

**U.S. Department of Education**  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5335



**APPLICATION FOR GRANTS  
UNDER THE**

**Preschool Development Grants - Development**

**CFDA # 84.419A**

**PR/Award # S419A150002**

**Grants.gov Tracking#: GRANT11755215**

OMB No. 1810-0717, Expiration Date: 02/28/2015

Closing Date: Oct 14, 2014

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This application was generated using the PDF functionality. The PDF functionality automatically numbers the pages in this application. Some pages/sections of this application may contain 2 sets of page numbers, one set created by the applicant and the other set created by e-Application's PDF functionality. Page numbers created by the e-Application PDF functionality will be preceded by the letter e (for example, e1, e2, e3, etc.).

Nonresponsive

**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**

* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): _____ * Other (Specify): _____
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* 3. Date Received: 10/07/2014	4. Applicant Identifier: _____
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5a. Federal Entity Identifier: _____	5b. Federal Award Identifier: _____
---	--

**State Use Only:**

6. Date Received by State: _____	7. State Application Identifier: _____
----------------------------------	--

**8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:**

* a. Legal Name: State of Missouri Department of Elem. and Sec. Education	
* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): 44-6000987	* c. Organizational DUNS: 0937469230000

**d. Address:**

* Street1: 205 Jefferson Street
Street2: PO Box 490
* City: Jefferson City
County/Parish: _____
* State: MO: Missouri
Province: _____
* Country: USA: UNITED STATES
* Zip / Postal Code: 65102-0480

**e. Organizational Unit:**

Department Name: MO Department of Elem & Sec Ed	Division Name: Early and Extended Learning
---	--

**f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:**

Prefix: Dr.	* First Name: Stacey
Middle Name: Jones	
* Last Name: Freis	
Suffix: _____	
Title: Assistant Commissioner	

Organizational Affiliation: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
---

* Telephone Number: 573-751-4234	Fax Number: 573-751-9434
----------------------------------	--------------------------

* Email: stacey.preis@deso.mo.gov
-----------------------------------

**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**

**\* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

\* Other (specify):

**\* 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

U.S. Department of Education

**11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:**

S4.419

CFDA Title:

Preschool Development Grants

**\* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

ED-GRANTS-081814-001

\* Title:

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE): Preschool Development Grants: Development Grants CFDA Number: S4.419A

**13. Competition Identification Number:**

S4 419A2015 1

Title:

**14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):**

MO High-Needs Map.pdf

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

**\* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Now for Later: Missouri's Investment in Early Learning

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

**Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**

**16. Congressional Districts Of:**

\* a. Applicant

\* b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

**17. Proposed Project:**

\* a. Start Date:

\* b. End Date:

**18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="63,955,825.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="(b)(4)"/>
* d. Local	
* e. Other	
* f. Program Income	
* g. TOTAL	

**\* 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

**\* 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

Yes  No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

**21. \*By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications\*\* and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances\*\* and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

\*\* I AGREE

\*\* The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

**Authorized Representative:**

Prefix:  \* First Name:   
Middle Name:   
\* Last Name:   
Suffix:

\* Title:

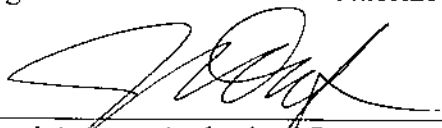

\* Telephone Number:  Fax Number:

\* Email:

\* Signature of Authorized Representative:  \* Date Signed:

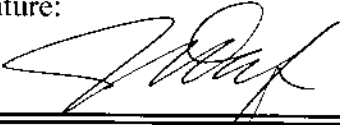
These forms require basic identifying information about the applicant and the application. Please provide all requested applicant information (including name, address, e-mail address and DUNS number).

