



2024-2025 RI Pre-K Expansion Grant Application Questions and Answers

1. In the case of Model 1, what is the method for identifying new space that can be utilized but not yet been licensed? Could it be a prospective space available for renting? Can you provide an example?

Typically, in the case of Model 1, a vacant classroom in the program is used for the RI Pre-K classroom. This can be a room that was once licensed but closed due to low enrollment. A provider could decide to rent space that they will turn into a DHS licensed classroom but would need to show how that space would be ready and licensed for children by September 1, 2024.

2. In the case of Model 5, the requirement is to have a minimum of 5 CCAP enrolled children in the upcoming year. What if enrollment only started and we don't have yet this number?

Model 5 is a funding model for LEAs only and has no minimum requirement for enrolled children. Model 4 is the CCAP funding Model and the requirement is for the program to have 9 CCAP children enrolled. If you are unsure whether you will be able to enroll 9 children, it is best to apply for a Model 1 classroom to ensure the program will have the proper funding level.

3. Can we submit the applications to more than one model?

Yes, if a program is applying for multiple classrooms the program can apply for more than one funding model. The application will need to include a budget for each classroom, aligned with the budget guidelines for each funding model and an answer to each funding model question being proposed.

4. Will RIDE provide startup funding (beyond the \$200K operating budget) for new programs in year 1?

No, RIDE does not provide any additional funds beyond the \$200,000 for programs in year 1. The budget assumptions are that RIDE is paying for a portion of the program/building costs for each RI Pre-K classroom, the salaries for the RI Pre-K staff and the materials and supplies needed for each RI Pre-K classroom.

5. What benefits would it be for a public charter school that already runs a Pre-K classroom to join the Pre-K expansion initiative?

There are many benefits for any school to become part of the RI Pre-K community. Below is a list of some of those benefits.

- **RI Pre-K grants help offset operations costs, paying for a portion of your rent, utilities, supplies and maintenance.**
 - **RI Pre-K supports help raise quality throughout the program not just the RI Pre-K classroom.**
 - **RI Pre-K partners participate in shared professional development and technical assistance.**
 - **RI Pre-K grantees gain access to a wide variety of community partners, and resources.**
6. Our current Pre-K classroom only has 12 students due to the size of the classrooms, would this be allowable?

The RI Pre-K expansion is committed to providing greater access to high-quality Pre-K programming. We typically look for classrooms that can provide 18/20 seats to maximize access, we do realize that there may be situations where that is not possible. Therefore, all complete applications are read and scored, and decisions regarding the number of children enrolled will be taken into consideration by the review team.

7. We are a statewide charter school, would the RI Pre-K expansion initiative allow us to have a lottery to be statewide to follow our charter?

No, the RI Pre-K lottery is an independently run lottery system. Families may enter their child in the lottery and only choose schools in the city or town in which they live.

8. We currently have 2 pre-k classrooms, could this grant be used for the current 2 classrooms?

Any classroom serving four-year-old children may apply for a RI Pre-K grant provided that the opening of the classroom does not displace children and all other grant requirements are met.

9. We have a lottery for our Pre-K classrooms that gives preference to siblings and children of staff. Would that also be allowable with this initiative?

No, the RI Pre-K lottery does not give preference to siblings or children of staff. The RI Pre-K lottery is run by RIDE. Families are only able to choose from the schools in the city or town where they reside. The lottery does allow same aged siblings to apply on one application and be selected together.