



Expansion Grants

GRANTEE ABSTRACT

Maryland

Overview

Maryland’s plan intends to expand and improve the quality of prekindergarten for 3,811 four-year olds from families with household incomes at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). During its first two years of the grant, Maryland will seek an expansion for 2,811 four-year olds from families with 200% of poverty. In Year 3 and 4 of the grant, Maryland will appropriate State funds to enable the access to high quality prekindergarten for an additional 1,000 four-year olds from families with incomes above 200% and below 300% of poverty.

This strategy is aligned with current State policy which expanded prekindergarten in school year 2014-15 for four-year olds to families with incomes at or below 300% of poverty for a new grant-funded prekindergarten expansion. Maryland’s expansion as codified in the Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014, included a grant program for prekindergarten operated by local boards of education, and –for the first time- community-based programs such as child care, Head Start, and nursery schools, by incorporated prekindergarten into their daily schedules. It is viewed as the first step toward a gradual expansion toward universal access to prekindergarten for all four-year olds. This Federally funded plan is a major building block of Maryland’s efforts to expand prekindergarten across the State. The majority of policymakers agree that such an expansion improves learning opportunities for young children and

Lead Agency

Maryland Department of Education

Year 1 Federal Award Amount

\$15,000,000

Plan Period

January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018

Preschool Development Grants will support states to build, develop, and expand voluntary, high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families.

There are two types of grants.

Development Grants: For states that currently serve less than 10 percent of four-year-olds and have not received a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant

Expansion Grants: For states that currently serve 10 percent or more of four-year-olds or have received an RTT-ELC grant

enhances the school readiness skills on entering kindergarteners as measured by the State’s Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. It also remains a critical keystone in Maryland’s education reform efforts, namely the reduction of the achievement gaps.

High-Need Communities to be served under Maryland’s Plan

Allegany	Garret
Anne Arundel	Harford
Baltimore City	Howard
Baltimore County	Kent
Caroline	Montgomery
Carroll	Prince George's
Cecil	Somerset
Charles	St. Mary's
Dorchester	Washington
Frederick	Wicomico