**APPLICATION ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS  
Preschool Development Grants --Development Grants Competition  
(CFDA No. 84.419A)**

Legal Name of Applicant (Office of the Governor):  State of Missouri, Office of the Governor Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon	Applicant's Mailing Address:  Department of Elementary and Secondary Education P.O. Box 480 Jefferson City, MO 65102
Employer Identification Number: 44-6000987	Organizational DUNS: 093746923
Lead Agency: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  Contact Name: Stacey Preis <i>(Single point of contact for communication)</i>	Lead Agency Contact Phone: (573) 751-4234  Lead Agency Contact Email Address: stacey.preis@dese.mo.gov
Required Applicant Signatures <i>(Must include signatures from an authorized representative of each Subgrantee. Insert additional signature blocks as needed below. To simplify the process, signatories may sign on separate Application Assurance forms.):</i>  To the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the information and data in this application are true and correct. I further certify that I have read the application, am fully committed to it, and will support its implementation:	
Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor (Printed Name): Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon	Telephone: (573) 751-3222
Signature of Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor: 	Date: 10/6/14
Lead Agency Authorized Representative (Printed Name): Margie Vandeven	Agency Name: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Signature of Lead Agency Authorized Representative: 	Date: 10-6-14

The Governor or his/her authorized representative assures that the State will comply with all applicable assurances in OMB Standard Forms 424B and D (Assurances for Non-Construction and Construction Programs), including the assurances relating to the legal authority to apply for assistance; access to records; conflict of interest; merit systems; nondiscrimination; Hatch Act provisions; labor standards, including Davis-Bacon prevailing wages; flood hazards; historic preservation; protection of human subjects; animal welfare; lead-based paint; Single Audit Act; and the general agreement to comply with all applicable Federal laws, executive orders, and regulations.

- With respect to the certification regarding lobbying in Department Form 80-0013, no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program; the State will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," when required (34 C.F.R. Part 82, Appendix B); and the State will require the full certification, as set forth in 34 C.F.R. Part 82, Appendix A, in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers.
- The State and other entities will comply with the following provisions of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), as applicable: 34 CFR Part 74 -- Administration of Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations; 34 CFR Part 76 -- State-Administered Programs, including the construction requirements in section 75.600 through 75.617 that are incorporated by reference in section 76.600; 34 CFR Part 77 -- Definitions that Apply to Department Regulations; 34 CFR Part 80 -- Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, including the procurement provisions; 34 CFR Part 81 -- General Education Provisions Act—Enforcement; 34 CFR Part 82 -- New Restrictions on Lobbying; and with the debarment and suspension regulations found at 2 CFR Part 3485.

Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor (Printed Name):	
Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon	
Signature:	Date:
	10/6/14

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JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON  
GOVERNOR



JAMES M. CACCAMO  
CHAIR

DARYL ROTHMAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF MISSOURI  
**Coordinating Board for Early Childhood**

205 JEFFERSON STREET, PO BOX 88  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65103

September 12, 2014

Dr. Stacey Preis, Assistant Commissioner  
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Dr. Preis:

The Coordinating Board for Early Childhood (CBEC) as the operational State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care is fully supportive of the Department's application to secure a Federal Preschool Development Grant. The Coordinating Board will assist in the preparation of the application, as necessary.

The Board will work collaborative with the Department and the partners in the grant. Our goal, like your s, is to increase the number of children who are in high quality early learning.

As you know, I direct the Mid-America Head Start. We are the largest Head Start Grantee in Federal Region VII and will collaborate with the Department in this application. It is our intent to have Missouri provide high quality early learning to as many children as possible.

Please let the Board know how we might assist the Department in this application.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

*J* James M. Caccamo, Ph.D.  
Chair, Coordinating Board for Early Childhood  
Director of the Department of Early Learning  
Mid-America Regional Council

September 29, 2014

Dear Commissioner Nicastro:

On behalf of the Alliance for Childhood Education, a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan coalition of business leaders committed to improving Missouri's education system, I want to thank you for considering the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the Preschool Development Grant.

The momentum behind quality early childhood education is building throughout our state. During the 2014 Missouri General Assembly, we made education history by passing a bill that adds preschool for free and reduced lunch eligible three- and four-year-olds to our education foundation formula. Unfortunately, the law is contingent upon fully funding the formula, which is currently \$550 million underfunded.

