

# Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant

## FAQ

### General:

- **When will CLSD applicants learn of grant awards?**

All CLSD applications are due to RIDE by 4:00pm on February 26, 2020. We anticipate awardees to be notified by March 24, 2020. Once the applications have been received, RIDE will contact all applicants should this timeline shift.

- **Are there guidelines regarding the format of the grant submission (e.g., preferred font, margins, max. page length)?**

The application does provide some guidance regarding length; however, no special requirements for font size or margins are provided.

- **May an applicant propose conducting their activities for less than the five years, but at the maximum grant award (e.g., applicant proposes approach that costs \$250,000 with an implementation timeframe of three years)?**

Yes, an applicant may propose completion within 3 years. We strongly recommend when structuring the grant proposal/application that it is reflective of the Literacy Needs Assessment and demonstrates the applicant's ability to sustain the activities beyond the grant funding.

### Budget:

- **Is it possible to hire Coaches with CLSD grant funds?**

LEAs and Community-Based Organizations need to establish sustainable models for providing ongoing professional learning and support to classroom educators (e.g., consultants can be hired to train teacher leaders to lead PLCs). If proposing to utilize grant funds for coaches, applicants must demonstrate how they will shift funding of a coach to their own budget for their last year of grant funding to demonstrate the ability to sustain the coach beyond the terms of the grant. Competitive applications will budget a percentage of the coach on local funds and a percentage on grant funds and gradually increase the local share across the years of the grant.

- **Can we use CLSD grant funds to hire project managers?**

No, LEAs and Community Based Organizations should determine current staff that will serve as project managers.

- **Can we use CLSD grant funds to pay teachers to attend Professional Development or provide stipends for specific work/tasks regarding implementation?**

Yes, CLSD grant funds may be used to pay teachers for professional learning opportunities; however, the applicant would need to articulate how they intend to support ongoing professional learning beyond the terms of the grant. Additionally, stipends are permissible to support curriculum implementation.

- **Can funds be used to support the costs to purchase High-Quality ELA/Literacy Curriculum (Birth – PK, K-5, 6-12 Level One Activities)?**

Yes, per grant expectations, applicants may use Level One Activities funding to procure a High-Quality ELA/Literacy Curriculum (Birth- Pre-K: RIDE approved List or K- 12: EdReports Quality Standards Review – all green gateways). Budget proposals stipulate that up to 50% of the total request may be used to procure High-Quality ELA/Literacy Curriculum.

- **Is there a threshold or percentage of the budgeted funding that must be allocated for the Level 2 Activities?**

No.

- **Does the budget breakdown begin in FY20 (this year prior to July 1, 2020)? How many years can we budget?**

Yes. Budget breakdown shall begin in FY20 and can include activities for May and June 2020. The next fiscal budget year (FY21) begins July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Funds are available through June 30, 2024.

## Early Childhood:

- **Are independent non-profit organizations offering Pre-School and Toddler programs eligible for CLSD funding?**

Yes, they are eligible to apply for the CLSD Grant.

- **The CLSD Application includes a K-12 Literacy Needs Assessment. If we are within the Birth – Age 5 community, how shall we complete this requirement?**

Please complete the Needs Assessment provided to the best of your ability; however, you may provide additional information in your analysis from the Rhode Island State guidelines for Pre-K and Toddler assessments. Birth –Age 5 applicants can exclude *Partner with Community Based Organizations (K-12)* within Level 2 Family and Community Engagement. All other areas are applicable to Birth –Age 5.

- **The Birth to PK Level One Activity requires applicants to implement a High-Quality Early Childhood Curriculum, however, it is not reviewed by EdReports?**

All applicants for Birth – PK: Level One Activities must select their curriculum from the RIDE endorsed list of High-Quality ECE curricula. Currently, this list includes: Creative Curriculum, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> editions, High Scope, and Boston Public Schools (Pre-K only).

- **Traditionally, Pre-K non-profits do not employ literacy coaches. This is a need of ours to better serve our population. Would we be able to apply for funds to support a coach salary?**

Consultants may be used to provide short term supports; however, the applicant would need to articulate how they intend to support ongoing professional learning beyond the terms of the grant. Also, see question above in budget section on coaches.

- **Are Birth – PK applicants eligible to apply for Level Two Activity: “Transition to Kindergarten Programs?”**

Yes. In addition, applicants should partner with their LEA(s) to complete activities.

## K-12:

- **If our LEA adopted a High-Quality Curriculum and we have provided Professional Learning, are we eligible to apply for funding within the Level Two Activities only?**

Yes, the grant application states that once all Level 1 Activities are completed, only then may all funds be placed into Level 2. We strongly recommend that you use your Literacy Needs Assessment to build your application to specifically attend to the Fully Operational Criteria including attending to the needs of multilingual learners, Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Education (CRSE), and differently-abled students.

- **Are there other vendors who support curriculum implementation aside from the publisher?**

There are more and more organizations who support curriculum implementation. Please review the [RI ECN](#) provider listing. Some examples include Teaching Lab, Instruction Partners, Better Lesson, and Leading Educators.

- **Will RIDE provide LETRS® training for K-5 educators? If so, would there be a cost for training/ materials?**

RIDE does not have plans at this time to offer LETRS® training for K-5 educators. CLSD applicants may use funds to support RIDE’s LETRS® Cohorts and/or to contract with LETRS® directly for services within the LEA.

RIDE is offering LETRS® training for Early Childhood and K-2 educators beginning spring 2020 through a [LETRS application](#) due February 24, 2020.

- **Which educational institutions are offering Dyslexia Endorsement?**

Currently, RIDE has not provided a list of eligible institutions offering RIDE approved Dyslexia Endorsements. It is anticipated that the RIDE list of approved Dyslexia Endorsement providers will be posted shortly.

- **Are we eligible to apply for CLSD grant funds within Level One Activities if our curriculum is not green in all three gateways on EdReports and we are not going to adopt a new green curriculum during the grant period?**

The CLSD Grant structure stipulates that all Level One Activities must support High-Quality ELA/Literacy Curriculum that meets the expectations that all three gateways of EdReports’ Quality Standards have met the green standard. Therefore, if your ELA/Literacy curriculum does not meet this expectation, then you are not eligible for grant funds.