

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

FISCAL YEAR 2024

DC EARLY LITERACY INTERVENTION INITIATIVE GRANT

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 (12 noon)

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is soliciting grant applications for the District of Columbia Early Literacy Intervention Grant, as defined in the “Early Literacy Grant Program Amendment Act of 2015,” effective Oct. 22, 2015 (DC Law 21-36; D.C. Code § 38-2602(b)(24)), as amended. The purpose of this grant is to implement research-based early literacy interventions to increase proficiency of District students in the early grades. The overall goal of the Early Literacy Intervention Grant is to provide resources that will enable the grantee to partner with local education agencies (LEAs) in which they would provide direct, developmentally appropriate, research-based reading programs.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: OSSE will make these grants available through a competitive process. An eligible entity must be a nonprofit community-based organization that provides early literacy services. Applicants must be able to provide a full continuum of early literacy intervention services, through professionally coached interventionists, for all grades pre-K through grade 3 consisting of developmentally appropriate components for each grade. Eligible applicants must also use a comprehensive evidence-based intervention model and must provide a rationale for the intervention based on data that demonstrates need. This funding is intended to build capacity and may not be used to supplant existing services. In addition, eligible applicants will be expected to demonstrate prior effectiveness through a rigorous program evaluation and will be expected to include an evaluation plan as a component of its application. Finally, eligible applicants must be able to provide direct services each day that school is in session and collect data on student progress monthly.

LEAs are not eligible for this funding; however, eligible applicants must secure partnerships with the LEAs with which they intend to work and will be required to verify these partnerships.

Applications will be scored on the following selection criteria: Program Features, Program Implementation and Monitoring, and Financial Management and Sustainability.

Length of Award: This is a two-year grant, subject to continued availability of funding. The initial grant period will begin on the date of the award (February 2024) and end on September 30, 2024. The applicant will be required to submit an application for the second year of the grant period and demonstrate compliance with the grant requirements.

Continuation of awards in year two is contingent upon:

- Availability of funds;

- Recipient’s demonstration that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives set forth in the approved application, based on ongoing monitoring and review of the recipient;
- Compliance with the District and federal laws, regulations, and guidance;
- Operation of the grant program as submitted in the application; and
- Appropriate expenditure of funds throughout each grant award period.

Available Funding for Award: The total funding available for this award is up to \$2,600,000 for FY24 and up to \$2,100,000 for FY25, subject to continued availability of funding. An eligible entity may apply for up to \$2,000,000 per year. Grants shall only be used to support activities authorized by the RFA, relevant statutes, and included in the applicant’s submission.

Application Process: An external review panel or panels will be convened to review, score, and rank each application. The review panel(s) will be composed of neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge or related experiences. The application will be scored against a rubric and each application will have multiple reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of its review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). OSSE’s Division of Teaching and Learning will consider these recommendations but makes all final award decisions.

Applications must be submitted no later than Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 3 p.m. Please allow additional time for any issues you may experience, as well as the consistency check to run, prior to submission. OSSE anticipates that it will award grants by early February; however, this date may change.

There will be a pre-application webinar Thursday, December 7, 2023, from 2 - 3 p.m. The pre-application webinar is highly encouraged. Applicants are also encouraged to submit a notice of intent to apply by Wednesday, December 13, 2023. For additional information regarding this grant competition, please contact:

Celina Ketelsen
Grant Manager
Division of Teaching and Learning
Office of the State Superintendent of Education
1050 First St. NE, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
[\(202\) 741-0264](tel:(202)741-0264)
Celina.Ketelsen@dc.gov

The application will be available in OSSE’s Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) at <https://grants.osse.dc.gov/> and the RFA will be available on the [District Grants Clearinghouse](#).