Child Care Information Session

Maryland State Department of Education

Presented By | Division of Early Childhood

October 27, 2022

Agenda

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Updates from Maryland EXCELS
- Updates for Maryland Rebuilds
- Answers to Submitted Questions
- Closing Remarks

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
2. Maryland EXCELS
3. Maryland Rebuilds
4. Answers to Submitted Questions
5. Closing Remarks

Welcome and Opening Remarks

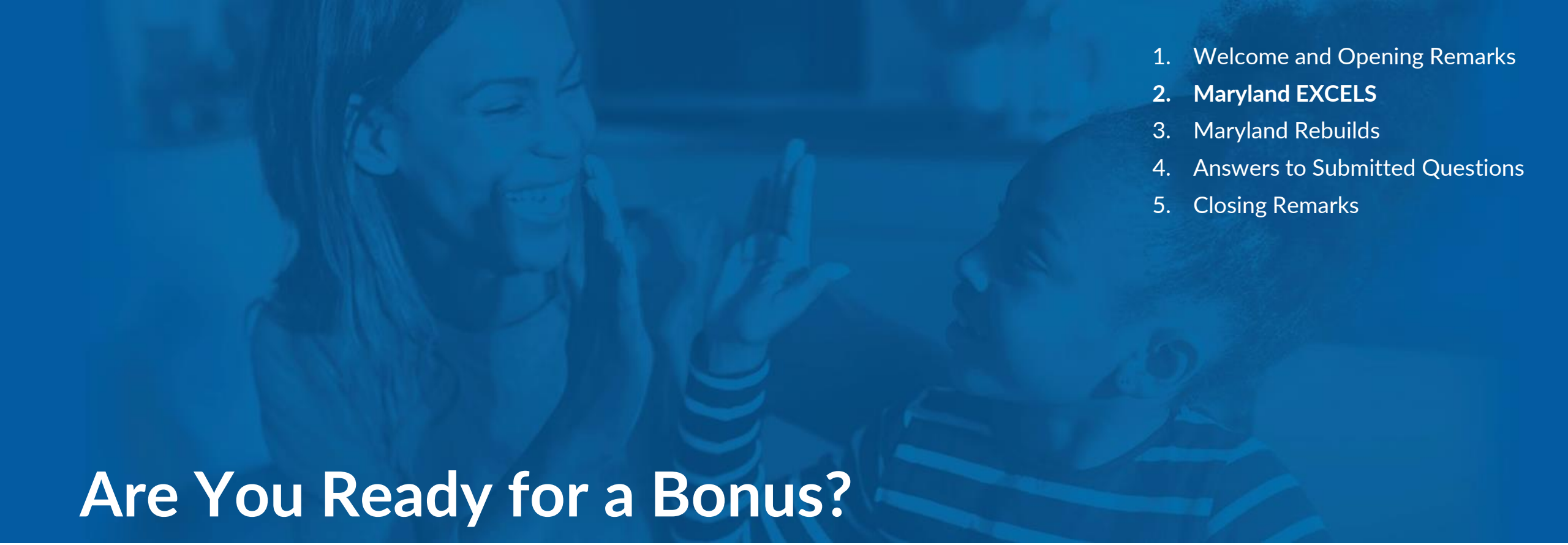
Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Deann Collins

BLUEPRINT FOR MARYLAND'S FUTURE

Deputy Superintendent of
Teaching and Learning

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE



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Are You Ready for a Bonus?

Maryland EXCELS Branch Chief, Jena Smith

Maryland's Quality Rating and Improvement System

Let us support you in growing your program.

Maryland EXCELS offers:

- Professional development
- Advertising
- Guidance from an experienced Quality Assurance Specialist
- Technical Assistance in reaching higher quality ratings

Bonus Basics

Maryland EXCELS Bonuses:

- Participating programs that publish a first time rating, an higher quality rating, or republication of a quality rating 5.
- Bonus payments to begin in October.
- Bonuses will be based on publishing actions of July 1, 2022.
- There are no requirements for how the bonuses are spent.
- Bonuses are ongoing as outlined in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

Bonus Amounts

How is your bonus determined?

