

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT GRANT APPLICATION GRANT GUIDANCE

What is the purpose of the Early Childhood Education Environment grant?

The 63rd Legislative Assembly appropriated \$125,000 for grants to school districts to make space available for new or expanded NDDPI approved early childhood programs. Applicants that are expanding their program must be able to demonstrate the expansion will benefit the capacity to serve more children or to provide resources for an additional classroom.

What is the amount that can be requested?

Up to \$10,000 per classroom is available to mitigate the costs of providing the space.

If awarded, what is the time frame to spend the funds?

The funds are available from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017.

What are the allowable uses of funds? Allowable use of the funds include costs incurred to get the learning space ready for pre-kindergarten-aged children. This includes such items as child-sized tables and chairs, low shelving, and lowering existing or installing new child-sized sinks and toilets. Please keep in mind this list is not inclusive and other items may be considered as allowable if they meet the purpose of the grant. Applicants may be asked to provide additional details on some items to determine if it's allowable.

What are non-allowable uses of these funds? Funds may not be used for staff, technology, daily supplies, or materials for providing the educational program. This also includes kitchen sets and sensory tables. Construction items, such as ceiling tiles, window coverings, lighting, or flooring are no longer an allowable use of funds. The funds may only be used to establish a new or expanded early childhood learning environment.

How will districts request the funds once awarded?

Once the grant is awarded, districts will use the Request for Funds form (SFN 14660) to claim reimbursement. Actual expenditures up to the amount of the grant will be reimbursed. Unused funds will be available for reallocation by the Department of Public Instruction.

How will districts code the funds once awarded?

Once the district has been awarded the grant, use "3900 Other Restricted State Revenue" to code the funds. The expenditures will be coded appropriately to whatever the funds were spent on.

Who can I contact for additional information?

If you have further questions, please contact Tara Bitz, the department's early childhood administrator, at tbitz@nd.gov or (701) 328-4646.