

A group of diverse young children are shown in the background, sitting together and smiling. The children have various ethnicities and are dressed in colorful clothing. The image is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the text overlays.

Pre-K Grants Support:

Prekindergarten Expansion Grant

Maryland State Prekindergarten Grant

Division of Early Childhood
February 28, 2022 and March 1, 2022

Presented By | The Maryland State
Department of Education

Outcomes

- ✔ To understand the requirements for the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant and the Maryland State Prekindergarten Grant in order to apply
- ✔ To compare the two grant programs when deciding which one to apply for
- ✔ To know where to get additional information or questions answered

Overview and Agenda

- ✓ Purpose
- ✓ Who May Apply?
- ✓ Eligibility
- ✓ Memorandum of Understanding
- ✓ Assurances
- ✓ Application Overview and Comparing Grant Programs
- ✓ Grant Timeline
- ✓ Submission Requirements and The Review Process
- ✓ Next Steps and Program Support

Purpose

Broaden availability and expand access to high-quality prekindergarten and school readiness services for three-year-old and four-year-old students from families with household incomes up to 300 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG).

For PreK Expansion Grant Program only:

Students with IEPs, homeless students, and children from homes in which English is not the primary spoken language are all eligible regardless of income.

Who may apply?

Prekindergarten Expansion Grant program	Maryland State Prekindergarten program
Private Providers (includes Head Start and Child Care)	Private providers (includes Head Start and Child Care)
Local education agencies (public providers)	

Eligibility

This funding opportunity is designed for those who deliver prekindergarten services including:

- Local Education Agencies (LEAs) or qualified vendors (as defined in COMAR 13A.06.02)
- Private providers who:
 - Hold a valid license, and
 - Have not incurred any serious health or safety violations
- Head Start programs.

The MSDE will take measures to achieve geographic diversity among participating providers.

Priority will be given to qualified high-quality programs that:

- Are located in areas of the state that have an unmet need for prekindergarten services;
- Include a robust plan for long-term sustainability, including community partnerships; and
- Incorporate parental engagement and educational activities beyond the classroom.

*Prekindergarten Expansion programs must participate in the Maryland EXCELS program

Memorandum of Understanding

- Beginning in 2022-2023, the Local Education Agency (LEA) must submit a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MSDE, the LEA, and the private provider(s).
- The MOU will outline the roles and responsibilities between the MSDE and the local education agency, and between the LEA and each eligible private provider who is a grantee in the school system catchment area.
- Local education agencies and private providers are expected to collaborate on a plan.
- The MSDE will provide the MOU that must be signed and submitted no later than July 1, 2022.

Memorandum of Understanding (cont'd)

The MOU will provide for:

- A plan for providing services for children with disabilities regardless of family enrollment preference;
- A process by which a parent is able to indicate a preference for eligible prekindergarten providers;
- A plan to centralize prekindergarten enrollment across the county regardless of family enrollment preference;
- The manner for processing the payment of the State share, local share, and family share for each child who is enrolled with an eligible prekindergarten provider;

Memorandum of Understanding (cont'd)

- Any agreed upon administrative costs to be retained by an agency that is party to this agreement;
- A plan to address racial and socioeconomic integration in prekindergarten classrooms;
- A plan to avoid, to the extent practicable, a disproportionate concentration of students of the same race, ethnicity, disability status, and income within an eligible provider; and
- Any other provisions necessary to meet the goals of the program.

Assurances

- The applicant must agree to assurances and attestations.
- Commitment statements provided for MSDE, Local Education Agency and the Private Provider.
- The Assurances page must be signed by the MSDE and the applicants in their designated section.

Application Overview

- **Slots Requested:** Indicate the number of full-day slots for 3 and /or 4 year olds a program will serve in 2022-23.
- **Staffing and Site Selection:** Identify the teaching team that will deliver the instructional program including the teachers with P-3 certification. There will be a table to fill in with the complete information.
- **MD EXCELS and Accreditation status:** (for PreK Expansion Grant application only) Complete table with program status and the EXCELS plan.
- **Goals and Objectives:** Identify clear goals and objectives that they hope their program achieves. The specific goals and objectives should align with readiness for kindergarten curriculum and instruction..

