

STATE OF MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

October 5, 2018

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex M. Azar IIU.S. Department of Health & Human Services200 Independence Avenue, S.W.Washington, D.C. 20201

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretaries Azar and DeVos:

I am pleased to designate the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) as the entity that will have responsibility for execution of the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five grant if our state is awarded the opportunity. The Division of Early Childhood and the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services are co-located at the agency making the MSDE the most appropriate and best suited entity to easily and successfully oversee and manage the grant, as well as facilitate collaboration, coordination, and alignment among the full range of early childhood care and education programs, services, and funding streams in Maryland's birth through age five mixed delivery system. The MSDE is best suited to lead the state in improving early childhood program quality and improving the transitions between diverse early childhood programs into elementary school.

I am confident that the MSDE has the fiscal, administrative, and performance management expertise and capacity to effectively administer this funding opportunity as it did previously with its Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant and continues to do with the original Preschool Development Grants, as well as funds provided through the Child Care Development Block Grant, Every Students Succeeds Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Because the MSDE oversees the 24 Local Education Agencies and the majority of early childhood programs, including child care, Head Start collaboration, State PreK, State-funded home visiting, and special education services for infants and toddlers and their families and preschool-age children, the agency is well-positioned to increase program operating and cost efficiencies, expand parental choices and involvement, and ensure families are linked to the full range of diverse services they need.

> STATE HOUSE, ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 2:401 (410) 974-3901 I-800-811-8336 TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

In Maryland, the MSDE serves as a convener of diverse state and local stakeholders through its leadership of the State Early Childhood Advisory Council, Office of Child Care Advisory Council, and Family Engagement Coalition, as well as locally through the 54 Judy Center Partnerships and the 24 local jurisdiction's early learning coordinators. Through these partnerships, MSDE works to improve the availability and quality of programs and supports for all Maryland's children and families, but especially for the most vulnerable.

Led by the MSDE, this new funding stream would enable Maryland to build upon and leverage existing Federal, State, local, and non-governmental resources to align and strengthen the delivery of existing programs so that each child can reach her or his full potential.

Sincerely,

Larry Hegan

Governor



P.O. Box 39894 Baltimore, Maryland 21212 info@md-hsa.org 443-595-6472; 301-744-9472

October 05, 2018

U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex M. Azar IIU.S. Department of Health & Human Services200 Independence Avenue, S.W.Washington, D.C. 20201

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Secretaries Azar and DeVos:

The Maryland Head Start Association, Inc. (MHSA) works to strengthen the Head Start community in the State by providing advocacy for vulnerable children and families, leadership, and professional development. We are active members of both the State Early Childhood Advisory Council and Office of Child Care Advisory Council. As key stakeholders, we encourage you to fully fund Maryland's application for the Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five program.

The Maryland Head Start State Collaboration Office is located in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The MHSA works closely with the MSDE Division of Early Childhood to ensure our most vulnerable children have access to high-quality early learning and families receive the supports they need. To that end, the MHSA has partnered with MSDE to increase Head Start participation in the State's Quality Rating and Improvement System, MD EXCELS. Today, over 130 Head Start programs serve as EXCELS providers, and forty of these programs have earned the highest level of quality. The MSDE has included four Head Start providers in Maryland's mixed-delivery, Federally-funded Preschool Development Grant program.

The Division's Head Start Collaboration Director and senior staff have been true partners to our organization, participating in our Directors meetings, attending our conferences, and contributing to the development of our strategic plan. The MSDE has held local education agencies accountable by requiring them to submit agreements between the school systems and Head Start programs with their Title I plans to better coordinate seamless transitions for children and families. The Division also works closely with the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grantees, providing grants for these grantees to eliminate the time lag burden for provider reimbursement. In addition, the MSDE provides additional funds to improve the quality of the Partnerships.

Maryland has made tremendous progress over the years in developing and improving its early care and education system and including MHSA as a key partner. This new funding opportunity would enable Maryland to conduct a thorough needs assessment, update its strategic plan, maximize parental choice and knowledge, share best practices among Head Start and other providers, and improve the quality of early childhood programs.

Thank you for considering Maryland's application.

