



2022-2024 ND Systemwide Literacy Improvement Program Office Hours Q & A

September 23, 2021

Is there an application form? I have found the guidance form and the assurances form, but not an application.

There is no formal application form. Applicants are asked for a two-to-four-page letter of application outlined in the guidance form. The letter of application and the assurances and signature form complete the application. Between November 1 and 30, all certified staff will receive a survey in their email which is the final piece of the application. Leaders applying for a grant are encouraged to inform staff to expect and return the survey. Minimum staff participation of 50% of surveys returned will be required to continue in the awarding process.

Are you getting interest in this grant opportunity? Is it competitive?

While the granting process is competitive, we are not able to speculate on the likelihood that applicants will receive a grant. All interested LEAs are encouraged to submit the letter of application and inform staff members to complete the survey that comes to their email in November. Staff interest and readiness will be important awarding factors.

Do we need to identify a partnership with our Regional Educational Association in our letter of application?

Not specifically. However, teams demonstrating they are ready to engage in literacy improvement work might mention their REA in the course of explaining recent and current literacy interests and initiatives.

What is the turn-around time following the application deadline for award announcements?

Applications are due October 15, 2021. Staff surveys will be delivered and accepted throughout November. Applications will be reviewed in December with notification of selection occurring in early January, 2022.

Do we need to hire an outside source to conduct an audit?

No. The state will contract with an auditor on your behalf. The auditor will schedule the observations, interviews, survey distribution and curriculum audit work between February and May of 2022.

Could you describe the primary focus of the grant? Is it tier two?

The focus of the grant is on reading improvement through full system work. An approach utilizing a multi-tiered system of supports through academic pathways is desired, however, does not prioritize intervention over core instruction. Strong instructional approaches based on the science of reading are a main focus.

We are a small school and would need to address paying staff if we bring on a coach or assign lead teachers. Can we use the money for the staff salary or stipends?

Yes. The funds can be used to support staff to meet new needs determined in the audit and/or required by the grant such as the lead teacher positions. Following the audit, awardees will submit a budget request based on the needs that were identified.

Is the grant going to pay for curriculum?

It is possible, based on needs illuminated through the literacy audit and curriculum review, that some matching funds may be offered for curriculum improvement. Although, curriculum at all levels will be reviewed, the keenest focus will be on K-3 materials, resources, and approaches.