



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



April 7, 2015

Leighann Lenti
Deputy Secretary for Policy and Program
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501-2786

Dear Ms. Lenti:

This letter is in response to New Mexico's request to amend its approved Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant budget. On September 23, 2014 and January 23, 2015 New Mexico submitted an amendment request to its overall grant budget.

As you are aware, the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services (“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 entire adjustment involves moving funds across all grant projects from one fiscal year of the State's budget to another; no project activities are changing as a result of this request.

The following amendment request is approved, as described below:

- Project 1: Grants Management - The State will reallocate \$248,709 from years one across grant years 2, 3 and 4. These funds will be reallocated from CYFD to the PED to accommodate the costs related to recruitment and hiring a project manager within the PED system.
- Project 2: FOCUS-TQRIS - The State will reallocate \$ 6,150,202.00 across year 2, 3 and 4 for the FOCUS-TQRIS project funds. Under this project the main changes include the reallocation of funds from the contractual category to salaries and fringe benefits. This reallocation will allow CYFD to recruit and hire a RTT-FOCUS coordinator to assist the CYFD in the implementation, coordination, monitoring, and alignment of the FOCUS-TQRIS project within CYFD as it relates to DOH and PED's efforts within the other RTT-ELC projects.
- Project 3: Investment Zones -The State will reallocate \$100,000 unspent funds from year one to grant years 3 and 4 for the total budget of \$400,000 for the next three years. This will allow the project to catch up with the timelines updated during the first months of the grant and ensure that the overall goals and measurements are met.

- Project 4: Professional Development - The State will reallocate \$379,780.00 over grant years 2, 3, and 4 for the total remaining budget of \$1,617,280.00 for the next three years. These funds will support the State's efforts to provide TEACH scholarships to early childhood professionals and continue carrying out the tasks for higher education institutes, reflective practice, and curriculum courses.
- Project 5: Early Childhood Data Systems - The State will reallocate \$1,546,004 of unspent funds for Early Childhood Data Systems over years 2, 3, and 4 of the grant. The reallocation of funds will be from salaries to contractual, equipment and other categories. In addition, fringe benefits will be reallocated to contractual other categories. Reallocating these funds will allow the State's early childhood data systems project to accomplish its goals within the timeframe of the grant.
- Project 6: KEA Assessment - The State will reallocate \$375,840.00 of unspent funds for Kindergarten Entry Assessment over years 2, 3 and 4. Reallocating these funds will allow the State's project team to achieve its goals as set forth in the approved Race to the Top Plan.

We acknowledge your statement that this amendment request does not impact New Mexico's overall RTT-ELC goals, plans, outcomes, or performance measures, but will ensure New Mexico can continue to make progress on its RTT-ELC scope of work activities.

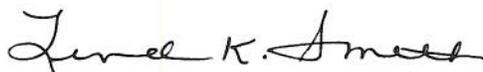
Please note that you should record all budget changes in the GRADS360° system and a detailed budget request is saved in the Departments' official grant file.

We are confident that New Mexico 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, Tammy Proctor, at 202-260-7803 or Tammy.Proctor@ed.gov or your co-Project Officer, Marsha Basloe, at 202-401-72415138 or Marsha.Basloe@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

Enclosure
Cc. Governor