



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



March 12, 2015

Bette
Bette Hyde
Director
Department of Early Learning
State of Washington
P.O. Box 40970
Olympia, WA 98504-0970

Dear Bette,

This letter is in response to Washington'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 Washington's grant projects and scope of work on November 14, 2012. On November 12, 2014, the Washington State Department of Early Learning submitted an amendment request, whereby it proposes to cost share the School Readiness, Coach Training and Early Achiever Institute between Other Grant funding Sources and Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge grant funds.

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.

To complete Washington's scope of work by the end of the grant period, December 2015, the State requests RTT-ELC grant funds and "other grant funds" share the costs of the School Readiness, Coach Training and Early Achiever Institutes. This budget shift aligns with the State's approved scope of work and does not reflect modifications in any activities. This amendment to the State's budget and Project 2 TQRIS Expansion is approved, as described below:

Washington utilizes a cost sharing methodology for activities in Washington State's RTT-ELC grant. RTT-ELC grant dollars financed the majority of activities in the beginning of the grant. As the grant has progressed, financing shifted toward greater cost sharing between RTT-ELC federal dollars and other funding sources.

The School Readiness, Coach Training and Early Achiever Institutes were originally financed 100% with dollars from Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) because the activity was not forecasted as a separate line item within Project 2 at the time of the original grant application. The activity has, however, grown in scope and financial need as RTT-ELC grant activities ramped up and the University of Washington moves toward operating capacity. The expense is such that Washington State cannot fully

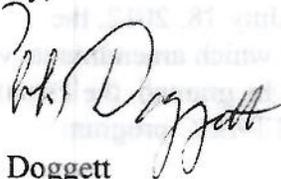
fund it with CCDF dollars (the financial need rose from \$123,648 in Year 1 of the grant to almost \$1.8M dollars in Year 2). Washington State proposes to use \$715,508.00 in RTT-ELC contract funds, from Project 2, which resulted from a slower than expected ramp up of activities in this project during the first half of the grant and \$916,112.67 of "other funding sources" (CCDF funds) to meet the budget needs. The request to switch funding sources from solely "other funding sources" to shared financing with RTT-ELC dollars is in line with the rest of the University of Washington's contract, contracts with other DEL partners, and the cost sharing methodology of the Grant. While this increase of RTT-ELC financing is higher than initially anticipated, it is a temporary increase that will ultimately sustain the grant work because it will help train a larger number of coaches who will in turn train additional staff annually even after the grant ends.

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

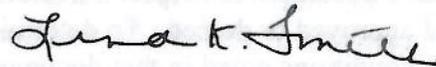
Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department of Education's website as a record of the amendment request and our approval. All budget changes are recorded in the GRADS 360 system and the detailed budget request is saved in the official grant file.

We are confident that Washington 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, Miriam Lund, at (202) 401-2871 or Miriam.Lund@ed.gov or your co-project officer Ngozi Onunaku, at (202) 260-5943 or Ngozi.Onunaku@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

CC: Juliet Morrison