- Bonus payments for fiscal year 2023 will be triple the amounts included in the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR).
- Payment scales are set according to type of program, quality rating and capacity.

Bonus Amounts for Child Care Centers

Bonus amounts for child care centers will range from $150-$13,500.

Quality Rating	Child Care Center Capacity 1-50		Child Care Center Capacity 51-100		Child Care Center Capacity 101+	
	COMAR	Fiscal Year 2023	COMAR	Fiscal Year 2023	COMAR	Fiscal Year 2023
1	$50	$150	$100	$300	$150	$450
2	$250	$750	$500	$1,500	$750	$2,250
3	$400	$1,200	$800	$2,400	$1,200	$3,600
4	$1,000	$3,000	$2,000	$6,000	$3,000	$9,000
5	$1,500	$4,500	$3,000	$9,000	$4,500	$13,500

Bonus Amounts for Family Child Care and Large Family Homes

Bonus amounts for family child care and large family homes will range from $150-$3,000.

Quality Rating	Family Child Care		Large Family Home	
	COMAR	Fiscal Year 2023	COMAR	Fiscal Year 2023
1	$50	$150	$50	$150
2	$150	$450	$200	$600
3	$300	$900	$400	$1,200
4	$500	$1,500	$800	$2,400
5	$800	$2,400	$1,000	$3,000

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

Q: How do I know if my program is eligible for a Maryland EXCELS bonus?

Answer: Bonuses will be paid to Maryland EXCELS participating programs that publish a first time rating, publish a higher rating, or republish a Quality Rating 5 on or after July 1, 2022.

Q: How much are the Maryland EXCELS bonus amounts?

Answer: Bonus amounts are based upon the quality rating and the type of program. For child care centers, amounts are also based upon the licensed capacity of the program.

FAQs continued

Question: How long will it take to receive a Maryland EXCELS bonus?

Answer: Bonus processing begins at the Maryland State Department of Education and is completed when the State Comptroller's office issues the payment. Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) is the quickest way to receive payments from the State. Paper checks that are mailed will take longer. If your program receives Child Care Scholarship reimbursement from the State by EFT, your bonus will be paid by EFT as well. To register for EFT from the State, register [here].

Question: How do I know if I received my Maryland EXCELS bonus payment?

Answer: You can check the status of your payment on the General Accounting Division (GAD) website once you have registered on the GAD website. You may visit their website at https://www.marylandtaxes.gov/divisions/gad.php.

FAQs continued

Question: Will Maryland EXCELS bonuses continue after June 30, 2023?

Answer: If funding is available for Maryland EXCELS bonuses to continue beyond June 30, 2023, the Maryland State Department of Education Division of Early Childhood will announce the continuation of bonuses.

Question: Who do I contact if I have questions about my Maryland EXCELS bonus payment?

Answer: Contact your Maryland EXCELS Quality Assurance Specialist (QAS) with any questions regarding bonus payment. To view the list of regional QAS, you may visit https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/qa_specialists.pdf.

Further benefits: EXCELS Payments

EXCELS Payments

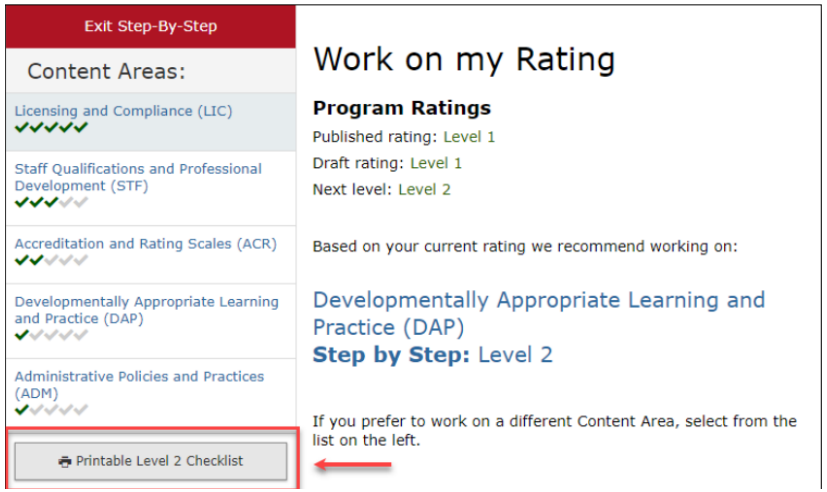
EXCELS payments are made to providers who accept a Child Care Scholarship and have a Maryland EXCELS published Quality Rating of level 3, 4, or 5.