Application Overview

- **Proposed Plan:** Describe plans for implementing high quality PreK learning experiences.
- **Evaluation Plan:** Describe evaluation of program for continuous quality improvement and monitoring student progress. Identify data and instruments and how they are used to monitor the quality of the program (ex. CLASS, checklists, self-assessments,) . Specify how student progress is monitored and how information is shared with families.
- **Program Management and Key Personnel:** Identify key people responsible for grant implementation and monitoring
- **Implementation Plan:** Describe how the goals and strategies you provided in the summary will be carried out over the grant year. The activities listed on the plan must align to the budget narrative. The funding amounts specified in the budget should be able to be identified in the implementation plan as you plan out the year.

Application Overview -(cont'd)

- **Budget and Budget Narrative:** Provide a detailed description of the requested funds that will be spent by the designated categories.
 - An MSDE Grant Budget C-125 form must also be completed, signed and submitted
- **Collaboration and Sustainability:** List collaborating partners and describe their roles along with a plan for sustainability
- **Appendix:** Attach supporting documents. Appendices must be included in the proposal for funding, but do not apply to the page limit of the application package.

Comparing the grant programs

	Prekindergarten Expansion Grant	Maryland State Prekindergarten Grant
Lead Teacher	Certified in early childhood education OR has a bachelor's degree and is enrolled in an alternative preparation program	Certified in early childhood education
Assistant Teacher	Has at least a CDA or associate's degree, be enrolled in a program to receive a CDA or AA, or has a plan to obtain one by the 2025-2026 school year	Has at least a high school diploma

Comparing the grant programs

	Prekindergarten Expansion Grant	Maryland State Prekindergarten Grant
Ratio	10:1	10:1
Class Size	Max of 20 students	Average of 20 students
Maryland EXCELS	Must be in EXCELS; priority given to those published at a level 5, 4, 3*	No EXCELS requirement

Comparing the grant programs (cont'd)

	Prekindergarten Expansion Grant	Maryland State Prekindergarten
Program Type	Full Day (6.5 hours)	Full Day (6.5 hours)
Program Length	180 days	180 days
Income Eligibility	3- and 4-year-olds up to 300 percent of FPL; Homeless students, those with disabilities and children from homes in which English is not the primary spoken language are eligible regardless of income	3- and 4-year olds up to 300 percent of FPL (Tier I)
Per-Student Funding Amount	\$13,000 per new full day student	\$10,094 per new full day student

Grant Timeline

Feb 23, 2022	The grant application period opens
Feb 28, Mar 1	The MSDE will hold customer service support sessions from 1-2 to review the program and application for interested applicants
Mar 7, 15	The MSDE will hold customer service support sessions from 1-2 to review the scoring guide for interested applicants
Mar 3, Mar 9, Mar 16, Mar 29	The MSDE will hold open Q&A sessions from 1-2 specifically tailored to private providers
Feb 28, Mar 4	The MSDE will hold open Q&A sessions from 11-12 specifically tailored to local education agencies
Apr 8, 2022	The grant application closes
Apr 11, 2022	The MSDE begins reviewing applications for eligibility and completeness

Grant Timeline (cont'd)

May 11, 2022	The MSDE will notify applicants of their award status
July 1, 2022	The grant period begins
Aug 2022	Program implementation begins
July 2022	The MSDE will begin to create Notice of Grant Awards (NOGAs) and send to grantees
Sep 2022	Process grantee payments for those who requested a 15% advance
June 30, 2023	The grant period ends

Submission Requirements

- An electronic grant application form is provided on our website.
- Interested applicants must download the application, attach any supporting documentation as appendices, and submit the package in its entirety in pdf form.
- PreK Expansion email- prekexpansiongrant.msde@maryland.gov
- MD State PreK Program email- mdstateprekindergartengrant.msde@maryland.gov
- The prescribed cover sheet must be the first page of the proposal.
- The program statement that appears on the cover sheet must not exceed 100 words.
- The original application cover sheet must be signed in blue ink. Copies of the cover sheet must not be color photocopied.
- Application package excluding proposal cover sheet, budget narrative, itemized budget form, signed assurances and appendices must not exceed 10 pages.

