



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



August 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 June 26, 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 Project 10, Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System. The total funding amount for the project has not changed, just the distribution across years and/or categories. In 2014, staff losses and turnover caused delays in the project, resulting in approved revisions to the scope of work. The project is now fully staffed and work is moving forward. In most cases, funds were simply moved to the third year, while remaining dedicated to the same activity and the same budget line.

The following amendment request is approved, as described below:

Project 10 (Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System):

- Personnel: underspent funds in the amount of \$126,941 will be moved to year three for the same expenses, and \$5,499 will be added to supplies to cover underspending in that category.
- Fringe: underspent funds in the amount of \$58,633 will be moved to year three for the same expenses.
- Travel: underspent funds in the amount of \$4,545 will be moved to year three for the same expenses.

- **Equipment:** underspent funds in the amount of \$320,000 will be moved to year three for the same expenses. In addition, \$200,000 will be moved from contractual to equipment for the purchase of a tool for matching data.
- **Supplies:** underspent funds in the amount of \$12,192 will be moved to year three for the same expenses. An additional \$5,499 will be added to year three from the personnel category.
- **Contractual:** underspent funds in the amount of \$1,984,556 are being moved to year three for the same expenses. An additional \$200,000 is being shifted from contractual to equipment.
- **Other:** underspent funds in the amount of \$113,013 are being moved to year three for the same expenses.
- **Indirect Costs:** underspent funds in the amount of \$10,263 are being moved to year three for the same expenses.
- **Funds to Localities:** underspent funds in the amount of \$31,075 are being moved to year three for the same expenses.

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