



Preschool Development Grants

Expansion Grants

GRANTEE ABSTRACT

Rhode Island

Overview

As one of only four state preschool programs in the country that meets or exceeds the nation's highest quality benchmarks as measured by the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), the Rhode Island Pre-Kindergarten Program (RI Pre-K) is a model of high quality preschool programming both within Rhode Island and nationally. The state's long-standing efforts to create a coordinated early childhood system have positioned Rhode Island to use the federal Preschool Development Expansion Grant resources to significantly increase enrollment of four-year-olds in Pre-K in seven High-Need Communities and to enhance the existing state Pre-K infrastructure to support this expansion. Rhode Island's Pre-K Program uses a mixed delivery system that includes public schools, Head Start programs and community-based child care programs.

The state is recognized as a national leader because it requires and supports all state funded Pre-K classrooms to achieve the same high-quality standards, regardless of setting. Rhode Island's Pre-K program already meets the federal requirements and is funded with sufficient resources to meet national quality benchmarks. The Rhode Island Pre-K program was recognized as one of only 15 in the U.S. to have adequate funding to meet national quality standards. Through a combination of high-quality design, comprehensive program

Lead Agency

Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Year 1 Federal Award Amount

\$2,290,840

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 are 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 are for states that currently serve 10 percent or more of four-year-olds or have received an RTT-ELC grant.

regulations and policies, a competitive selection process, regular monitoring, comprehensive supports, and ongoing external program evaluation, Rhode Island actualizes its commitment to a High Quality State Pre-K Program.

Project Objectives and Activities

Rhode Island proposes to use federal Preschool Development Expansion Grant dollars to:

- Expand access to the high quality Rhode Island Pre-K Program by both accelerating the existing state expansion

plan and leveraging the federal dollars to achieve increased access for Eligible Children in seven high-need communities that have more than 50% of children enrolled in Free and Reduced Price Lunch: Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, West Warwick, Newport, Central Falls and East Providence, and

- Improve upon the state processes and supports that ensure the quality implementation of the program, including attention to increasing monitoring capacity, technical assistance to program sites and the implementation of a rigorous program evaluation.

Rhode Island’s achievable and ambitious plan is designed to expand access to the Rhode Island Pre-K Program from the existing 17 classrooms in school year 2014-15 to 60 classrooms in school year 2019-20. Over four years, the federal expansion grant plan proposed will enable 1,548 more four year-olds to be enrolled in new State Pre-K slots than would have been possible without the federal grant. This funding opportunity will allow New York to implement our most progressive high-quality approaches to Pre-K and then supplement programs with innovations to strengthen the quality and capacity of our programs, parent engagement, school-community partnerships, and State partners focused on early education.

High Need Communities to be served under Rhode Island’s Plan	
Central Falls	Providence
East Providence	West Warwick
Newport	Woonsocket
Pawtucket	