, including

conference or workshop fees. Per diem payments to staff in lieu of reimbursement for subsistence (room and board) are included.

- 590 Other Purchased Services:** All other payments for services rendered by organizations or personnel not on the grantee payroll not detailed in budget line items 530 or 580. These include printing and advertising costs.
NOTE: THIS IS THE ONLY LINE ITEM AVAILABLE TO USE FOR START-UP FUNDS.

SUPPLIES (600)

- 611 Instructional Supplies:** Expenditures for consumable items purchased for instructional use.
- 612 Administrative Supplies:** Expenditures for consumable items directly related to program administrative (non-instructional) activities.

PROPERTY (700)

- 700 Property:** Expenditures for acquiring fixed assets, including land or existing buildings, improvements of grounds, initial equipment, additional equipment, and replacement of equipment. For most grants only equipment such as computers, duplicating machines, furniture, and fixtures is allowable and the line item description on the budget will read Property/Equipment only.

Other items, which could be included in this category if allowable under grant legislation, are expenditures for the acquisition but not rental of buildings and land. Although cost of materials which resulted in a new or vastly improved structure would also be included here, the expenditures for the contracted construction of buildings, for permanent structural alterations, and for the initial or additional installation of heating and ventilating systems, fire protection systems, and other service systems in existing buildings are recorded under Object 400: Purchased Property Services.

In accordance with the Connecticut State Comptroller's definition of equipment, included in this category are all items of equipment (machinery, tools, furniture, vehicles, apparatus, etc.) with a value over \$1,000.00 and the useful life of more than one year.

FY 2014 BUDGET JUSTIFICATION PAGE

A separate budget justification must be completed in detail identifying the specifics for each line item expenditure noted in your budget.

For Example:

*111A Administrator- Supervisor Salary - \$45,000
1 Full-Time School Readiness Coordinator to coordinate, administer and evaluate the implementation of School Readiness Grant.*

PLEASE NOTE: Programs who utilize 10 percent of their allocation up to \$100,000 for coordination, program evaluation and administration must attach signed documentation indicating the source for the \$25,000 in local funding that will be contributed and how the funds will be utilized.

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Management and Accountability Structure

Section 10-16p (g) (2) of the 2008 Supplement to the CGS requires each School Readiness community to “*designate a person to be responsible for such coordination, program evaluation and administration and to act as a liaison between the town and the Connecticut State Departments of Education.*”

This section must include the following information:

1. The School Contact Liaison is the person responsible for the management (as defined above) of the grant program. Please address the following in your response.
 - Please include a description of how that person carries out the fiscal and program monitoring of sub-grantees.
 - How does that person ensure that sub-grantees adhere to the 11 quality standards, program standards, accreditation, and grant policies?
 - How often is each sub-grantee site visited by this person or persons contracted through the School Readiness Council?
 - How are the visits documented and what is the process for follow-up? *Please attach a copy of the local monitoring site visit form.*
 - If the Liaison identifies issues to be addressed, describe the process to resolve them.
2. Who is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the monthly data submitted, and how is the enrollment and attendance verified?
3. How is the Council kept informed on the status of the grant in relationship to child and program issues identified in the community, as well as the ongoing management process?

Please note that the appointment of a fiscal agent other than the grantee does not relieve the grantee of their obligation for the management and accountability of this grant program.

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Documentation and Evaluation

Under Section (a) (11) of the 2008 Supplement to the CGS, programs funded by School Readiness must use the assessment measures developed by the Commissioners.

1. How does the applicant recruit new children and families to ensure full utilization of spaces?
2. How does the applicant document the progress in the community to increase the numbers of children served and ensure that all eligible children are served?
3. What processes and requirements does the School Readiness Council have to ensure that the curriculum and assessment system used by the School Readiness Programs to measure child progress is aligned to the “Connecticut Preschool Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks”?
4. How does the School Readiness Council provide oversight, coordination and support for the sub-grantee’s measurement of child progress? For guidance, please refer to the “Connecticut Preschool Curriculum and Assessment Frameworks”.
5. How is information on the School Readiness Grant goals, outcomes and progress disseminated to the community at-large?

