

Maryland State Department of Education

Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC)

Project 1-Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils (LECAC)

Create 24 **L**ocal **E**arly **C**hildhood **A**dvisory **C**ouncils (LECAC) within each jurisdiction across Maryland.



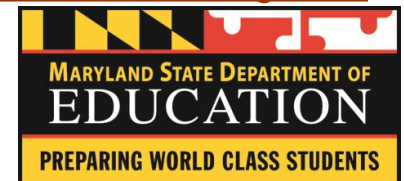
History (State Early Childhood Advisory Council-ECAC)

- *Brief history of partnership formation and supporting legislation/executive order, if applicable*
 - **State ECAC:** The Maryland Early Childhood Advisory Council, formed in 2008, continues the commitment to early childhood education begun by the Maryland Leadership in Action Program (M-LAP) in 2001 and its successor, the Maryland Early Care and Education Committee, formed in 2003 as a permanent subcommittee of the Governor's Children's Cabinet, chaired by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Superintendent of Schools. The Council, charged with facilitating a steady and strong improvement in early care and education, has reviewed Maryland's entire history of progress on the issue and has used this carefully-considered knowledge to develop a Three-Year Action Plan for 2009-2012. The State ECAC is still active and is in statue, adhering to its approved State ECAC By Laws as well as serving as the advisory body for the Race To The Top Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC). The Council oversees RTT-ELC Grant Project 1-Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils. <http://marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/28B75D91-0DCF-4B6F-92CB-E21A6A638486/21158/ECAC3year.pdf>
 - **House Bill 461:**
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&stab=02&id=hb0461&tab=sobject3&ys=2014RS>

History

(Race To The Top Early Learning Challenge Grant –RTT-ELC)

- *Brief history of partnership formation and supporting legislation/executive order, if applicable*
 - **RTT-ELC Grant:** On December 16, 2011, Maryland received a four-year, \$50 million grant award from the US Department of Education under the national Race To the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant competition. Maryland was one of only nine states receiving an award; a total of 35 states submitted grant applications. The grant was awarded to the State by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services for improving early care and education outcomes for high needs children. The goal of Maryland's RTT-ELC grant is to improve the school readiness skills of incoming kindergarteners from the current baseline in 2010 of 81% fully ready to 92% fully ready in 2015.
 - Nine states were awarded a Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant: California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island and Washington state. Each winning state demonstrated its past commitment to, and investment in, high-quality, accessible Early Learning and Development Programs and services for Children with High Needs.
 - **RTT-ELC Grant:** http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/challenge.htm



History

(Annie E. Casey Foundation-AECF & MSDE Partnership)

- ❑ The Casey Foundation was asked by MSDE to determine how best to provide its results based leadership development tools and skills to support the formation of the local early childhood advisory councils, and the development of impactful local action plans.
- ❑ AECF and MSDE worked together for over a year to ensure that a core team of four to six people representing each local council were given the tools and technical assistance support needed.
- ❑ This collaboration between AECF and MSDE laid a foundation for the LECACs to identify the high risk population or area to be improved, develop an action plan and implement the goals and strategies using Results Based Accountability (RBA) that will be a part of their locally designed plan.
- ❑ Technical assistance was provided by AECF on the leadership training skills and by MSDE on the development of their action plans.
- ❑ AECF and MSDE continue to collaborate to offer booster sessions and create a train-the-trainer model.

History (Project 1-LECAC)

- Project One created 24 local early childhood councils throughout the state. These local councils replicate the responsibilities of the State Early Childhood Advisory Council at the Baltimore City and county levels and assist in implementing the RTT-ELC State Plan by developing a local action agenda in each jurisdiction to support the goals of the plan.
- The Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant is enabling Maryland to create a seamless Birth-to-Grade 12 reform agenda, ensuring that all young children and their families are supported in the state's efforts to overcome school readiness gaps and moving early childhood education in Maryland from a good system to a great system.
- Support was offered to each LECAC through the grant Request for Proposal process. The application is found at: http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/docs/RFP-LECACImplemGrant.pdf

History (Mission and Goals of the LECAC)

- The purpose of Project 1 grant funds is to provide support for overcoming local school readiness achievement gaps for children with high needs, including children from low-income families, children with disabilities, and English Language Learners.
- Local efforts promote participation in Maryland EXCELS, disseminate professional development in the state's early learning standards and assessments, and assist in coordinating services for children with high needs with the goal of narrowing the school readiness gap.



Governance and Partnership

□ Governance Structure

- To ensure stability and flow of information to the LECACs, a system has been set in place.
- Each county has a designated MSDE lead representative to provide technical assistance (TA).
- The first point of contact with the LECACs are the Chairs of the local council. Chairs of the LECACs are charged with relaying information to their Core Planning teams and full LECAC team members. This system was intentionally designed to help support the leadership skills acquired through trainings and support moving the work forward.




Governance and Partnership

❑ **Lead Local Council Team Make-Up (Chairs & Co-Chairs)**


- ❑ Nineteen (19) of the LECACs are chaired by a representative of the local education agency and five (5) are chaired by a representative of the local government.
- ❑ Every county has leadership representation from both the local education agency and the local government

Governance and Partnership

- ❑ **Full Local Council Team Make-Up (15-30+ members) Include:**
 - ❑ Local Superintendent of Schools
 - ❑ Local government representative(s)
 - ❑ Representatives of local education agencies' early childhood general and special education
 - ❑ Infants & Toddlers Program, Head Start, licensed family and center-based child care programs
 - ❑ Child care resource and referral agencies
 - ❑ Judy Center Partnerships
 - ❑ Local libraries
 - ❑ Parents
 - ❑ Family Support Centers
 - ❑ Provider of services to families
 - ❑ Local departments of social services, child care licensing, early childhood non-profit agencies, and partners customized to the resources in that local jurisdiction.