Each year we fail to expand access to preschool stands as a failure to impact the lives of thousands of Missouri children in a positive manner. In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri was the 38th worst state in terms of preschool funding. The \$17.5 million Missouri would receive under this grant will help our highest-needs communities across the state – communities that simply cannot afford to wait.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Tyler Nottberg,  
Chairman & CEO, U.S. Engineering Company Holdings  
Co-Founder, Alliance for Childhood Education



September 25, 2014

Stacey Preis, Ph.D.  
Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Early and Extended Learning  
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

Dear Dr. Preis:

We are pleased to support the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri ranked 38<sup>th</sup> of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. We know that high-quality early childhood education helps prepare students for success in school. This grant would provide Missouri with up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist our highest-needs communities across the state with offering valuable opportunities for access to high-quality preschool.

If you need any additional information from our organization please feel free to contact me at 573-635-0073. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Kelly McClendon  
President

*Shirley S. Patterson, Ph.D.*

(b)(6)



September 12, 2014

Stacey Preis, Ph.D.  
Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Early and Extended Learning  
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

Dear Dr. Preis:

I am pleased to support the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri ranked 38<sup>th</sup> of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. We know that high-quality early childhood education helps prepare students for success in school. This grant would provide Missouri with up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist our highest-needs communities across the state with offering valuable opportunities for access to high-quality preschool.

As a proponent for young children with disabilities and an observer of early education programs for many years, I have had the opportunity to see numerous classrooms in operation. I have seen the importance and impact of quality programs on future success of children. Missouri's young children would benefit greatly from this Preschool Development Grant. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Shirley Patterson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
ASHA Fellow

September 27, 2014

1639 Cross Center Drive, Suite 354  
Norman, Oklahoma 73019-5050  
tel 405.325.1729  
800.228.1766  
fax 405.325.1824

Dr. Chris L. Nicastro  
Commissioner  
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65109-0480

Dear Dr. Nicastro:

We are pleased to write this letter of support for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Office of Early and Extended Learning to assist in its efforts in applying for a Preschool Development Grant through the U.S. Department of Education (ED). This grant will allow DESE to extend higher quality preschool opportunities to all four-year olds across the state.

As Central Comprehensive Center (C3) Director and Principal Investigator, a federally funded educational technical assistance (TA) center serving the states of Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri, we can speak to the true collaborative spirit that has been fostered between DESE and C3. C3 has been collaborating with DESE's Office of Early and Extended Learning in a variety of ways to provide TA and high quality services to every child and prepare teachers to understand the unique needs of these children. The research provides evidence of the critical need to support early learners and their teachers in a more effective way that can increase students' knowledge, hone their skills, and improve their abilities to graduate from high school college- or career-ready. C3 tailors TA strategies and activities to address Missouri's capacity building priorities. These strategies address (a) Missouri's educational goals and priorities, including major reform efforts underway; (b) the current status of Missouri in meeting ED requirements and priorities; (c) the types of TA and related strategies that would help districts and schools implement ED programs and priorities to close existing achievement gaps in the content areas; and (d) state and regional student demographics and other contextual factors, such as urban and rural locality. The ultimate goal is to build DESE's capacity to help districts and schools implement the provisions and programs of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and other federal programs.

We hope DESE is successful in receiving this Preschool Development Grant and look forward to working in partnership with the department to implement the strategies and achieve the goals described within the grant proposal.

Warm regards,

(b)(6)

Donna Richardson, Ed.D.  
C3 Director  
College of Continuing Education  
University of Oklahoma

Belinda Biscoe Boni, Ph.D.  
C3 Principal Investigator  
Associate Vice President  
for Public and Community Services  
University of Oklahoma



*THE CIVIC COUNCIL OF GREATER KANSAS CITY*

*One Kansas City Place, 1200 Main Street, Suite 230*

*Kansas City, Missouri 64105*

*Telephone: 816-221-2263 FAX: 816-221-2209*

September 19, 2014

Dr. Chris Nicastro, Commissioner  
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
205 Jefferson Street  
PO Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

Dear Commissioner Nicastro:

On behalf of The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, we are pleased to support the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Founded in 1964, today the Civic Council is composed of 85 CEOs representing the largest employers in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Our mission is to define the Kansas City region's future as a leading global location for business and quality of life through our leadership, resources and influence.