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Statement of Assurances

- 1. The Statement of Assurances Signature Page included in this grant must provide the authorized signatures of the applicant agency (e.g., mayor and superintendent of schools). Please note that the authorized signatures of the eligible applicant must also be provided on the cover page of the grant application submitted with the grant.**

*Applicants need only submit the
Statement of Assurances Signature Page
with submission of their grant application.*

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Statement of Assurances

PROJECT TITLE **School Readiness Grant Program**

THE APPLICANT: _____ HEREBY ASSURES THAT:
(Insert Agency Name)

- A. The applicant has the necessary legal authority to apply for and receive the proposed grant;
- B. The filing of this application has been authorized by the applicant's governing body, and the undersigned official has been duly authorized to file this application for and on behalf of said applicant, and otherwise to act as the authorized representative of the applicant in connection with this application;
- C. The activities and services for which assistance is sought under this grant will be administered by or under the supervision and control of the applicant agency;
- D. The project will be operated in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and in compliance with the regulations and other policies and administrative directives of the Connecticut State Board of Education and the CSDE;
- E. Grant funds shall not be used to supplant funds normally budgeted by the agency;
- F. Fiscal control and accounting procedures will be used to ensure proper disbursement of all funds awarded throughout the entire grant period;
- G. The applicant will submit a final project report (within 60 days of the project completion) and such other reports, as specified, to the CSDE, including information relating to the project records and access thereto as the State Department of Education may find necessary;
- H. The Connecticut State Department of Education reserves the exclusive right to use and grant the right to use and/or publish any part or parts of any summary, abstract, reports, publications, records, and materials resulting from this project and this grant;
- I. If the project achieves the specified objectives, every reasonable effort will be made to continue the project and/or implement the results after the termination of state and/or federal funding;
- J. The applicant will protect and save harmless the State Board of Education from financial loss and expense, including fees and legal fees and costs, if any, arising out of any breach of the duties, in whole or in part, described in the application for this grant;
- K. At the conclusion of each grant period, the applicant will provide for an independent audit report acceptable to the grantor in accordance with Sections 7-394a and 7-396a of the CGS, and the applicant shall return to the State Department of Education any monies not expended in accordance with the approved program/operation budget as determined by audit;

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES (continued)

L. Required Language (Non-discrimination)

1) References in this section to “contract” shall mean this grant agreement and references to “contractor” shall mean the Grantee. For the purposes of this section, “Commission” means the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities. For the purposes of this section “minority business enterprise” means any small contractor or supplier of materials fifty-one per cent or more of the capital stock, if any, or assets of which is owned by a person or persons: (1) Who are active in the daily affairs of the enterprise, (2) who have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise and (3) who are members of a minority, as such term is defined in subsection (a) of section 32-9n; and "good faith" means that degree of diligence which a reasonable person would exercise in the performance of legal duties and obligations. “Good faith efforts” shall include, but not be limited to, those reasonable initial efforts necessary to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements and additional or substituted efforts when it is determined that such initial efforts will not be sufficient to comply with such requirements.

2) (a) The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut. The contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation, or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved; (b) the contractor agrees, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, to state that it is an "affirmative action-equal opportunity employer" in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commission; (c) the contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which such contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this section, and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; (d) the contractor agrees to comply with each provision of this section and sections 46a-68e and 46a-68f and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to sections 46a-56, 46a-68e and 46a-68f; (e) the contractor agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the contractor as relate to the provisions of this section and section 46a-56.

3) Determination of the contractor’s good faith efforts shall include but shall not be limited to the following factors: The contractor’s employment and subcontracting policies, patterns and practices; affirmative advertising, recruitment and training; technical assistance activities and such other reasonable activities or efforts as the Commission may prescribe that are designed to ensure the participation of minority business enterprises in public works projects.

4) The contractor shall develop and maintain adequate documentation, in a manner prescribed by the Commission, of its good faith efforts.

5) The contractor shall include the provisions of section (2) above in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the state and such provisions shall be binding on a subcontractor, vendor or manufacturer unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance in accordance with section 46a-56; provided, if such contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the contractor may request the state of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the state and the state may so enter.