Best Regards,

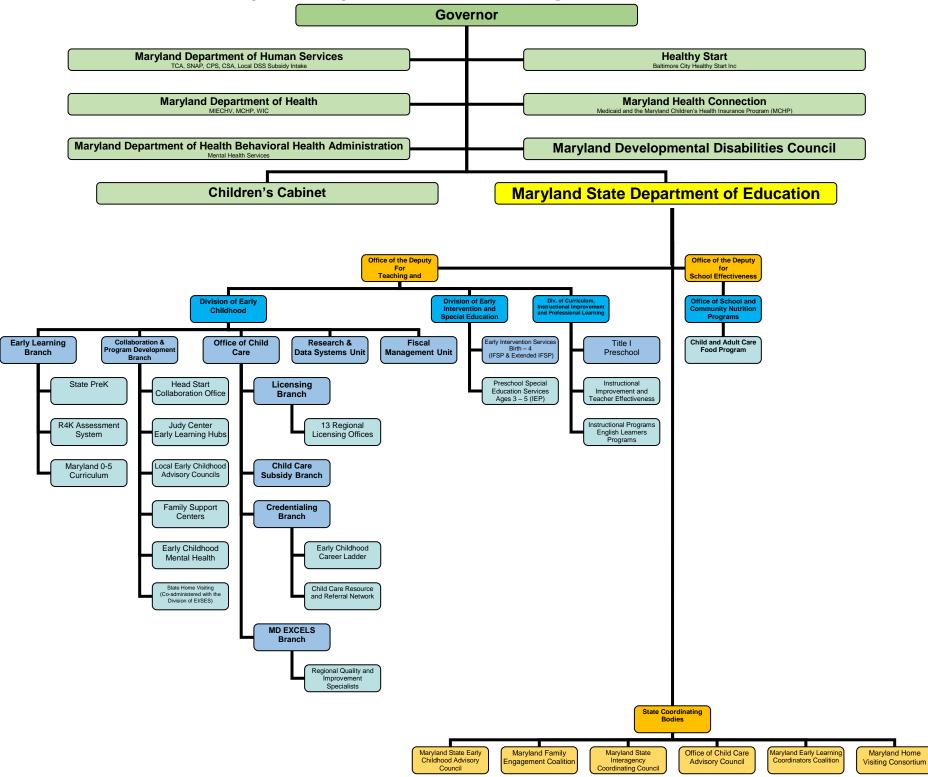
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Executive Officer Maryland Head Start Association, Inc.

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY FOR SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS Dr. Sylvia A. Lawson Chief Performance Officer 01.400	OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING Dr. Carol A. Williamson Chief Academic Officer 01.100	OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY FOR FINANCE Amalie Brandenburg Chief Operating Officer 01.200
Division of Educator Certification and Program Approval Sarah Spross Assistant State Superintendent 18.000	Division of Early Childhood Steven Hicks Assistant State Superintendent 10.000	Division of Business Services Christy Lee-Shockley Assistant State Superintendent 02.000
Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy Mary Gable Assistant State Superintendent 12.000	Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services Marcella Franczkowski Assistant State Superintendent 13.000	Office of Policy and Fiscal Analysis Donna Gunning Executive Director 01.013
Division of Rehabilitation Services Scott Dennis Acting Assistant State Superintendent 20.000	Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement and Professional Learning Marcia Sprankle Assistant State Superintendent 11.000	Office of Fiscal Planning, Research, and Evaluation Vacant Program Manager 01.200
Juvenile Services Education Debbie Grinnage-Pulley Executive Director 15.000	Division of Career and College Readiness Lynne Gilli Assistant State Superintendent 14.000	Senior Financial Advisor Steve Brooks
Office of School and Community Nutrition Programs Robin Ziegler Program Manager 07.000	Division of Assessment, Accountability and Information Technology Jennifer Judkins Assistant State Superintendent 04.000	Office of Compliance and Monitoring Rick Henry Executive Director 01.014
Pupil Transportation and Emergency Services Gabriel Rose Program Manager 01.400	Office of Leadership Development and School Improvement Tiara Booker-Dwyer Executive Director 01.000	Agency Equity Officer Kim Johnson Equity Office Director 01.400
School Facilities Fred Mason Branch Chief 02.700	Office of Research Dara Shaw Executive Director 01.015	Facilities Xavier Richards DGS Staff
Athletics Robert Warner Branch Chief 01.400	Independent U MD Center for School Safety Ed Clarke Executive Director 01.011	nits within MSDE Interagency Committee on School Construction Robert Gorrell Executive Director 01.012

Maryland Early Childhood Services Organizational Chart



Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 16, 2018

Secretary Alex M. Azar Department of Health and Human Services 330 C Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Secretary Azar:

We are pleased to support the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) application for the Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five program. As a convener of state and local entities working to improve the availability and quality of early childhood care and education programs in Maryland, the MSDE is positioned to conduct a statewide, comprehensive birth through five needs assessment.

Maryland has been forward thinking in centralizing the majority of its early childhood programs in a mixed delivery system at the MSDE, where the Division of Early Childhood and the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services coordinate and collaborate on a full range of care and education programs, services, and funding streams. These include Child Care, Head Start collaboration, State Pre-K, Title I preschool, State-funded home visiting, and special education services for infants and toddlers and their families and preschool-age children.