One of the top priorities of the Civic Council is education and workforce development. We strongly support the application for the Preschool Development Grant because it will provide essential funding for the State of Missouri to increase its capacity to offer high-quality, voluntary preschool in the State's highest-needs communities. And, we applaud DESE for working with a diverse set of stakeholders around the state – including preschool providers, Head Start, early childhood organizations, universities, education organizations, other state agencies and the business community – to pursue this important funding opportunity.

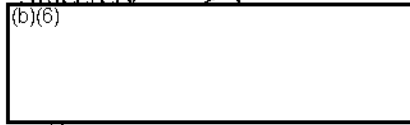
In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri ranked 38<sup>th</sup> out of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. This is simply unacceptable. It is undisputed that high-quality early childhood education provides the foundation for students to succeed in school and life. This grant would provide Missouri with critical funding to allow the State to offer valuable educational opportunities to help prepare our youngest and highest-need children for success in kindergarten, through elementary and secondary school and beyond.

September 19, 2014

For these reasons, the Civic Council enthusiastically supports DESE's application.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)



John J. Sherman  
Chair

cc: Dr. Stacey Preis





Crittenton  
Children's Center  
SAINT LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM

September 15, 2014

United States Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20447

To Preschool Development Grant Reviewers,

Crittenton Children's Center based in Kansas City, Missouri is a provider of comprehensive mental health resources for children of all ages. Our commitment to preschool education and early childhood development is through our *Head Start Trauma Smart* initiative. Every day we relate with the Missouri Departments for Education, Social Services and Mental Health and know them to be steadfast leaders for our shared objective to support development of healthy, well educated and happy children. Critical to this goal is focus on a stimulating and nurturing early childhood experience. In fact, beyond the important advancements for individual lives, we believe positive early learning and care is a cornerstone for the ongoing productivity and overall success of communities across our state.

In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri was ranked 38<sup>th</sup> of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. Through the implementation of the Crittenton *Head Start Trauma Smart* model we have witnessed firsthand the copious unmet needs in twenty-seven counties across Missouri. In urban and rural communities alike, we are collectively struggling to support the children and their families. Additional resources are needed to improve this, most particularly for addressing capacity of high quality preschool in our highest needs communities.

For Missouri this grant would provide up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist our highest needs communities across the state. We are confident that this buoy will be well applied and managed in order to achieve the highest possible return for investment.

We are pleased to support the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. If I can provide additional information as you consider this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me: [jhron@saint-lukes.org](mailto:jhron@saint-lukes.org) or 816-767-4363.

Respectfully Yours,

(b)(6)

Janine Hron  
CEO



**Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services**

P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570 Phone: 573-751-6400 FAX: 573-751-6010  
RELAY MISSOURI for Hearing and Speech Impaired 1-800-735-2966 VOICE 1-800-735-2466

**Gail Vasterling**  
Director



**Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon**  
Governor

September 15, 2014

Stacey Preis, Ph.D.  
Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Early and Extended Learning  
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

Dear Dr. Preis:

We are pleased to support the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

We know that high-quality early childhood education helps prepare students for success in school. This grant would provide Missouri with up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist our highest-needs communities across the state with offering valuable opportunities for access to high-quality preschool.

Please feel free to contact this office if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Gail Vasterling  
Director

[www.health.mo.gov](http://www.health.mo.gov)

**Healthy Missourians for life.**

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services will be the leader in promoting, protecting and partnering for health.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER. Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON  
GOVERNOR



KEITH SCHAFER, Ed.D.  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

1706 EAST ELM STREET, P.O. BOX 687  
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102  
PHONE: (573) 751-4122 FAX: (573) 751-8224  
www.dmh.mo.gov

September 24, 2014

Chris L. Nicastro, Commissioner  
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480

Dear Commissioner Nicastro:

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is pleased to support the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri ranked 38<sup>th</sup> of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. We know that high quality early childhood education helps prepare students for success in school. This grant would provide Missouri with up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist our highest-needs communities across the state with offering valuable opportunities for access to high quality preschool.

DMH has worked with DESE on a variety of collaborative efforts and is eager to continue this relationship. We are committed to helping establish an effective early childhood system and programming in Missouri and currently participate on both the Coordinating Board for Early Childhood and the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems state teams. Our participation includes ensuring that the comprehensive system includes the promotion of social and emotional wellness of young children and their families. Social and emotional development in young children is critical to their success in school and in life.