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES (continued)

6) The contractor agrees to comply with the regulations referred to in this section as the term of this contract and any amendments thereto as they exist on the date of the contract and as they may be adopted or amended from time to time during the term of this contract and any amendments thereto.

7) (a) The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the state of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their sexual orientation; (b) the contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which such contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this section, and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; (c) the contractor agrees to comply with each provision of this section and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to section 46a-56; (d) the contractor agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the contractor which relate to the provisions of this section and section 46a-56.

8) The contractor shall include the provisions of section (7) above in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the state and such provisions shall be binding on a subcontractor, vendor or manufacturer unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance in accordance with section 46a-56; provided, if such contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the contractor may request the state of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the state and the state may so enter.

OTHER ASSURANCES

- M. The grant award is subject to approval of the State Departments of Education and the availability of state and/or federal funds;
- N. The applicant agrees and warrants that Sections 4-190 to 4-197, inclusive, of the CGS concerning the Personal Data Act and Sections 10-4-8 to 10-4-10, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies promulgated thereunder are hereby incorporated by reference;
- O. Grant funds should not be committed until an official grant award letter is received;
- P. The grantee agrees to other attestations and special assurances, particular to the requirements of CGS Sections 10-160 through 10-16r and the amendments outlined in P.A. 99-230 and P.A. 00-187 for grantees or state agencies that require grantee or subgrantee participation or compliance;
- Q. The signature of the chief elected officials on the Statement of Assurances Signature Page indicates the intent to comply with the provisions referenced in each section. Assurances not agreed to by the chief elected official of the town must be identified on a separate sheet with a rationale for the disagreement; and
- R. The State Departments of Education reserve the right to negotiate terms, including the withholding of funds, based on the grantee's inability to comply with these assurances.

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Statement of Assurances Signature Page

We, the undersigned authorized officials, do hereby certify that these assurances shall be fully implemented.

Signature of Chief Elected Official: _____

Name: (please type) _____

Title: (please type) _____

Date: _____

Signature of Superintendent: _____

Name: (please type) _____

Title: (please type) _____

Date: _____

To Be Signed if the Fiscal Agent is other than the Municipality or the School District:

Signature of Fiscal Agent: _____

Name: (please type) _____

Title: (please type) _____

Date: _____

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Affirmative Action Packet

- 1. The Affirmative Action Certification Form must be signed by the applicant agency's authorized official and submitted with the grant application.**

In accordance with the regulations established by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, each applicant is required to have a complete Affirmative Action Packet on file with the State Department of Education. This grant application contains the "Certification Form" certifying that an Affirmative Action Plan is on file with the State Department of Education. The individual(s) authorized to sign on behalf of the applicant agency must sign the Affirmative Action Certification Form and submit such form with the grant application.

Applicants who do not have an Affirmative Action packet on file with the State Department of Education must obtain and submit a completed packet with their grant application. An Affirmative Action packet can be obtained through:

**State Department of Education
Affirmative Action Office
25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown, Connecticut 06457
(860) 807-2101**

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Affirmative Action Certification Form

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CERTIFICATION

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN IS ON FILE WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

I (We), the undersigned authorized official(s), hereby certify that the current Affirmative Action Plan of the applicant organization/agency is on file with the Connecticut State Department of Education. The Affirmative Action Plan is by reference, part of this application.

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Name of Authorized Official (please type)

Title of Authorized Individual

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Name of Authorized Official (please type)

Title of Authorized Individual

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

GLOSSARY/DEFINITIONS

Connecticut Frameworks – The “**CONNECTICUT PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK**” and “**CONNECTICUT PRESCHOOL ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK**” are the guides for programs to use in the implementation and necessary adjustments to the curriculum and experiences that support children in the development of skills and knowledge.

