



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



June 8, 2016

Susan Perry-Manning
Executive Director, Delaware Office of Early Learning
820 North French Street, 5th Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801

Dear Ms. Perry-Manning:

This letter is in response to Delaware's request to amend its approved Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant. The U.S. Departments of Education and Health & Human Services (Departments) approved Delaware's grant projects and scope of work on December 11, 2012. On May 23, 2016, the Delaware Office of Early Learning submitted a request to amend its RTT-ELC budget that would add \$1,321,081 to its Year 5 budget to allow sufficient time for the completion of grant activities as well as to move unspent funds into projects needing additional support.

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.

The following changes are approved, as described below:

Project 1 (Outreach to Promote Early Screening and Service Referral): Delaware is requesting to add \$15,333 in the contractual category to sustain the follow-up to developmental screenings for two counties. Funds are reallocated from Project 4.

Project 2 (Strengthen Young Child Mental Health Services): Delaware is requesting to add \$25,000 in the contractual category to support continued mental health consultation services. Funds are reallocated from Project 4.

Project 3 (Financial Incentive Program for Quality Improvement): Delaware is requesting to add \$2,642,324 in the contractual category to support tiered reimbursement payments in Year 5 of the grant. The State has seen a greater demand for these funds than expected, and is using excess funds in Projects 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 17 to incentivize quality improvement.

Project 7 (Ages and Stages Developmental Screener): Delaware is requesting to add \$48,119 to Project 7 in the contractual category to support the increased demand for developmental screeners. Funds are reallocated from Project 17.

Project 8 (Workforce Leadership Development): Delaware is requesting to add \$107,546 to Project 8 in the contractual category to provide additional professional development in Year 5 of the grant. This project was not included in Delaware's initial no-cost extension request. Funds are reallocated from Project 17.

Project 14 (QRIS Evaluation and Validation Study): Delaware is requesting to reallocate \$97,586 from Year 4 to Year 5 to complete the validation study, with no change in the overall project budget. This project was not included in Delaware's initial no-cost extension request.

Project 17 (Overall Grant Management): Although Project 17 has an overall decrease in budget and is transferring excess funds to other projects, Delaware is requesting to add indirect costs totaling \$199,766 against personnel and related expenses in this project for the five years of the grant.

Project 18 (Federal TA): Delaware is requesting to add \$635 to Project 18 to support final expenses for technical assistance provided in 2015. Funds are reallocated from Project 17.

We understand that this amendment request will not impact Delaware's overall RTT-ELC goals, plans, outcomes, or performance measures, but will ensure Delaware can continue to make progress on its RTT-ELC scope of work activities. Please note that we expect grantees with no-cost extensions to liquidate all funds by March 31, 2017, given that by law all RTT-ELC funds revert to the U.S. Department of Treasury as of October 1, 2017. 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 the GRADS 360 system and the detailed budget request is saved in the official grant file.

We are confident that Delaware 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 project officer, Deborah Spitz, at (202) 260-3793 or Deborah.Spitz@ed.gov or your co-project officer Sonia Haynes, at (215) 861-4003 or Sonia.Haynes@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

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

/s/

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