The Department of Mental Health fully supports your department's efforts and looks forward to working collaboratively with your agency in assuring that all children have access to high quality early childhood education.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Keith Schafer, Ed.D.  
Director

 *Missouri Department of*  
**SOCIAL SERVICES**  
*Your Potential. Our Support.*

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON, GOVERNOR • BRIAN KINKADE, DIRECTOR

TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88 • JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65103-0088

WWW.DSS.MO.GOV • 573-522-8024 • 573-526-3971 FAX

October 1, 2014

US Department of Education  
US Department of Health and Human Services

RE: Preschool Development Grant

We are pleased to support the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

As the lead agency for the federal Child Care and Development Fund, the Department of Social Services, Children's Division has collaborated and partnered with DESE on several areas related to the early childhood programs in Missouri.

In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri ranked 38<sup>th</sup> of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. We know that high-quality early childhood education helps prepare students for success in school. This grant would provide Missouri with up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist our highest-needs communities across the state with offering valuable opportunities for access to high-quality education.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)  
[Redacted Signature]  
Tim Decker  
Director

RELAY MISSOURI  
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**Bill Dent**  
Board Director

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Commissioner Chris Nicastro  
MO Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education  
PO Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480



September 22, 2014

Dear Commissioner Nicastro,

On behalf of the Family and Community Trust (FACT) Board of Directors, I want to extend to you gratitude for the grant submission to seek funding to support preschool development. As an organization that is focused on achieving results for Missouri's children and families, we are acutely aware of the benefits of early educational opportunities. This new opportunity would focus efforts in our highest-needs areas and Missouri will benefit greatly from it. As the new KIDS COUNT grantee for our state, will look for opportunities to support your efforts any way we can.

So we are pleased to support your application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

We took note of the recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research which ranked Missouri 38th of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. We know that high-quality early childhood education helps prepare students for success in school. This grant would infuse Missouri with up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist our highest-needs communities across the state. By offering valuable opportunities for access to high-quality preschool we will set them on a course for success later in life.

Thank you and your organization for seeking this extraordinary opportunity for our children, their families and our state.

Sincerely,

William T. Dent  
Board Director



Herbert M. Kohn  
Direct: 816-374-3216  
Fax: 816-855-3216  
hmkohn@bryancave.com

September 15, 2014

The Honorable Jay Nixon, Governor  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol Building, Room 216  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Governor Nixon:

As a person actively engaged in civic and business issues in Kansas City, I have a strong interest in early learning. It is my understanding that you have asked the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) to submit an application to the United States Department of Education to compete for a Preschool Development Grant (84.419A). Thank you. I believe that quality early learning is critical in providing our children a strong foundation to be successful in school.

It is my hope that Kansas City would be a contender to receive a portion of the grant dollars when the grant is funded. As you know, Kansas City has many school districts providing early learning programs but only to a small percentage of our four-year old children. The percentage of young children from low-income families continues to grow as does the need for quality early learning.

I am sure that Greater Kansas City can provide an ambitious and achievable plan to increase the number of low-income children who will be served in early learning. Our city has the dedication and capacity to deliver more high quality early learning services to our four-year old children. And, as you may recall, I chaired a Commission on this subject about a year ago and am still involved in attempting to develop a program in the Kansas City area.

It is my considered and thoughtful opinion that you should select Greater Kansas City as one of the sites to implement this grant. This will be an important movement forward in serving our community's four-year old children of low-income families.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Herbert M. Kohn, Partner  
Bryan Cave LLP  
One Kansas City Place  
1200 Main Street, Suite 3800  
Kansas City, Missouri 64105-2122

cc: ~~Mike~~ Nietzel, Chief Policy Advisor  
✓ Chris Nicastro, Commissioner

**Bryan Cave LLP**  
One Kansas City Place  
1200 Main Street  
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KANSAS CITY FEDERATION  
OF TEACHERS & SCHOOL  
RELATED PERSONNEL  
LOCAL 691, AFL-CIO

3901 Main Street, Suite 201  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
(816) 756-1818 • Fax: 756-0818  
E-mail: kcf691@sbeglobal.net

October 1, 2014

Ms. Preis:

We are pleased to support the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

With a poverty rate over 95% in Kansas City Public Schools, the Kansas City Federation of Teachers and School-Related Personnel recognizes that early childhood education is critical to the social and academic success of our students.