General Policy and Program Operation Communication System – This system replaces the ALERT system previously used to communicate guidance to councils. General Policy (GP) and Program Operation (PO) communications are issued to provide guidance to councils and providers concerning school readiness policies and procedures. **Technical Assistance** documents are issued to give guidance to programs on early childhood topics such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in Preschools, Transition to Kindergarten, Parent Involvement and Nutrition. A copy of these General Policies, Program Operations, and Technical Assistance documents should be maintained and followed. **General Policies, Program Operations and Technical Assistance documents are posted on the CSDE web page www.sde.ct.gov/sde.**

Inclusion/Integration – It is expected that **all** children with and without disabilities shall have access to school readiness programs. Programs must adhere to the requirements of the **ADA** and the **IDEA** which require that no child be excluded on the basis of a disability. For more information, see the **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DOCUMENT ON INCLUSION SR TA. 99-01** (available at www.sde.ct.gov/sde).

Learning Experience Plans – A Learning Experience Plan describes both the learning expectations for children as well as the teaching strategies that support all children across varying levels of development and the setting in which the experiences are planned to occur.

Outcomes – Those skills that children with a quality preschool experience are expected to demonstrate when entering kindergarten. For more information and guidance see the publication, **CONNECTICUT PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK and CONNECTICUT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK** that is available from the CSDE web page www.sde.ct.gov/sde.

Parent Fees – The amount of money parents are required to pay for participation in the school readiness program is based on the sliding fee scale or is stated on their child care certificate. Fees must be used to support the activities of the school readiness program that the child is attending. The School Readiness Council may choose to exempt only Part-Day/Part-Year Programs from this requirement. For additional information see **Program Operation PO 09-03**.

Program Standards – Programs who either have or are seeking NAEYC accreditation must meet the NAEYC standards. Head Start programs must meet the Head Start Program Performance Standards. For additional information see **General Policy GP 09-05 and GP 09-06**.

Quality Components – The 11 components required of school readiness programs by the legislation that include collaboration, parent involvement, health, nutrition, pre-literacy practices, family literacy, admission policies, transition to kindergarten, professional development, sliding fee scale and an annual program evaluation (see page 6 for a complete listing of the 11 components).

Sliding Fee Scale – A scale of fees based on income and family size. For all children, except those with a child care certificate, the programs must use the DSS Sliding Fee Scale or develop their own based on the DSS Scale to determine the fees charged to parents for school readiness programs, in accordance to policy guidelines provided by their local School Readiness Council.

Teacher – Each classroom that provides services under the School Readiness Grant must be staffed for all operating hours of the day for Part-Day and School-Day spaces and for six hours per day for Full-Day spaces by a teacher who, at minimum, has a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and 12 credits or more in early childhood education or child development from an institution of higher learning accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education, or an associate’s degree or a four (4) year degree with 12 or more credits in early childhood education or child development from an institution of higher learning accredited by the Board of Governors of Higher Education, or a Connecticut teaching certificate with an early childhood or special education endorsement. The qualifications change beginning July 1, 2015 in accordance with Public Act 12-50. **For additional information, see General Policy 13-04.**

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Local Request for Proposals FY 2014

1. Each municipality is required to publicly issue a Local Request For Proposal (RFP) in FY 2014 identifying new or continuing eligible local early care and education providers, which shall provide school readiness and child day care services to eligible children and their families.
2. In its review of these applications, the School Readiness Council must ensure that the proposals address all the statutory requirements specifying how the program will meet these requirements and only submit those proposals that are complete and in compliance with such requirements.
3. Each municipality must submit a copy of the School Readiness Council's written review of each sub-grantee's application that includes the strengths and weaknesses, as well as the council's recommendation.
4. Agencies with multiple sites may submit one (1) application with the individual sites, spaces, and cost information indicated on the Program Space Grid and attach site-specific information for licensing, accreditation, staff grids, program administration and operation pages, budget and justifications, budget attachments, and collaboration agreements.
5. Local Proposals (New or Continuing)
 - Each local proposal must accompany the community application to the CSDE as individual appendices.
 - Each proposal must be accompanied by a signed Local RFP Cover Sheet that attests that the application was reviewed, scored and in compliance with the School Readiness requirements.
6. Year 2 Proposals
 - Continuing programs that have a successful program evaluation must submit their program space grid, accreditation status, budget pages, learning experience plans and documentation of their commitment and adherence to the school readiness requirements.
 - New programs or programs that have made changes to their original application must submit a completed Local RFP application that addresses all the statutory requirements and specifies how the program will meet such requirements.

