



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



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

December 11, 2014

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 October 10, 2014, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families submitted a budget amendment request, whereby it proposes to revise and refine its grant budget for Project 8, Family Engagement.

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 would like to reallocate unspent funds from its Year One budget to Years Two, Three, and Four, and to make some other small programmatic changes, to Project 8. The total funding amount for this project has not changed, just the distribution across years and/or categories.

Wisconsin is requesting to take unspent Year One funds in the amount of \$100,528 from the categories of Personnel, Fringe, Travel, Equipment, and Supplies, and reallocate those funds to the Contractual category in Years Two, Three, and Four (for activities described below). The unspent amounts were due primarily to delays in filling positions in Year One of the grant. In the categories of Indirect Costs and "Other," small amounts of funds were unexpended in Year One and are being reallocated to Years Two, Three, and Four within the same categories and for the same activities.

The following changes are proposed to Project 8:

- **Personnel and Fringe:** Wisconsin is requesting to reduce a proposed Education Consultant position in the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) from full time (1 FTE) to part-time (0.6 FTE), resulting in savings of \$117,980 in salary and \$71,305 in fringe benefits over Years Two through Four. DPI has identified an existing staff member who can do the work as approved with less time. Additional contract support will also reduce the need for a full-time position.
- **Travel:** \$18,900 in travel expenses will now be funded by DPI instead of the grant.

- Supplies: \$52,793 in supplies will now be funded by DPI instead of the grant.

The savings from underspending in Year One, and from the changes described above, would reallocate \$361,506 to Contractual to support the following activities:

- \$132,000 in Year Three to support a contract with the Wisconsin Association of Infant Mental Health to provide additional training on Parent Interacting with Infants (PIWI) groups in order to enhance parental competence and confidence, increase parent engagement, and provide optimal experiences for healthy brain development. Eight communities will be selected through an application process and awarded up to \$8,000 to support and sustain PIWI implementation. Funding will also support stipends for mentors to meet with each community, as well as general administration of the effort. PIWI is an infant toddler parenting module developed by the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL).
- \$229,506 to increase professional development by providing training and technical assistance around family and community engagement to early childhood professionals. The goal is to provide educators and care providers with information and tools, including knowledge of several family and community engagement frameworks that have been developed in recent years, to enhance the quality and quantity of their efforts to fully use the resources of families and communities. Funding in Year Two will be \$49,722, and \$89,892 in Years Three and Four.

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](mailto:Deborah.Spitz@ed.gov) or your co-project officer Marsha Basloe, at (202) 401-7241 or [Marsha.Basloe@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Marsha.Basloe@acf.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,



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U.S. Department of Education