

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

FY25 DC LEADING EDUCATORS TOWARD ADVANCED DEGREES PROGRAM

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: May 22, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is soliciting grant applications for the DC Leading Educators toward Advanced Degrees (DC LEAD) Program. The purpose of the DC LEAD Program is to provide the District's early childhood educators with the knowledge, skills and credentials to work with DC's youngest learners and increase the number of well-prepared early childhood professionals in the District.

The funding provided under this grant is funding secured through District of Columbia local funds authorized by D.C. Code § 38-2602(b)(32) and through federal funds authorized by the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014, effective Nov. 19, 2014 (P.L. 113-186; 42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.).

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: OSSE will make this grant available through a competitive process. Eligible applicants include non-profit, for-profit, faith-based community based-organizations and postsecondary education institutions. Eligible applicants must be able to demonstrate expertise in ECE, knowledge of existing scholarship programs in DC and previous experience providing financial management and monitoring of scholarships or other awards provided to the local community. Applicants are encouraged to propose bold and innovative strategies to achieve the objectives of the RFA.

Applications that meet all eligibility and application requirements will be evaluated, scored, and rated by an OSSE designated review panel. Applications will be scored on the following categories: (1) Information about the organization; (2) Capacity to implement the DC LEAD program; (3) Capacity to provide additional training on DC observation tools; (4) Financial management and proposed budget; and (5) Evaluation and data collection plan.

Length of Award: The total award period of this grant is five years beginning on Oct. 1, 2024 or the date of the award if awards are made after October 1 and ending on Sept. 30, 2029, with funding for each fiscal year contingent upon availability of funds and compliance with grant terms and conditions. Each budget period will be one year, with the first period beginning Oct. 1, 2024 or the date of the award if awards are made after October 1 and ending Sept. 30, 2025. The applicant will be required to complete a continuation application each fiscal year. Funding in future fiscal years is contingent on the following:

- Availability of funds;
- Recipient's implementation and/or operation of the program as submitted in the application;
- Recipients' demonstration that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives set forth in the approved application, based on ongoing monitoring of the recipient and reporting from the recipient;

- Compliance with the District and federal laws, regulations and guidance; and
- Appropriate expenditure of funds throughout each grant award period.

Available Funding for Award: The total funding available for this award period is approximately \$4.5 million per grant period. OSSE reserves the right to issue more than one award for this funding opportunity.

Application Process OSSE will use external peer reviewers to review and score the applications received for this RFA. External peer reviewers may include employees of the District of Columbia government who are not employed by OSSE. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the field or the subject matter. OSSE may use multiple peer review panels. The final decision to fund applicants rests solely with OSSE. After reviewing the recommendations of the review panel(s) and any other relevant information, OSSE shall decide which applicant to fund.

Applications must be submitted by July 8, 2024 (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 issuing awards by Aug. 23, 2024.

Applicants are required to submit a notice of intent to apply by June 12, 2024 (5 p.m.). Please see the RFA for the notice of intent to apply form.

Applicants are also encouraged to attend the pre-application webinar on May 29, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. To attend the pre-application webinar, please register [here](#) by Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

For additional information regarding this grant competition, please contact:

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The RFA will be available on OSSE's website and the Serve D.C. website. Applications will be submitted through the [Enterprise Grants Management System \(EGMS\)](#).