SCHOOL READINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Grant Submission Information

A. Date Of Board Acceptance

IF the submission of the application for the School Readiness Grant Program requires the official approval and/or endorsement of any board or like body (e.g., board of education, town council, etc.), the approval and/or endorsement of such body should be submitted with the grant application. If it is not possible to obtain board or similar approval prior to submission of the grant application, then the official board approval or similar document should be sent under separate cover, no later than July 1, 2013.

B. Freedom of Information Act

All of the information contained in the grant application submitted in response to the School Readiness Grant Program is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act Sections 1-200 to 1-241, inclusive (FOIA). The FOIA declares that except as provided by federal law or state statute, records maintained or kept on file by any public agency, as defined in the statute, are public records and every person has the right to inspect and receive a copy of such records.

C. Obligations of Grantees and Sub-Grantees

All bidders are hereby notified that the grant to be awarded is subject to contract compliance requirements as set forth in CGS Section 4a-60, 4a-60a and Sections 4a-68j-I et seq. of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. Furthermore, the grantee must submit periodic reports of its employment and sub-contracting practices in such form, in such manner and in such time as may be prescribed by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

D. State Monitoring and Evaluation

The CSDE or its designee, may conduct site visits to grantees and sub-grantees funded under this grant program to monitor a community's progress and compliance with the intent of the legislative Act and in accordance with the Request for Proposal.

E. Management and Control of the Program and Grant Consultation Role Of The State

The grantee should have complete management control of this grant. While state agency staff may be consulted for their expertise, they will not be directly responsible for the selection of sub-grantees or vendors, nor will they be directly involved in the expenditure and payment of funds obligated by the grantee.

F. Reporting Requirements

Within 60 days after the close of the fiscal year, each grantee must file a financial statement of expenditures with the CSDE on such forms as the CSDE may require.

The applicant must submit a complete data report, including individual programs reports and a municipality report to the CSDE by the required date each month.

The applicant awarded a grant must also submit a final project report using the assessment measure adopted by the CSDE. Applicants should identify the outcomes achieved over the course of each funding year and the progress towards achievement of an applicant's outcomes. The final report at the end of the year should include a summary of all data and information collected from an evaluation of the community's School Readiness program.

G. Annie E. Casey Foundation

1. Applicants that are part of a collaborative effort funded in whole or in part by the Annie E. Casey Foundation must submit documentation that:
2. The collaborative oversight entity has been provided the opportunity to review and comment on the grant application or proposal prior to submission to the Department.
3. The proposal or application submitted provides information detailing the activities which assure priority access to services to children, youth and families referred by the collaborative oversight entity.
4. The applicant shall designate someone to act as liaison for the referral process.

H. Grant Process

1. Review Of Applications and Grant Awards

The CSDE reserves the right to make a grant award under this program without discussion with the applicants. Therefore, applications should be submitted which present the project in the most favorable light from both technical and cost standpoints. All awards are subject to the availability of funds. Districts awarded funds under this grant program are cautioned not to commit such funds until an official grant award letter is received.

2. Consultative Assistance

Deborah Adams, Program Manager, School Readiness, Bureau of Teaching and Learning, will be available at (860) 713-6744 to answer questions regarding application procedures or proposal format.

3. Reservations and Restrictions

The CSDE reserves the right not to fund an applicant or grantee if it is determined that the grantee cannot manage the fiscal responsibilities required under this grant.

4. Facsimile (Faxed) Copies

Facsimile (faxed) copies of applications **will not** be accepted. Only applications with the original signatures and timely filed will be accepted.

5. Delivery of Applications

Delivery of the School Readiness Grant Program application is required by 4:30 p.m. on **May 17, 2013**, irrespective of the postmark date and means of transmittal. Extensions shall not be given. Applications must include one (1) original and one (1) copy.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Applicants must complete the enclosed application. This form may be copied into a word processing program. Modifications will not be accepted. Failure to submit the grant application on time may result in a delayed issuance of the grant award to the eligible applicant. Mailing/Delivery address is:

**Deborah Adams, Program Manager
State Department of Education
165 Capitol Ave, Room 215
Hartford, CT 06106**

(860) 713-6744
deborah.adams@ct.gov