



Request for Investment: Seattle Preschool Program
School Year 2020-21

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Updated: 12/13/19

Topic: Eligible Applicants			
1	Question: How does it look for family child care providers (FCCs)?	Answer: FCCs are not currently eligible for this RFI. FCCs participate in SPP through the SPP Family Child Care Program. Seattle Preschool Program Family Child Care Program – A Hub-Network model that works with FCC providers and central Hubs to facilitate FCC participation in the Seattle Preschool Program. All supports (coaching, PD, facility) available to SPP providers are available to participating FCCs. CONTACT: Sandra Taylor, CCR Hub taylor@childcare.org 206-316-7630 Faiza Guled, TTELC Hub guled@tomorrowvoices.org (206)-466-1229	Date Answered: 11/21/19
2	Question: Do you provide RFI opportunities every year for new providers?	Answer: Yes.	Date Answered: 11/21/19
Topic: Process and Timeline			
1	Question: Who are the people on the review panel? How many people are on the review panel?	Answer: There is a minimum of 5 people and a maximum of 7 people in the panel. Panelists who will review and score the applications include community members, institutional partners, other funders, or individuals who directly benefit from services. Two of the panelists are required to be from DEEL and they are typically staff who have subject matter expertise.	Date Answered: 11/21/19
2	Question: Do we submit the application electronically or in-person, and where?	Answer: Refer to page 6 for submission requirements.	Date Answered: 11/21/19



		<p>Submission: Applications may be submitted electronically or in paper form. Complete applications (including attachments) must be received on or before 5 PM, Friday, December 20, 2019.</p> <p><i>Electronic submissions</i> Deliver to: education@seattle.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please use the following naming convention in the subject line of your email and for the electronic files attached: [Organization Name] – Seattle Preschool Program RFI Application <i>Example: ABC Organization – Seattle Preschool Program RFI Application</i> <p><i>Paper submissions</i> Deliver to:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>By Mail: Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning Seattle Preschool Program – RFI Application PO Box 94665 Seattle, WA 98124-6965</td> <td>By Hand: Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning Seattle Preschool Program – RFI Application Seattle Municipal Tower 700 5th Ave, Floor 17 Seattle, WA 98104</td> </tr> </table>	By Mail: Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning Seattle Preschool Program – RFI Application PO Box 94665 Seattle, WA 98124-6965	By Hand: Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning Seattle Preschool Program – RFI Application Seattle Municipal Tower 700 5 th Ave, Floor 17 Seattle, WA 98104	
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3	Question: Where can we find the application?	Answer: You can find the application form here both in word or pdf version.	Date Answered: 11/21/19		
4	Question: Do we have to submit an RFI application every year since the contract is only for one year?	Answer: No, contracts are negotiated annually, and ongoing awards are based on program performance. Also, there is language in the contract that that gives, both the city and provider the right to terminate the contract under certain conditions.	Date Answered: 11/21/19		

	Topic: Program Requirements		
1	Question: Can you elaborate more on what the labor harmony agreement is, attachment 5?	Answer: The labor harmony agreement refers to any policies, practices, and processes you have in your organization to address labor disputes and prevent work stoppages. For example, if your employees are represented by a union, and there is a collective bargaining agreement, that is considered a labor harmony agreement.	Date Answered: 11/21/19
2	Question: What if we don't have a labor harmony agreement?	Answer: Your agency is not required to have a labor harmony agreement in place. For attachment 5, you would review the statement and check the corresponding box with whether or not you agree.	Date Answered: 11/21/19
3	Question: Can you review attachment 3 requiring site information and attachment 4 requiring classroom information?	<p>Answer: For attachment 3, you need to complete one form for each site aka each location where you have a program. For example, if you have a program at two sites at two locations such as Beacon Hill and Northgate than you need to complete one form for each of these sites.</p> <p>For attachment 4, you need to complete one form for each classroom within a site. For example, if you have 3 classrooms at your Northgate site and you are applying for only 2 out of the 3 classrooms than you would complete one form for each of the 2 classrooms.</p>	Date Answered: 11/21/19
4	Question: Can we use the same classroom form for other classrooms we are applying for?	Answer: Yes, but remember to change the classroom name and other differences pertaining to that classroom.	Date Answered: 11/21/19



