



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



Copy

March 27, 2015

Lucy Roberts
Early Childhood Policy Advisor
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Ms. Roberts:

This letter is in response to North Carolina'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 North Carolina's grant projects and scope of work on November 14, 2012. On March 12, 2015, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services submitted an amendment request, whereby it proposes overall adjustments to its budget based on expenditures in its third grant year.

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 North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has requested to reallocate unspent funds in the amount of \$6,197,659 from its Year Three budget to Year Four, without any changes to activities. None of the changes proposed in this amendment change the scope or objectives of the grant.

The following projects had unspent funds in Year Three:

Project 5 (TQRIS Program Quality Measurement Development): NC will reallocate \$242,957 in the Contractual line from Year 3 to Year 4 to continue the development of a TQRIS program quality measure, without any changes to the approved Scope of Work.

Project 6 (Increasing Access to High Quality Early Learning and Development Programs): NC will reallocate \$1,216,975 from Year Three to Year Four, primarily in the Contractual and Funding to Localities categories, without any changes to the approved Scope of Work.

Project 7 (TQRIS Validation Study): NC will reallocate \$1,074,754 in the Contractual line from Year 3 to Year 4 for the purpose of continuing the TQRIS Validation Study, without any changes to the approved Scope of Work.

Project 8 (Enhanced Professional Development): NC will reallocate \$987,664 in the Contractual line from Year Three to Year Four for the purpose of implementing a course on coaching, mentoring, and technical assistance, without any changes to the approved Scope of Work.

Project 9 (Early Learning and Development Standards): NC will reallocate \$208,734 in the Contractual line from Year Three to Year Four for the purpose of implementing a course on the new Early Learning and Development Standards, without any changes to the approved Scope of Work.

Project 12 (Compensation and Retention): NC will reallocate \$2,150,358 in the Contractual line from Year Three to Year Four for the purpose of providing salary supplements to early childhood educators in the Transformation Zones and providing TEACH Scholarships, without any changes to the approved Scope of Work.

Project 13 (Cultural Competence Support): NC will reallocate \$208,734 in the Contractual line from Year Three to Year Four for the purpose of developing the cultural competence of the workforce, without any changes to the approved Scope of Work.

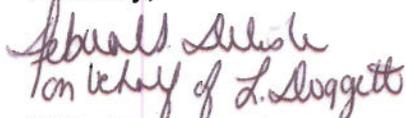
Project 14 (Early Childhood Director Leadership Institute): NC will reallocate \$107,483 in the Contractual line from Year Three to Year Four for the purpose of continuing the Early Childhood Director Leadership Institute, without any changes to the approved Scope of Work.

We understand that this amendment request will not impact North Carolina's overall RTT-ELC goals, plans, outcomes, or performance measures, but will ensure North Carolina can continue to make progress on its RTT-ELC scope of work activities.

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 the GRADS 360 system and the detailed budget request is saved in the official grant file.

We are confident that North Carolina 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 Officers Deborah Spitz, at (202) 260-3793 or Deborah.Spitz@ed.gov or Richard Gonzales, at (202) 401-5138 or Richard.Gonzales@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,



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