

RFP- 15-008 – Evaluation of Indiana’s Early Learning Pilot Grant Program
Answers to Public Question Submissions

1. Q: Cost Proposal. Attachment F. Are there limits on the indirect cost rate? If so, what is the percentage rate?

A: No.

2. Q: If the prime vendor partners with a subcontractor that is both woman- and minority-owned, will the one subcontractor fulfill requirements for both the MBE and WBE commitments?

A: No. Separate certified sub-contractors must be used to meet the participation goals of each respective category.

3. Q: It is our understanding that the RFP indicates bidders must include on their teams ALL of the following: a women-owned business, a minority-owned business, a veteran-owned business, and a business with the majority of its workforce in Indiana. Can you confirm that all of these partners should be included on a bidding team?

A: Respondents are not “required” to include any of these partners; however, the state has the expectation that the resulting contract will have the following participation levels as a percent of the contract total: 8% Minority Owned Business; 8% Women Owned Business; 3% Indiana Veteran Business. Respondents will be awarded points, as outlined in Section 3.2.6 and Section 3.2.7, for the level of participation of these certified business enterprises.

A business that employs Indiana residents as a majority of its employees is one (1) of five (5) separate criteria for qualifying for the Buy Indiana preference. This preference applies only to the prime respondent. Sub-contractors who meet these criteria do not apply towards the prime respondent’s qualification for the Buy Indiana preference. Please see Section 2.7 for more information about the Buy Indiana initiative.

4. Q: Section 2.3.3 requests income statements and balance sheets for the two most recently completed fiscal years. We understand the state's desire to award to a financially stable vendor. Would the state accept a performance bond as a substitute for disclosure of proprietary financial information?

A: A performance bond may be required by the state under certain contracting circumstance, but it will not substitute the financial information requested by the RFP for the purposes of evaluating a Respondent. If properly labeled, proprietary financial information is statutorily exempt from the Access to Public Records Act. This information will remain confidential.

5. Q: When will the pilot program begin serving children and families?

A: The Pre-K Grant Pilot is scheduled to begin in July of 2015; however, each of the five counties will have the option of beginning early if they demonstrate sufficient readiness to do so. Due to this early start option, there will be at least two separate cohorts of children served by the Pilot.

The first cohort will begin in January, 2015 for those counties that are ready to implement early. This cohort of children may receive Pre-K services through July, 2015; although some programs may operate on the academic calendar and end services at the end of the school year.

The second cohort will begin in August, 2015 and will receive Pre-K services through either the academic year or for a full year.

It is anticipated that the first cohort will be significantly smaller than the second as currently only three of the five counties (Lake, Marion, and Vanderburgh) are indicating readiness to start early.

If the full funding is not expended by the first and second cohort, a third cohort will receive services during the following school year (2016-2017).

6. Q: How many children do you anticipate will be eligible for the program in each of the 5 counties?

A: The State estimates that there are approximately 10,000 un-served eligible four year olds in these five counties. Un-served eligible children are those four year old children whose family earns less than 127% of the FPL and are not currently receiving Pre-K services through Head Start or CCDF.

7. Q: How many children in each county do you expect to be able to serve?

A: These numbers will vary depending on the capacity of eligible programs within the county and the amount of matching funds secured. Each county estimated this number in their Statement of County Readiness as follows:

Allen	240-440
Jackson	200
Lake	400
Marion	770
Vanderburgh	150

8. Q: The RFP refers to a kindergarten readiness assessment tool recommended by the ELAC. Does this refer to the ISTAR-KR assessment or another yet to be determined assessment? If the assessment is to be determined, do you have a sense of whether it will be a teacher-administered assessment or if the evaluation team would need to assess?

A: The ELAC has recommended the following three assessments for use as pre and post assessments during the Pre-K year- the Bracken School Readiness Assessment, the Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test and the ISTAR-KR (the full assessment is to be completed, the social-emotional component must be part of the longitudinal study). The ELAC will be making a recommendation for an Indiana Kindergarten Readiness Assessment early in 2015 to be used during the first weeks of Kindergarten; however, respondents should also consider how other assessments used by the local schools could be incorporated.

9. Q: Can incentives (cash or gift card) be offered to families to help with retention and response rates?

A: Yes, as long as they are of an appropriate amount to compensate the family for their time and effort.

10. Q: Are there demographics of interest besides low-income (which all of these children will be?). For example, should the longitudinal study address racial and ethnic groups via oversampling?

A: Responses should indicate how such measures could be obtained and how the design will impact the overall cost of the study.