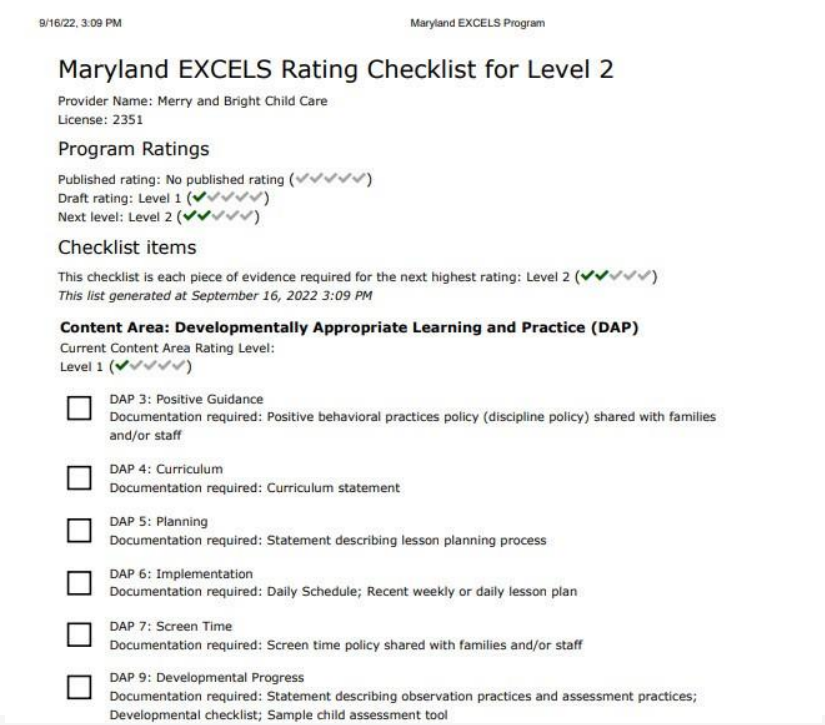
EXCELS Payments	Quality Rating		
	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Family child care			
Under 2 years of age	11%	22%	29%
2 years of age and over	10%	21%	28%
Child care center			
Under 2 years of age	22%	37%	44%
2 years of age and over	10%	19%	26%

Improving Ratings: Printable checklists

Our printable checklists help you stay on track for continuous quality improvement.

Login to your Maryland EXCELS profile → select “work on my rating” → select “printable checklist”




9/16/22, 3:09 PM Maryland EXCELS Program

Maryland EXCELS Rating Checklist for Level 2

Provider Name: Merry and Bright Child Care
License: 2351

Program Ratings

Published rating: No published rating (✓✓✓✓✓)
Draft rating: Level 1 (✓✓✓✓✓)
Next level: Level 2 (✓✓✓✓✓)