But it is just as important for the parents of our children. With the high cost of child care, our parents are unable to afford to enroll their children in a high quality preschool program, and it makes it difficult for them to gain and sustain employment.

Whether or not Missouri's most vulnerable young children and their families will reach their potential depends in large part on our investment in these programs. This grant would provide Missouri with up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist our highest-needs communities across the state with offering valuable opportunities for access to high-quality preschool.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Andrea Flinders  
President



Office of the Mayor

**Mayor Sylvester "Sly" James, Jr.**

29th Floor, City Hall  
414 East 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

(816) 513-3500  
Fax: (816) 513-3518

September 15, 2014

The Honorable Jay Nixon  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol Building, Room 216  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Governor Nixon:

I'm so grateful that you and I share a common vision that investing in our children's academic development should be a high priority. To that end, I deeply appreciate you authorizing the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Education to compete for a Preschool Development Grant (84.419A). As you know, quality early childhood education is critical in providing our children a strong educational foundation and I am hoping that the City of Kansas City and the State of Missouri can be partners in this vitally important effort.

Kansas City is well positioned to make the most out of the State's funding from the Preschool Development Grant. Kansas City is the only city in the state with a city-wide focus on increasing the number of children reading proficiently by third grade. Turn the Page KC is sounding the alarm bell about the woeful situation we have in Kansas City: only a third of our children are reading at grade level by end of third grade. School readiness is a primary focus of Turn the Page KC's efforts. Getting more of our low-income preschoolers in quality early learning will significantly improve their chances of arriving at Kindergarten on track and ready to learn. And children who are ready for Kindergarten are much more likely to be reading at grade level in third grade.

The focus of the Preschool Development grant is to increase early learning access to children in poverty, specifically whose family income is at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Over half (56 percent) of Kansas City's children live in families with incomes below 200 percent. (Source: National Kids Count, 2012). This number has increased from 45 percent in 2008. In addition, the concentration of poverty in Kansas City is significant. Approximately, 15,000 (37 percent) of Kansas City's children ages 0-5 live in families with incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level.

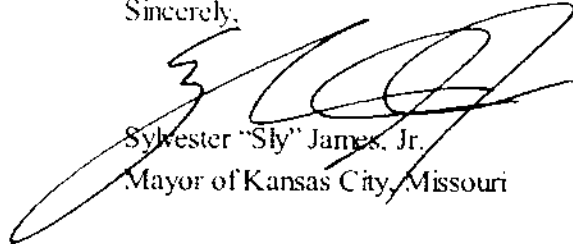


Every school district within the city limits is struggling to provide quality early learning. Many have the ability to serve additional four-year old children. We also have a number of accredited community-based early learning programs however, some are beyond what our low-income families can afford. Finally, we are fortunate to have an outstanding Head Start program. Even with these programs, Kansas City is serving only a portion of our four-year old children.

Working with the Department of Early Learning at the Mid-America Regional Council, our interested public school districts, and our community-based early learning programs, Kansas City can provide an ambitious and achievable plan to increase the number of low-income children who will be served in early learning.

As you can see, Kansas City is setting the bar high in terms of becoming a community that focuses on academic achievement at the earliest moment possible in a child's life. Considering that fact, our community is a natural fit for the Preschool Development grant. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if we can provide more insight into our early childhood education focus.

Sincerely,



Sylvester "Sly" James, Jr.  
Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri

cc: Mike Nietzel, Chief Policy Advisor  
Chris Nicastro, Commissioner of Education

600 Broadway, Suite 200  
Kansas City, Missouri 64105-1659

816/474-4240  
816/471-7758 Fax  
www.marc.org



September 15, 2014

The Honorable Jay Nixon  
Governor  
State of Missouri  
State Capitol Building, Room 216  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Governor Nixon:

The Mid-America Regional Council is strongly supportive of quality early learning. Our Department of Early Learning has been engaged in improving access to and the quality of early learning programs for many years. As you know, we are the Head Start grantee serving approximately 3,000 Head Start and Early Head Start children and their families. Jim Caccamo has informed me that the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will be submitting a grant application to the United States Department of Education to compete for a Preschool Development Grant (84.419A).