The Review Process

The review of proposals will be a four-part process:

1. Written applications will be prescreened for submission requirements and inclusion of all required sections. Applicants not meeting all prescreen requirements will not be reviewed.
2. A review committee established by MSDE will evaluate applications and assign numerical scores using the scoring guide. The scoring guide can be found on the [Maryland Prekindergarten Grant Programs](#) webpage.
3. Applicants may be scheduled for an oral program presentation as determined by the review committee.
4. Final approval for awards will be determined by the review committee.

The MSDE reserves the right to take into consideration geographic distribution when making awards.

Award Notification and Advance

Notification of awards will be sent by email in the spring. Processing of the official Notice of Grant Awards (NOGA) will begin on July 1st; this process can take 6-8 weeks. An invoice template for billing will be sent with the official NOGA.

Applicants meeting all grant requirements may be eligible to receive a 15% advance upon request. Applicants requesting an advance must complete a Request for Payment Advance and submit it with the application. The Request for Payment Advance form can be found on the Maryland Prekindergarten Grant Programs page. Advance payment requests received after the application has been submitted will not be considered.

Next Steps

To access the grant information, please visit

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/maryland-prek-grant-programs>

Maryland PreK Grant Programs



GRANT INFORMATION GUIDE

Prekindergarten Expansion
Grant Program



GRANT INFORMATION GUIDE

Maryland State Prekindergarten
Grant Program

Next Steps

To access the grant applications and resources, please visit

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/maryland-prek-grant-programs>

The screenshot displays a website interface with two main navigation columns and a central resources section. The left column is titled "PreK Expansion Guide" and includes links for "Prek Expansion Grant Application", "PreK Expansion Grant Scoring Guide", and "PreK Expansion Grant FAQs". The right column is titled "Maryland State PreK Grant Guide" and includes links for "Maryland State PreK Grant Application", "Maryland PreK State Grant Scoring Guide", and "Maryland State PreK Grant FAQs". Below these columns is a section titled "Additional PreK Grant Resources and Documents" which lists: "Request for Payment Advance", "Definition of High Quality PreKindergarten", "September 30, 2021 PreK Enrollment", and "Preventing Suspension and Expulsion Policy". Two large black arrows point from the top corners of the screenshot towards the respective navigation columns.

PreK Expansion Guide	Maryland State PreK Grant Guide
Prek Expansion Grant Application	Maryland State PreK Grant Application
PreK Expansion Grant Scoring Guide	Maryland PreK State Grant Scoring Guide
PreK Expansion Grant FAQs	Maryland State PreK Grant FAQs

Additional PreK Grant Resources and Documents

- [Request for Payment Advance](#)
- [Definition of High Quality PreKindergarten](#)
- [September 30, 2021 PreK Enrollment](#)
- [Preventing Suspension and Expulsion Policy](#)

Program Support

The MSDE will hold several customer service support sessions for interested applicants. During these sessions, MSDE personnel will provide an overview of the program, the requirements, and the proposal.

To attend, click on the date on the Prekindergarten grants page.

Date/Time	Topic
Feb 28, 2022	Overview of the application for participation
Mar 1, 2022	Overview of the application for participation
Mar 7, 2022	Overview of the Scoring Guide
Mar 15, 2022	Overview of the Scoring Guide

Program Support

Private Provider Customer Service Hours

Date/ Time
Mar 3, 2022 from 1-2pm
Mar 9, 2022 from 1-2pm
Mar 16, 2022 from 1-2pm
Mar 29, 2022 from 1-2pm

To attend, click on the date on the Prekindergarten grants page.

Program Support

Local Education Agency (LEA) Customer Service Hours

Date/Time
Feb 28, 2022 from 11-12pm
Mar 4, 2022 from 11-12pm

To attend, click on the date on the Prekindergarten grants page.

Questions?

If you have questions about the application or the process, please contact the Prekindergarten Program Manager:

Nykia Washington

Prekindergarten Program Manager

Division of Early Childhood

Nykia.Washington@maryland.gov

410-767-0088