



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



May 14, 2015

Eloise Anderson
Office of the Governor, State of Wisconsin
201 E. Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Secretary Anderson:

This letter is in response to Wisconsin'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 Wisconsin's grant projects and scope of work, including supplemental funds, on December 18, 2013. On May 8, 2015, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families submitted an amendment request, whereby it proposes adjustments to its budget to move unspent funds from 2014 into 2015.

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. At the beginning of the grant, 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.

Wisconsin would like to reallocate unspent funds from its Year Two budget to Year Three in Projects 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. The total funding amount for each project has not changed, just the distribution across years and/or categories. All funds will be used for their approved purposes, as follows:

Project 1 (Grants Management): WI did not spend all of its budgeted funds in the categories of travel (\$658), equipment (\$2,000), contractual (\$422,109), indirect costs (\$2,905), and technical assistance (\$185,920). These funds will be moved forward to Year 3 for the same purposes. WI overspent in the categories of personnel (\$5,144), fringe (\$5,457), and supplies (\$16,608). Funds will be subtracted from the Year 3 budgets in those categories.

Project 2 (YoungStar Training and Technical Assistance): WI did not spend all of its budgeted funds in the categories of personnel (\$10,477), fringe (\$1,132), and travel (\$3,777). These funds will be moved to the supplies category to cover overspending in the amount of \$15,356. An additional \$3,567 will be taken from the supplies budget in Year 3 to cover the rest of the overspending. WI underspent in the categories of contractual by \$120,797 and indirect costs by \$22. These funds are already obligated in contracts and will be moved to Year 3 for the same purpose.

Project 3 (Increase YoungStar Participation): WI underspent in the category of “other” in the amount of \$35,297. These funds are already obligated in a contract and will be moved to Year 3 for the same purpose.

Project 4 (Increase High Needs Children’s Participation in YoungStar): WI underspent in the category of contractual by \$141,130. These funds are already obligated in contracts and will be moved to Year 3 for the same purpose.

Project 5 (Increase Quality of YoungStar): WI underspent in the following categories: personnel (\$62,964), fringe (\$22,785), equipment (\$1,000), other (\$13,333), indirect costs (\$109), and funds to localities (\$172,793). These funds will be moved to Year 3 for the same purpose. WI overspent in the category of supplies (\$18,210). This amount will be subtracted from the Year 3 budget.

WI underspent in the category of travel (\$12,829). Of these funds, \$3,829 will be moved to Year 3 for the same purpose, and \$9,000 will be moved to supplies in Year 3, to support the costs of activity kits to support nutrition and physical activity trainings and printing parent materials in Spanish.

Project 6 (YoungStar Validation Study): WI underspent in the category of contractual by \$107,358. These funds are already obligated in contracts and will be moved to Year 3 for the same purpose.

Project 7 (Model Early Learning Standards): WI underspent in the categories of supplies (\$10,000), contractual (\$286,817), and indirect costs (\$5,297). These funds will be moved to Year 3 for the same purpose.

Project 8 (Family Engagement): WI underspent in the following categories: fringe (\$6,889), travel (\$2,588), contractual (\$296,195), other (\$116,000), indirect costs (\$7,314), and funds to localities (\$100,000). These funds will be moved to Year 3 for the same purpose.

In personnel, WI underspent by \$26,891. Of these funds, \$10,772 will be moved to Year 3 for the same purpose. The remaining \$16,169 will be moved to the category of supplies to cover overspending.

Project 9 (Professional Development): WI underspent in the categories of personnel (\$8,420), fringe (\$3,350), supplies (\$10,000), contractual (\$283,410), other (\$2,847), and indirect costs (\$2,857). Funds will be moved to Year 3 for the same purposes.

We understand that this amendment request will not impact Wisconsin’s overall RTT-ELC goals, plans, outcomes, or performance measures, but will ensure Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin 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, Deborah Spitz, at (202) 260-3793 or Deborah.Spitz@ed.gov or your co-project officer 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
Service