Kansas City is well positioned to receive a portion of these grant dollars. We have many school districts providing early learning programs to a small percentage of their four-year old children. We also have a number of accredited community-based early learning programs however, some are beyond what our low-income families can afford.

The percentage of children from low-income families under the age of five continues to grow and has significantly increased over the past decade. Every school district within MARC's region is struggling to provide quality early learning. Many have the ability to serve additional four-year old children.

Working with our interested public school districts and our community-based early learning programs, Jackson, Clay, and Platte counties can provide an ambitious and achievable plan to increase the number of low-income children who will be served in early learning. I am sure that our region has the capacity to deliver more high-quality early learning services to our low-income four-year old children and their families.

I encourage you to name Kansas City as one of the sites to implement this grant.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

David A. Warm  
Executive Director

cc: Mike Nietzel, Chief Policy Advisor  
Dr. Chris Nicastro, Commissioner  
Jim Caccamo, MARC

Chief Executive Officer  
Michael J. Hart  
1000 Broadway  
Kansas City, MO

Executive Director  
David A. Warm  
1000 Broadway  
Kansas City, MO

Executive Director  
Ed Peterson  
1000 Broadway  
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Executive Director  
David Bower  
1000 Broadway  
Kansas City, MO

Executive Director  
Scott Siskind  
1000 Broadway  
Kansas City, MO

Executive Director  
David A. Warm

*Missouri Association for Community Action, Inc.*

2014 William St.  
Jefferson City, MO 65109-1186

PHONE: 573.634.2969  
FAX: 573.636.9440

www.communityaction.org

September 19, 2014

Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education  
205 Jefferson St.  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Commissioner Chris Nicastro,

Missouri Association for Community Action (MACA) represents the 19 Community Action Agencies that provide critical services in every county and the city of St. Louis. Missouri's Community Action Agencies provide a comprehensive range of programs for families with limited resources and strengthen the communities in their area. MACA knows that providing young children with the opportunity to build a strong foundation for learning will benefit them throughout their education.

We are pleased to support the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri ranked 38<sup>th</sup> of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. We know that high-quality early childhood education helps prepare students for success in school. This grant would provide Missouri with up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist our highest-needs communities across the state with offering valuable opportunities for access to high-quality preschool.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Heather Lockard  
MACA Executive Director

# Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals

3550 Amazonas Drive  
Jefferson City, MO 65109  
Phone: 573.638.2460 Fax: 573.556.6270

October 1, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

The Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP) is pleased to support the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri ranked 38<sup>th</sup> of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. Elementary and middle level principals know that high-quality early childhood education helps prepare students for success in school. This grant would provide Missouri with up to \$17.5 million in funding to help our highest-needs communities across the state offer valuable opportunities for access to high-quality preschool.

MAESP stands ready to partner with Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to make sure high-quality experiences are not dependent on family income or social status in Missouri communities. Excellent early childhood programming must become the rule rather than the exception for the children of Missouri.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)  


**Michael L. Schooley, Ed. D.**

***Executive Director***

**Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals**



# MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF RURAL EDUCATION

Dr. Ray V. Patrick, Exec. Director

[rpatrick@moare.com](mailto:rpatrick@moare.com)

(Cell) 660-909-5118

201 South Holden • Suite 202 • Warrensburg, Missouri 64093-3400

Phone 660-747-8050

Fax 660-747-8160

Dr. Jerry Cochran, Asst. Exec. Director

[jcochran@moare.com](mailto:jcochran@moare.com)

(Cell) 660-596-3184

September 15, 2014

Dr. Chris L Nicastro

Missouri Commissioner of Education

Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

PO Box 480, 205 Jefferson Street

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480

Attn: Dr. Stacey Preis

Dear Dr. Nicastro:

I serve as the Executive Director of the Missouri Association of Rural Education (MARE). MARE is a Service Organization that recognizes the needs and concerns unique to rural education. It provides a forum for the discussion and resolution of those needs and concerns, and presents a unified voice for rural education in Missouri. Having access to increased capacity for a high-quality voluntary preschool program in high needs communities is as important in rural schools as it is in urban and suburban schools.