The MSDE stands out among state education departments nation-wide for its focus on "equity and excellence" and ensuring the seamless transition of children between early childhood programs and from such programs to elementary school, especially for low-income and disadvantaged children. This new funding opportunity would allow Maryland to build on and leverage the successes from local, state and federal investments.

We encourage you to give the State of Maryland's application for a Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five grant favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Benjamin J. Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin United States Senator

m Huln

Chris Van Hollen United States Senator

Anthony Brown— United States Representative

John K. Delaney

United States Representative

Steny H. Nover United States Representative

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger United States Representative

R E. Turningo

Elijah E. Cummings United States Representative

Andy Harris, M.D. United States Representative

Jamie Raskin United States Representative

John P. Sarbanes Inited States Representative

cc: Secretary Betsy DeVos, United States Department of Eductation

Appendix A: Recent Maryland Needs Assessments and Strategic Plans

NEEDS ASSESSMENT RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
Evaluation of the Efficacy of Maryland's	Report on the effectiveness of implementation of the Maryland's RTT-
Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge	ELC Grant, conducted by the Center for Early Childhood Education &
Grant	Intervention (CECEI) of University of Maryland.
Affordable Care Act Maternal, Infant, and	Needs Assessment in preparation for the Affordable Care Act Home
Early Childhood Home Visiting Program:	Visiting Initiative. Covers 15 indicators including: infant mortality,
Maryland's Statewide Needs Assessment	premature birth, unemployment, poverty, crime rates, and more.
Child Care for Children with Special Needs	Report on the findings of the 2016 Survey of Child Care Providers relating to the availability and quality of childcare for children with special needs, by Maryland Family Network.
Project Abstracts: Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils Implementation Grant	Compilation of abstracts for the Local Early Childhood Advisory Council Implementation Grant (January 1 st , 2013- June 30 th , 2015) from counties in Maryland.
Commission on Innovation and	Preliminary recommendations with a fiscal impact to support Maryland
Excellence in Education	policies in expanding of high-quality Pre-K to four year olds and three
	year olds from low-income families, Judy centers.
Maryland Report on Part B Indicator 8 of the	Report on Part B Indicator 8 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2017-2018	Act by administering surveys for preschool and school age, conducted by ICF International.
Maryland Head Start State Collaboration	
Office Needs Assessment Report of 201	Needs assessment study for the Maryland Head Start programs and Head Start Collaboration grants by the Maryland Head Start Collaboration
Office Needs Assessment Report of 201	Office.
Head Start Programs in Maryland: 2018	Program Information and Needs Assessment report for the Head Start
Program Information & Needs Assessment	programs in Maryland by Maryland Head Start Association.
Report for the State of Maryland	
STRATEGIC PLANNING RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION
STRATEGIC PLANNING RESOURCES Maryland Race to the Top – Early Learning	DESCRIPTION Maryland's Application for initial funding for RTT-ELC.
STRATEGIC PLANNING RESOURCES Maryland Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding	Maryland's Application for initial funding for RTT-ELC.
STRATEGIC PLANNING RESOURCES Maryland Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding Maryland Every Student Succeeds Act	
STRATEGIC PLANNING RESOURCES Maryland Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding Maryland Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Consolidated State Plan	Maryland's Application for initial funding for RTT-ELC. Maryland ESSA consolidated State Plan, revised In May 23, 2018.
STRATEGIC PLANNING RESOURCESMaryland Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial FundingMaryland Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Consolidated State PlanAchieving School Readiness: A 5-Year	Maryland's Application for initial funding for RTT-ELC. Maryland ESSA consolidated State Plan, revised In May 23, 2018. 5-year action agenda to promote and achieve school readiness for
STRATEGIC PLANNING RESOURCES Maryland Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding Maryland Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Consolidated State Plan Achieving School Readiness: A 5-Year Action Agenda for Maryland	Maryland's Application for initial funding for RTT-ELC. Maryland ESSA consolidated State Plan, revised In May 23, 2018. 5-year action agenda to promote and achieve school readiness for Maryland children, by the Leadership in Action Program.
STRATEGIC PLANNING RESOURCESMaryland Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial FundingMaryland Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Consolidated State PlanAchieving School Readiness: A 5-Year Action Agenda for MarylandStrategic Plan: Moving Maryland Forward –	Maryland's Application for initial funding for RTT-ELC. Maryland ESSA consolidated State Plan, revised In May 23, 2018. 5-year action agenda to promote and achieve school readiness for Maryland children, by the Leadership in Action Program. Strategic Plan for the Division of Special Education/ Early Intervention
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