Checklist items

This checklist is each piece of evidence required for the next highest rating: Level 2 (✓✓✓✓✓)
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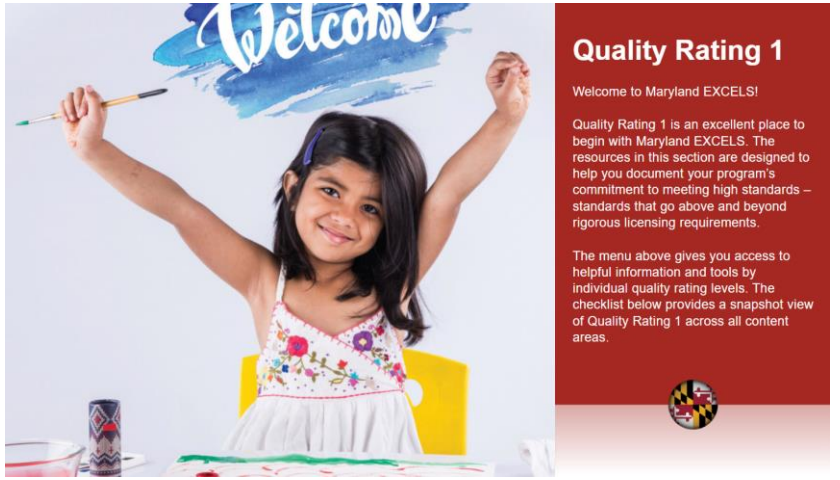
Content Area: Developmentally Appropriate Learning and Practice (DAP)
Current Content Area Rating Level:
Level 1 (✓✓✓✓✓)

- ☐ DAP 3: Positive Guidance
  Documentation required: Positive behavioral practices policy (discipline policy) shared with families and/or staff
- ☐ DAP 4: Curriculum
  Documentation required: Curriculum statement
- ☐ DAP 5: Planning
  Documentation required: Statement describing lesson planning process
- ☐ DAP 6: Implementation
  Documentation required: Daily Schedule; Recent weekly or daily lesson plan
- ☐ DAP 7: Screen Time
  Documentation required: Screen time policy shared with families and/or staff
- ☐ DAP 9: Developmental Progress
  Documentation required: Statement describing observation practices and assessment practices; Developmental checklist; Sample child assessment tool

Improving Ratings: Toolkit

Our Toolkit takes the checklist a step further by offering guides and resources for meeting each standard.

Find your toolkit at
https://marylandexcelstoolkit.org/resources/



☐ Positive Guidance (DAP 3.1)

- Step-by-Step Guide: Positive Behavioral Practices Policy
- Build-A-Policy: Positive Behavioral Practices

☐ Implementation (DAP 6.1)

- Step-by-Step Guide: Daily Schedule & Recent Lesson Plan

☐ Developmental Screening (DAP 8.1)

- Learn more: Developmental Screening

Administrative Policies & Practices (ADM)

☐ Information & Policies (ADM 1.1)

- Step-by-Step Guide: Family Handbook, Written Agreement, or Contract
- Build-A-Policy: Program Policies

Improving Ratings: Contact a Quality Assurance Specialist

A Quality Assurance Specialist is always available for support and guidance.

Find yours at https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/system/files/filedepot/3/qa_specialists.pdf

Name	County/Region	Email	Phone
Lisa B. J. Smith	Baltimore County	lisa.smith1@maryland.gov	410-583-6213
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Yvonne F. Bell	Montgomery	yvonne.bell@maryland.gov	240-314-1422
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Urceal Cook	Prince George's	urceal.cook@maryland.gov	443-837-5778
Stacie Burch	Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's	stacie.burch@maryland.gov	301-659-1905 301-475-3770
Vickie DiSanto Quality Assurance Coordinator	Baltimore County, Cecil/Harford, Lower Eastern Shore, Upper Eastern Shore	vickie.disanto@maryland.gov	240-314-1408
Meghan Leach- Gwynn Quality Assurance Coordinator	Baltimore City, Carroll/Frederick, Howard, Western Maryland	meghan.leach@maryland.gov	410-549-6494
L'Ornya Bowie Quality Assurance Coordinator	Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince George's, Southern Maryland	lornya.bowie@maryland.gov	240-314-1426

Contact us!