On behalf of the MARE organization, we are pleased to offer a letter of support for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

MARE is aware of a recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, that Missouri ranked 38<sup>th</sup> of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. We also know that high-quality early childhood educations, helps prepare student for success in school. It is our understanding that with this grant, Missouri would be provided with up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist the state's highest-needs communities across the state with offering valuable opportunities for access to high-quality preschool.

MARE's role in this collaboration will be to insure that the needs, challenges, and other unique aspects of rural schools are considered as an implementation strategy is developed to further pre-school opportunities for Missouri schools. As an organization, we are willing to designate a representative to serve on an advisory committee, if so desired, as part of this effort. We will also insure that rural schools are included in any training or other activity which is intended to accomplish the goals of this grant opportunity, benefiting our schools and our children well beyond the grant performance period.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Ray V. Patrick, EdD.

MARE Executive Director

*"Celebrating 27 Years of Promoting Rural Education"*

Website: [www.moare.com](http://www.moare.com)

PR/Award # S419A150002

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# MISSOURI CHAMBER

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Preschool Development Grants  
Office of Early Learning (OEL)  
US. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave, SW., Rm. 3E336, LBJ Building  
Washington DC 20202-6200

To whom it may concern:

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry is pleased to support the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The boost in developmental funding provided by the Preschool Development Grant will positively impact Missouri's ability to build a more concerted and strategic statewide effort to advance quality early learning opportunities for all of Missouri's children.

In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri ranked 38th of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. We know that high-quality early childhood education helps prepare students for success in school, but we also know now that early childhood education prepares students for greater success in life. Below are a few points of support on why investing in early childhood is a smart investment in Missouri's future:

- Studies show, that for every \$1 invested in high-quality, early childhood education the state can see upwards of \$7 or higher Return on Investment (ROI);
- Property values can rise by a ratio as high as 13:1 for every \$1 invested in pre-k programming;
- K-12 school systems can see a savings of up to \$3,700 per child over the life a student for reduction in remediation and student support services offered;
- Missouri spends over \$1.4 billion on the department of corrections, but only \$19.9 million on pre-k programming;
- Per a 2013 survey of national site selectors, "educated workforce" was the #1 factor in site selection. States that invest in education, at all levels, attract high skilled workers and opportunities for corporate facility relocation and/or expansion.

For these reasons, and many more, the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Missouri's business community, support the future work outlined within Missouri's application.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)  


Brian Crouse

Vice President of Education  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry



September 16, 2014

To Whom it May Concern:

We are pleased to support the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri ranked 38<sup>th</sup> of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. We know that high-quality early childhood education helps prepare students for success in school. This grant would provide Missouri with up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist our highest-needs communities across the state with offering valuable opportunities for access to high-quality preschool.

Thank you for your consideration,

(b)(6)

Douglas P. Thaman, Ed.D.  
Executive Director  
Missouri Charter Public School Association  
1804 Lafayette Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63104



September 25, 2014

Dr. Stacey Preis  
Office of Early & Extended Learning  
MO Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Dr. Preis:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to you to express our support for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in its application for the Preschool Development Grant offered by the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Nationally, Head Start is approaching our 50<sup>th</sup> year of innovation and opportunity in working to collaborate with community partners and families to engage them in the early education needs of their infants and toddlers in preparation for school entry. Head Start is pleased to be an innovative leader in comprehensive early education for low-income children in our state and is thrilled at the possibility of expanding opportunities for more children to become kindergarten-ready through the possibilities of this grant.

In the most recent annual report of the National Institute for Early Education Research, Missouri ranked 38<sup>th</sup> of 41 states that provide funding for preschool. We know that high-quality early childhood education helps prepare students for success in school. This grant would provide Missouri with up to \$17.5 million in funding to assist our highest-needs communities across the state with offering valuable opportunities for access to high-quality preschool.

We look forward to Missouri being awarded this grant and the positive work ahead for us to ensure a great 'head start' for every child and family.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

Tina Bernskoetter  
Executive Director  
Missouri Head Start Association



