



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



December 13, 2013

Rolf Grafwallner
Assistant State Superintendent
Division of Early Childhood Development
Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street, 10th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Dr. ~~Grafwallner~~ 

This letter is in response to Maryland's request to amend its approved Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant project. On October 18, 2013, the State submitted an amendment request and supporting information to the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Departments). As you are aware, the Departments have the authority to approve amendments to your RTT-ELC plan and budget, provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On July 18, 2012, the Departments sent a "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document to RTT-ELC Project Directors indicating 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 amendment to the State's budget and project plan is approved, as described below:

- Maryland will move \$1,120,000 from Year 2 to Year 3 of their RTT-ELC **Project 1—Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils (ECACs)** budget. It will distribute funds to Local ECACs based on applications submitted by November, 2013. Disbursement of these grants, budgeted to total \$1,080,000, will not occur before January 2014. In addition, it will allow drawdowns of \$40,000 to provide three, two-day trainings for the 24 Local ECACs in 2014 rather than in the anticipated 2013. In both of these cases, moving funds will align the budget to the project timeline; it will not change the scope, size or impact of Project 1.
- Maryland will move \$533,814 from Year 1 to Year 3 of their RTT-ELC **Project 6—Comprehensive Assessment Project (in collaboration with Ohio)** budget. Since Maryland's collaborative partner, the State of Ohio, was able to pay more than anticipated in Year 1 of the RTT-ELC grant, Maryland requests to be allowed to move funds from their (Maryland's) budget originally anticipated to be expended in Year 1 to Year 3. This adjustment will align the grant year funding to reflect the actual funding portion of Ohio, and will not in any way affect the scope, size or impact of Project 6.

It is the Departments' understanding that this amendment will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, participation rates, and grant activities, nor will it substantially change the scope of work.

Please note that this letter will be posted on the U.S. Department of Education's website as a record of the amendment. If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding RTT-ELC, please do not hesitate to contact your Project Officer, Katie Chase, at (202) 205-0266 or katie.chase@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



Libby Doggett
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Early Learning
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education/Office of Early Learning
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: Governor Martin O'Malley
Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools