



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



August 4, 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 June 29, 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 a total of \$174,747 from year two to be reallocated within the project for years 3 and 4. \$61,409 will be reallocated from the travel, supplies and indirect cost line items to cover personnel and fringe benefits costs associated with a new Project Manager. The remaining \$113,338 of unspent funds will be reallocated to the contractual category to cover the costs of implementing the current communication plan. A total of \$174,289 will be reallocated from Project 2 for the purpose of implementing the current communication plan.
- Project 2: FOCUS-TQRIS - The State will reallocate a total of \$ 1,376,925 from year two to years 3 and 4 for the FOCUS-TQRIS Project. Contractual costs in the first two years of the grant were less than expected. As a result, several new contractual events such as: hiring focus consultants to provide technical assistance to 619 preschool programs; conducting a rate study to determine the costs of implementing TQRIS with local early intervention providers; developing master trainers on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire for social emotional; adding a third objective to the NM Validation Study; and upgrades to the NM website to support the communication plan are being requested as a part of this amendment request.

- Project 3: Investment Zones -The State will reallocate \$23,479 of unspent funds from year two to grant years 3 and 4 (\$12,000 year 3 and \$11,479 year 4). This reallocation will allow the project to meet the timelines described in the RTT-ELC plan and ensure that the overall goals and measurements are met.
- Project 4: Professional Development - The State spent \$341,788 in professional development to fund work completed by the contractor for TEACH @ Scholarships. The remaining \$92,986 will be reallocated over grant years 3 and 4. The remaining funding will support the State's efforts to provide scholarships to early childhood professionals and continue carrying out the higher education institutes, reflective practice, and curriculum courses.
- Project 5: Early Childhood Data Systems – The State will reallocate \$430,111 of unspent funds for Early Childhood Data Systems over years 3 and 4 of the grant. Reallocating these funds will allow the data systems project to accomplish its goals within the timeframe of the grant. This reallocation to the contractual category will allow for the project team to build more capacity through engaging in contracts to perform some of the necessary work steps. Funds in the “other” budget category will be used to purchase necessary licenses and geocoding reference data sets. A total of \$228,500 will be reallocated from Project 2 to support the completion of the data system.
- Project 6: KEA Assessment - The State will reallocate a total of \$406,981 of unspent funds within the project for Kindergarten Entry Assessment to years 3 and 4. Reallocating these funds will allow the State's project team to achieve its goals as set forth in the approved RTT-ELC Plan and provide extra support to ensure a smooth implementation of the Kindergarten Entry Assessment.

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 202-401-7241 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