



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



May 9, 2016

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 approved Wisconsin's grant projects and scope of work, including supplemental funds, on December 18, 2013. On April 16, 2016, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families submitted a budget amendment request, whereby it proposes to reallocate unspent funds from Year 3 of the grant into Year 4.

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.

Wisconsin has requested to reallocate unspent funds in the amount of \$9,523,223 from its Year 3 budget to Year 4 in Projects 1 through 10, except Project 6, which is completed. The total funding amount for each project has not changed, just the distribution across years and/or categories. In most cases, funds were simply moved to the fourth year, while remaining dedicated to the same activity and the same budget line. This amendment reflects delays that occurred in finalizing contracts and completing projects and activities. Supplies were under-budgeted in many of the projects but this will be addressed in a future amendment request. Budget figures do not reflect actual or obligated spending as there can be a significant delay between obligation, expenditure, and accounting.

The following amendment is approved, as described below:

Project 1 (Grants Management): Wisconsin is requesting to move a total of \$950,040 forward from Year 3 to Year 4. Funds will remain within this project and will support the same activities. The majority of these funds are obligated in current contracts.

Project 2 (YoungStar Training and Technical Assistance): Wisconsin is requesting to move a total of \$163,943 from Year 3 to Year 4. Funds will remain within this project and will support the same activities. The majority of these funds are for a project that was delayed and will be completed in Year 4.

Project 3 (Increase YoungStar Participation): Wisconsin is requesting to move a total of \$46,856 from Year 3 to Year 4. These funds are already obligated in a contract and will be moved to Year 4 for the same purpose.

Project 4 (Increase High Needs Children's Participation in YoungStar): Wisconsin is requesting to move a total of \$124,888 from Year 3 to Year 4. These funds are already obligated in contracts and will be moved to Year 4 for the same purpose.

Project 5 (Increase Quality of YoungStar): Wisconsin is requesting to move a total of \$2,027,989 from Year 3 to Year 4. These funds will be moved to Year 4 for the same purpose. Contractual funds are already obligated in contracts. Overspending in supplies will be subtracted from the Year 4 budget.

Project 7 (Model Early Learning Standards): Wisconsin is requesting to move a total of \$546,883 from Year 3 to Year 4. These funds will be moved to Year 4 for the same purpose.

Project 8 (Family Engagement): Wisconsin is requesting to move a total of \$960,569 from Year 3 to Year 4. These funds will be moved to Year 4 for the same purpose. Contractual funds are already obligated in contracts. Overspending in supplies will be subtracted from the Year 4 budget.

Project 9 (Professional Development): Wisconsin is requesting to move a total of \$747,224 from Year 3 to Year 4. These funds will be moved to Year 4 for the same purpose.

Project 10 (Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System): Wisconsin is requesting to move a total of \$3,954,831 from Year 3 to Year 4. These funds will be moved to Year 4 for the same purpose.

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 Gena Miller, at (312)353-0242 or Gena.Miller@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Libby Doggett
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Early Learning
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education

/s/

Linda K. Smith
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood
Development
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services