5	Question: For homeless families, are they required to have a Seattle address? Can they start with a Seattle address then move because of their situation?	Answer: We utilize the McKinney-Vento Act definition of homelessness. When they apply to the program and they declare that they are homeless we will ask for their nighttime address. This is the address we enroll them with, however, if they move outside the Seattle area after they enroll in the program, they can stay in the program. Keep in mind that we don't fund transportation through SPP.	Date Answered: 11/21/19
6	Question: I have a new Early Achievers rating but have not received the certificate yet. Can I download it from MERIT?	Answer: Yes.	Date Answered: 11/21/19
7	Question: Once accepted in the program as SPP providers, are we allowed to keep infants that we are currently serving?	Answer: Yes, you are allowed to keep the infants you are currently serving if you have room to accommodate both infants and preschoolers. We don't want to displace children. If you become a provider, we will assign you a human services coordinator and they will work with you to enroll and help you determine how many slots you need to fill.	Date Answered: 11/21/19
8	Question: What are the hours of the program?	Answer: Refer to page 7 for program requirements. Service hours requires 6 hours per day, 180 days per year.	Date Answered: 11/21/19
9	Question: If SPP is aligned with Early Achievers, why does EA allow teachers 5 years to get their degree but SPP does not?	Answer: Early Achievers is aligned with licensing requirements as outlined in the WACs. Our requirements go above and beyond what is written in WAC for licensed child care programs. Currently, SPP requires a bachelor's degree with 30 ECE credits for lead teachers and they have 4 years to meet SPP's educational requirement. Because SPP exceeds licensing requirements, we do provide professional development, scholarship support, release time and other resources to support teachers.	Date Answered: 11/21/19
10	Question: Can the bachelor's degree be in family studies?	Answer: Yes, as long as it accompanies 30 ECE credits.	Date Answered: 11/21/19
11	Question: When we submit our application, are we required to have a certain amount of kids already enrolled?	Answer: No. If you become a provider you will be assigned a team consisting of an early education specialist and a human services coordinator and they will help you determine how many slots you should have.	Date Answered: 11/21/19
12	Question: What supports do you provide for staff training?	Answer: We have the Quality Practice and Professional Development Unit (QPPD) unit which includes city coaches and training coordinators who develop and coordinate trainings for teachers. Trainings are focused around program requirements such as curriculum for the SPP program. Other trainings are offered as determined by QPPD. We also coordinate Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings every other month and this is an opportunity for teachers to come together to address emerging topics in a peer environment. We also provide scholarship funds for teachers to obtain their bachelor's degree in order to meet SPP's education requirement.	Date Answered: 11/25/19



13	Question: What supports do you provide for teachers to attend the trainings?	Answer: We provide release time funds to help organizations pay for substitutes in case trainings occur during the day. We also make every effort to ensure trainings are accessible geographically and during times that make sense with teachers' schedules.	Date Answered: 11/25/19
14	Question: Do assistant teachers need education requirements?	Answer: Assistant teachers are required to have an Associate's degree plus 20 ECE credits. This is not the same as a CDA (Child Development Associates) or ECE stackable certificates.	Date Answered: 11/25/19
15	Question: Do assistant teachers qualify for scholarships?	Answer: Yes. We prioritize lead teachers and then support assistant teachers	Date Answered: 11/25/19
16	Question: How does the city set priority for enrollment?	Answer: Per the FEPP Implementation Plan, the enrollment priority list for the 20-21 school year is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier 1 Children who are 3- or 4-years old experiencing homelessness • Tier 2 Children who are 3-or 4-years old currently placed in the foster care system • Tier 3 Children who are 4-years old* • Tier 4 Children who are 3 years old with at least one of the qualifying factors** • Tier 5 Children who are 3 years <p><i>*4-year old children with siblings who attend programming co-located at an SPP site will be prioritized.</i></p> <p><i>**Current proposed qualifying factors include children on an IEP, dual language learners, previous participation in state or city subsidy programs (i.e., Working Connections, CCAP), current sibling participating in SPP or programming co-located at an SPP site, previous participation in state, county or city sponsored home visiting programs, ECEAP or Early Head Start.</i></p>	Date Answered: 11/25/19
17	Question: For lead teachers who are in the process of completing their BA, is there a time limit?	Answer: For SPP it is 4 years from the time they start teaching in SPP.	Date Answered: 11/25/19
18	Question: I am a newly opened preschool provider in Central Seattle. I am wondering how I can get involved with the Seattle Preschool program and how I can become a provider through SPP.	Answer: To become part of the SPP program, a provider would need to apply through the SPP RFI process. Please refer to the SPP RFI Application for more information about the minimum qualifications, requirements and the application process. Application and additional resources can be found on this page: http://www.seattle.gov/education/for-providers/funding-opportunities/seattle-preschool-program-2020-21-preschool	Date Answered: 12/13/19
19	Question: In reference to the below requirement, I am NOT a part of EA so how do I know if my program meets the standards as determined by DEEL 2) Hold a rating of Level 3 or above in the State's Early	Answer: You must be rated at least a 3 in Early Achievers. Programs who are unable to participate in Early Achievers due to structural barriers (e.g. a school district who is exempt from licensing) may request an alternative. A licensed child care program, however, would not meet this definition.	Date Answered: 12/13/19