You've Got Funding!



Funding (Implementation Grant)

Total Implementation Grant Amount Awarded

\$1,080,000

Funding Formula

#of Child Factor	1
Disability Factor	2
ELL Factor	2
FARM Factor	1

- A base amount of \$20,000 per jurisdiction was given before the formula was applied.
- These grants are one-time only and applications will be accepted until November 30, 2013.

24 Jurisdictions

1. Allegany County
2. Anne Arundel County
3. Baltimore City
4. Baltimore County
5. Calvert County
6. Caroline County
7. Carroll County
8. Cecil County
9. Charles County
10. Dorchester County
11. Frederick County
12. Garrett County
13. Harford County
14. Howard County
15. Kent County
16. Montgomery County
17. Prince George's County
18. Queen Anne's County
19. Somerset County
20. St. Mary's County
21. Talbot County
22. Washington County
23. Wicomico County
24. Worcester County

Funding (Target Population)

Jurisdictions	Target Population
1. Allegany County	Low Income and Children with Special Needs
2. Anne Arundel County	ELL and FARMS
3. Baltimore City	Cherry Hill Community (Home & Center Based)
4. Baltimore County	Poverty
5. Calvert County	Low Income, Stay at Home & Informal Caregivers
6. Caroline County	At Risk Kindergarten Children, Children with Disabilities and Prior Care
7. Carroll County	Low Income and Children w/Disabilities
8. Cecil County	Strengthening Families (3-5 High Risk Communities)
9. Charles County	Low Income, Children with Disabilities and ELL
10. Dorchester County	Language & Literacy (All population subgroups)
11. Frederick County	Children with Disabilities
12. Garrett County	Children with Disabilities and Low-Income
13. Harford County	Poverty, Home/Informal Care/ELL and Children with Special Needs
14. Howard County	ELL, Children with Special Needs and FARMS
Jurisdictions	Target Population
15. Kent County	Poverty and Low-Income
16. Montgomery County	Low Income and ELL
17. Prince George's County	Low Income-Three (3) Schools in Southern Prince George's County (Samuel Chase, Allenwood, and Hillcrest Heights) and Center and Family Based Child Care Centers in these communities.
18. Queen Anne's County	FARMS, ELL, Children w/Disabilities and Home/Informal Care
19. St. Mary's County	FARMS/Low Income
20. Somerset County	FARMS/Low Income
21. Talbot County	FARMS/Poverty
22. Washington County	FARMS/ Low Income
23. Wicomico County	ELL and Children with Special Needs/Education
24. Worcester County	FARMS/Low Income

Funding (Grant Activities)

http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/docs/LECACProjectAbstracts.pdf



Evaluation and Outcomes

Grantees are required to submit annual evaluation reports and quarterly progress reports that are consistent with the project's goal and objective(s). The final evaluation will consider the entire project, beginning to end that includes planning, design, and implementation. An effective ongoing plan that evaluates milestones quarterly enables local councils you to make informed decisions about needed changes.

See Chart below for LECAC reporting due dates:

Document(s)	Due Date
Interim Report	September 30, 2014
Final Progress Report(activities end)	June 30, 2015
Final Evaluation	October 30, 2015
Financial Report (Final Invoice)	October 30, 2015
Documentation of LECAC Meetings Held	Rolling basis throughout the entire grant FY14-15 period



Sustainability Beyond RTT-ELC 2015

- Sub-Committees of the Local ECACs are formed to suit local needs employ the Result Based Accountability and Results Based Facilitation skills learned in leadership training.
- Communication/Social Media- In line with the current trends, several LECACs have become more creative when trying to reach communities and families they serve. To name a few; Facebook, InstaGram, You Tube, videos, Text, etc.
- Partnerships with existing organizations, stakeholders, etc are key, such as working with Reach Out and Read (ROAR), Learning Parties, Parent Cafes, the Family Engagement Coalition, and Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning (SEFEL) according to the needs within their jurisdiction.

Resources

Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC)

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/challenge

Maryland EXCELS (QRIS)

<http://marylandexcels.org>

Maryland State and Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils (ECAC/LECAC)

http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/planning.html

“The Early Childhood Family Engagement Framework: Maryland’s Vision for Engaging Families with Young Children”

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/docs/MdFamEngage_111213.pdf?id=238651&type=Movie

Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (SEFEL)

<https://theinstitute.umaryland.edu/SEFEL>

Reach Out and Read (ROAR)

<http://reachoutandread.org/>

Ready At Five

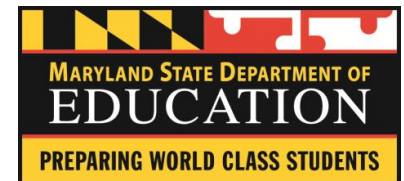
<http://www.readyatfive.org/>

Maryland Family Network

<http://marylandfamilynetwork.org/>

Raising A Reader

<http://www.raisingareader.org/site/PageNavigator/HomepageNew.html>



Maryland State Department of Education

Wendy Baysmore
Grant Specialist
Division of Early Childhood Development
Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch
wendy.baysmore@maryland.gov
www.marylandpublicschools.org