Jena Smith

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410-767-0580

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3. **Maryland Rebuilds**
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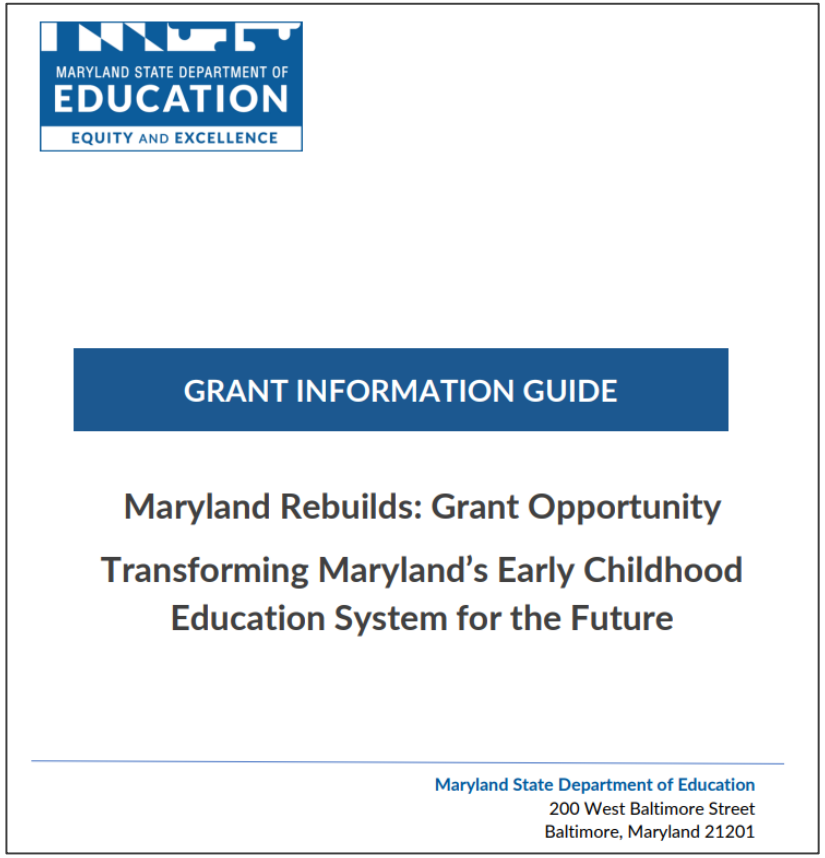
Maryland Rebuilds

Andre Murray, Program Manager
Nick Miller, Program Specialist

Overview of Maryland Rebuilds

Maryland Rebuilds is a Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) grant initiative **designed to support the state's child care system** in utilizing federal funds to stabilize, strengthen, and sustain the child care system and **mitigate the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic** through Six targeted High-Leverage Strategies.

Maryland Rebuilds **addresses systemic issues in the child care system** so that **all children have an equitable start in learning**, including our most vulnerable children: children with disabilities, multilingual children, children experiencing homelessness, and children from low-income families.


MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

GRANT INFORMATION GUIDE

Maryland Rebuilds: Grant Opportunity

Transforming Maryland's Early Childhood Education System for the Future

Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Key Details

Deadline

PDF Applications were due no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 18, 2022, to the MD Rebuilds email. *(Application deadline was extended to November 10, 2022)*

Grant Period

Award Announcement - November 10, 2022 (and on a rolling basis until program grants are fully allocated)

December 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024

Total Funding Available

$43 million

Estimated number of Grants

40-55

Information Sessions

September 3 - October 5, 2022 (Attendance to sessions or attestation of viewing session recordings was required for application)

Updates

- Internal MSDE review teams have been established; all applications are first be pre-screened.
- The Rebuilds team has received over 350 emails, held 55 individual sessions, 4 General Information Sessions (1 in Spanish and English) and 12 strategy specific sessions.
- Grant information guide is translated into 10 languages.
- While potential applicants are noted in our presentation, we welcome applicants from all organization types.
- The rebuilds team provides technical assistance but not specific proposal guidance.

Six High-Leverage Strategies and Key Expectations

1. Expanding Access to Quality Child Care
2. Early Learning Models of Excellence
3. Expanding Mental Health Supports and Services
4. Growing a Highly-Effective Child Care Workforce
5. Boosting Family Child Care
6. Advancing a Coordinated Prekindergarten Enrollment System

High-Leverage Strategies and Priorities

Early Learning Models of Excellence

MSDE will select **16 sites** to provide opportunities for observation, professional learning, and development of resources to enhance the quality of other programs in the following ways:

- Participate in the Maryland Models of Excellence network
- Train and support other providers/programs to identify potential partners
- Demonstrate effective implementation of the Maryland early learning standards
- Share data demonstrating improved learning outcomes
- Be open to serving the provider/program/public prekindergarten community in a collaborative way

Funding

- Amount available: $6 Million
- Estimated number of grants awarded: 16
- Average range of award: $200,000 - $400,000

Site Expectations

- Meet the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Prekindergarten requirements if serving 3 and 4-year-olds through participation in the publicly-funded prekindergarten.
- Meet or exceed Maryland EXCELS Quality Rating Level 3.
- Demonstrate use of the Maryland Early Learning standards and College and Career Readiness standards.