	<p>Achievers (EA) program OR meet early learning quality standards comparable to EA, as determined by DEEL</p> <p>Also I would like to add that I am a newly opened preschool in Seattle and currently have no children enrolled. Can I still apply to this program?</p>	<p>You do not need to have children currently enrolled. Programs can apply to the SPP RFI as long as they meet the minimum qualifications as stated on page 3 of the RFI.</p>	
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Topic: Budget			
1	<p>Question: Since release time funds are provided, does SPP have a substitute teacher pool?</p>	<p>Answer: No, it is up to the provider to find substitutes.</p>	<p>Date Answered: 11/21/19</p>
2	<p>Question: After notifications are made, when does funding begin? Is it for 1 year or just when you start serving kids?</p>	<p>Answer: As soon as a contract is signed, we can start providing funds. Our contracts are from July 1 – June 30 each year. We provide a small amount in July and August for administrative and recruitment activities with the rest of your payments spread out over the 10-month program year.</p>	<p>Date Answered: 11/21/19</p>
3	<p>Question: Are there start-up funds?</p>	<p>Answer: Yes, the amounts will vary depending on whether or not classroom is brand new and is empty vs a classroom that has been operating preschool and is now converting to SPP programming.</p>	<p>Date Answered: 11/21/19</p>
4	<p>Question: If the program runs from September to June, what about the months of July and August if we are a child care program and we run all year?</p>	<p>Answer: We only fund the hours of SPP programming which is 6 hours, 180 days per year. If you offer child care outside of these hours (e.g. before and after, holidays, breaks, and/or summer) you can charge families directly for child care services outside the SPP program.</p>	<p>Date Answered: 11/21/19</p>
5	<p>Question: Can you review the funding structure?</p>	<p>Answer:</p>	<p>Date Answered: 11/25/19</p>



SEATTLE PRESCHOOL PROGRAM
2019-20 Provider Payment Rates

Slot Payment Type	Amount Per Slot
Regular SPP Slot	\$11,000
SPP-Head Start Slot ¹	\$6,000
SPP-ECEAP Part Day Slot ¹	\$6,500
SPP-ECEAP Full Day Slot ¹	\$3,500
Small Class Size Adjustment ²	\$2,000

Classroom Payment Type	Amount if "Meets"	Amount if "Exceeds"
Lead Teacher Pay Enhancement ³	\$19,000	\$28,000
SPP Plus Model Adjustment ⁴	\$23,000	N/A
Classroom Funds-Annual Maintenance ⁵	\$3,000	N/A
Classroom Startup Funds-Conversion ⁵	\$8,000	N/A
Classroom Startup Funds-New Classroom ⁵	\$20,000	N/A

Notes

1. **ECEAP/Head Start Slots.** SPP funds are not meant to replace existing Head Start or ECEAP program funds; they are additional funds for the purpose of meeting SPP requirements and activities.

2. The **Small Class Size Adjustment** is awarded to classrooms whose license capacity is less than or equal to 16. Classroom capacity will be verified by the limit listed on the provider's license. SPP pays \$2,000 for each "virtual" slot beyond the classroom license limit (up to 20 total actual and virtual slots). For example, a classroom with a license limit of 15 is eligible to receive 5 "virtual" slots for a total of \$10,000.

3. The **Lead Teacher Pay Enhancement** awards providers extra funds for those Lead Teachers who either meet or exceed SPP's education requirements (see contract for more detail). This amount shall be used to meet SPP's minimum wage requirements (see contract for more detail).

4. The **SPP Plus Model Adjustment** is awarded to classrooms participating in SPP Plus and have a Special Education contract with Seattle Public Schools for the provision of IDEA Part B services in the classroom.

5. Each classroom is eligible to receive **Classroom Funds** - either as an annual maintenance OR a as a startup amount. New classrooms that previously operated as a preschool classroom before joining SPP or Pathway are eligible for the "Conversion" amount. New classrooms that did NOT previously operate as a preschool are eligible for the "New" amount.

6 **Question:**
What other supports do you provide?

Answer:
We provide the following additional funds and supports:

- Organizational Capacity Building supports in partnership with 501 Commons
- Facility Funds
- Classroom Startup and Maintenance funds
- Comprehensive Supports for individual children
- Developmental screening, Health, and Behavioral Health supports in partnership with Seattle-King County Public Health
- Scholarship funds for teachers to meet education requirements
- Release time for teachers to attend training

Date Answered:
11/25/19