



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



November 25, 2015

Ms. Mary Anne Snyder  
Colorado Department of Human Services  
Office of Early Childhood Director  
1575 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ms. Snyder,

This letter is in response to Colorado's request to amend its approved Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant projects. The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Departments) approved Colorado's grant projects and scope of work on January 8, 2014. On November 9, 2015, Colorado's Office of Early Childhood (Colorado) submitted an amendment request to redistribute unspent grant funds within Projects 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. The State also requests to transfer funds from Projects 1 and 2 to support Project 3 activities resulting in a fiduciary shift greater than \$500,000.

As you are aware, the Departments have the authority to approve amendments provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On July 18, 2012, the Departments sent a document to Project Directors describing the process by which amendments would be reviewed and approved or denied. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Departments have applied the conditions noted in that document and compared it with RTT-ELC program requirements and conditions.

Colorado is making significant progress completing its Scope of Work across its six projects in the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant as the State reaches its third year of implementation. The State has carefully assessed its expenditures and anticipated resource needs and determined that in order for the State to accomplish its goals and objectives, this budget amendment is needed. To complete Colorado's scope of work by the end of the grant period, December 2016, the State requests RTT-ELC grant funds be shifted within the State's approved scope of work budget as outlined below.

The following amendment is approved, as described below:

The State requests to move \$14,637,336 in unspent funds within Projects 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Colorado will transfer \$2,346,482 from Projects 1 and 2 to Project 3. The total amount of funds being moved within and across projects through this amendment action is \$16,983,818. This amendment is necessary due to Colorado completing an end of the fiscal year review where they reassessed the budgets of their projects and the work associated with each project. It was determined unspent funds need to be moved to 1) hire additional staff, 2) provide local Early Childhood Councils with quality improvement investments, 3) continue building Colorado's six workforce activities, 4) support Results Matter Expansion and 5) prepare teachers and administrators on School Readiness efforts.

We understand that this amendment request will not impact Colorado's overall RTT-ELC goals, plans, outcomes, or performance measures, but will ensure Colorado can continue to make progress on its RTT-ELC scope of work activities. The additional activities described are a natural outgrowth from current project work.

Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department of Education's website as a record of the amendment request and our approval. All budget changes are recorded in in the GRADS 360 system and the detailed budget request is saved in the official grant file.

We are confident that Colorado will continue its comprehensive efforts towards building successful state systems of early learning. If you need any assistance regarding RTT-ELC, please do not hesitate to contact your U.S. Department of Education Project Officer, Miriam Lund, at (202) 401-2871 or [Miriam.Lund@ed.gov](mailto:Miriam.Lund@ed.gov) or your U.S. Department of Health and Human Services co-project lead Karen Knoll-Moran at 303-844-1164 or [Karen.Knollmoran@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Karen.Knollmoran@acf.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

/s/

Libby Doggett  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Office of Early Learning  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
U.S. Department of Education

Linda K. Smith  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood  
Development  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of health and Human Services

CC: John Hickenlooper, Governor, 200 E. Colfax Avenue #136, Denver, CO 80203  
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