Selected sites may use up to June 30, 2023 as the planning period.

- Model sites are not required to excel at ALL areas of site operations.
- Sites may focus on and excel at one or more area of operation and practice; notably:
  - Business practices
  - Early literacy aligned to the Science of Reading
  - Reduction of exclusionary discipline practices

Early Learning Models of Excellence: Focus Areas

- Demonstrate adoption of a high-quality, content-rich, research-based, and culturally relevant curriculum.
- Show evidence-based instructional practices in early literacy, aligned to the Science of Reading and in mathematics.
- Show evidence-based instructional practices in socio-emotional development.
- Demonstrate implementation of an assessment tool and provide examples of how the data is used to support instruction.
- Provide evidence of partnerships with community organizations that support children's learning and health for inclusion of children with complex learning needs.
- Have experience serving, or possess the skills to serve, children with a developmental delay, disability, or special need
- Have experience serving, or possess the skills to serve, children with a developmental delay, disability, or special need.
- Have experience serving or possess the skills to serve, children whose primary spoken language at home is a language other than English.
- Have experience serving, or possess the skills to serve, children experiencing homelessness.
- Demonstrate a track record of reducing exclusionary discipline practices.

Application Details

Highlight area of expertise that your program is doing exceptionally well in that could serve as a model to other programs.

- Effective practices in minimally-resources environments
- Implementing a curriculum and reaching assessment targets
- Providing comprehensive wraparound services supporting multilingual families and children
- Serving children with complex learning or developmental needs
- Site will serve as a "learning lab," for providers and programs across the state

Additional plan expectations

- Participate in the Maryland Models of Excellence network
- Train and support other providers/programs to identify potential partners
- Demonstrate effective implementation of the Maryland early learning standards
- Share data demonstrating improved learning outcomes
- Be open to serving the provider/program/public prekindergarten community in a collaborative way

Current Efforts Underway

Early Learning Models of Excellence

- Funding for Child Care Quality Incentive Grant Program was increased.
- Providers who participate in the Maryland EXCELS are getting an increased bonus.
- Support for state and national accreditation has expanded.

Funding Guidelines

Funds May Be Used For	Funds May Not Be Used For
• Salaries and wages • Instructional Materials • Marketing Tools • Translation Services • Consulting and Technical Assistance • Supplies and materials	• Capital improvements • Cost(s) incurred prior to the approval of the grant

Awardees will first spend funds during the grant implementation period and periodically invoice MSDE according to the approved project timeline. MSDE requires that all supporting documentation for submitted invoices be available upon request.

Notable Questions That Were Asked

- Do I qualify?
- Can this grant be used to build a child care center or purchase a trailer?
- Will funding be extended beyond June 30, 2024?
- How many awards will be issued, and can we apply outside of the anticipated award amount?
- Can we apply even though we have other grant funding from MSDE?
- Will grant funds be distributed evenly?

Maryland Rebuilds Team Contact Information

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Website
https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/MDRebuilds

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Questions Answered

Questions?

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Closing Remarks

Contact Information

Branch/Office	Contact Information
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Early Learning Branch	early.learningbranchesmsde@maryland.gov
Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch	collaboration.programimprovement@maryland.gov
Office of Child Care	earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov
Licensing Branch	licensingocc.msde@maryland.gov
Workforce Advancement Branch	workforceadvancementocc.msde@maryland.gov 1-877-355-1229
Child Care Scholarship Program	CCSCentral2@maryland.gov 1-877-227-0125
Maryland EXCELS	info@marylandexcels.org or marylandexcels.org