

Seattle Department of Education and Early Learning
Families and Education Levy

Questions and Answers (Q&A)
2015-16 Summer Learning - Request for Investment

Application-Related

For the school sites that received funding last year, could you provide more information in regards to what set them apart in their applications?

A: I was not involved in last year's review, but successful summer programs have been able to:

- Implement programming that supports the goals of the Families and Education Levy
- Understand the needs of Levy Focus Students in the context of their school communities, and be able to successfully recruit and retain them
- Align programming to what students have learned in the school year prior to the summer program and what they will need to be able to do in the following school year
- Strategically incorporate the role of partner schools and/or community-based organizations

Can schools and organizations apply for both elementary and middle school RFIs?

A: Yes, schools and organizations can apply for both elementary and middle school RFIs, but they must submit a separate application for each grade span (i.e. one application for elementary, one application for middle school).

On page 16 of both applications, under the optional indicators section of Attachment 3: Work Plan, how many indicator targets are required?

A: There is no minimum number of indicator targets required. This optional table is an opportunity for the applicant to think through the indicators that a grantee will be held accountable for. If awarded funding, the grantee will work with the City of Seattle to determine the actual indicators for their summer contract.

Does paragraph spacing need to be single or double?

A: Both single and double spacing are acceptable, but applicants must stay within the page limits for each section.

For Levy Innovation Schools, will you be factoring in what schools have previously did with their Levy funds during the school year?

A: No, Levy Innovation grants and summer funding are separate, and the performance of Levy Innovation grants will not be factored into the review of applications for summer funding. However, any summer funding should strive to enhance and extend the impact of school year-focused Levy Innovation grants. Summer funding provides a unique and exciting opportunity to innovate and try things that weren't possible during the school year.

Program-Related

Are there geographical areas that you are looking to increase?

A: The Levy is committed to serving struggling students in all areas of our city.

Is there a minimum number of students that the program needs to serve?

A: There is no minimum number of students that the program needs to serve.

When it says that we need to show that we have qualified teachers, does that mean that they have to be certified?

A: Not necessarily. Qualified could mean Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) under the [federal definition](#): 1) holds at least a bachelor degree from a four-year institution, 2) fully certificated or licensed by the state, 3) demonstrates competence in each core academic area in which the teacher teaches.

Qualified could also mean qualified in the eyes of the applicant due to experience, credentials, or meeting the work eligibility or licensing requirements of the applicant's organization, but please explain in your application.

Kindergarten readiness programs are not going to have certified teachers so would they be qualified as long as they met the requirements under the Seattle Preschool Program?

A: Please see answer above. Qualified can mean qualified in the eyes of the applicant due to experience, credentials, or meeting the work eligibility or licensing requirements of the applicant's organization, but please explain in your application.

In addition, teachers in kindergarten readiness programs funded by this RFI do not need to meet the [requirements under the Seattle Preschool Program](#).

Is there a ratio for the number of teachers to students?

A: There is no minimum student-to-teacher ratio. As stated in the application, the students-to-teacher ratio should be low enough to support differentiated instruction.

Our program wants to do an experiential trip abroad for cultural competency. Would there be any restrictions with the funding we are awarded?

A: Trips abroad are not allowed. Any proposed enrichment programming needs to be included and explained in Attachment 3: Work Plan and Attachment 6: Annotated Budget. Enrichment activities need to demonstrate how they will promote students' academic growth and cultivation of other skills that support learning. Awarded programs are required to annually submit a revised work plan and budget for review and approval by the City of Seattle, but programs have the flexibility to structure enrichment activities that best meet the needs of their students.

Partnership-Related

As a smaller community-based organization (CBO), is it better for us to be the lead applicant or our larger school partner? Is there any advantage?

A: There is no advantage between a school or CBO being the lead applicant. The lead applicant should be the organization responsible for developing and implementing the program. In addition, the lead applicant will be the City of Seattle's primary point of contact for a variety of topics including contracting, invoicing, data management and program coordination.

What if a school wants to work with a community-based organization (CBO) that is not already RFQ-approved?

A: The [Request for Qualification \(RFQ\)](#) process that occurs twice a year in which the City of Seattle approves CBOs to work with Levy-funded schools during the school year (eg. September to June). During the summer, CBOs do not need to be RFQ-approved in order to apply for summer funding on their own. However, if a CBO is planning to partner with a school on a summer program, the following applies:

- **If CBO partners are receiving less than \$5,000 to provide summer services:** The CBO does not need to be RFQ-approved, and CBOs can submit a joint application with the school they intend to partner with.
- **However, if CBO partners are receiving more than \$5,000, the CBO has two options:**
 1. The CBO and school must submit separate RFI applications--but state that they are working together and outline respective responsibilities; or
 2. The CBO can wait to apply for [RFQ approval](#) by December 31, 2015 and submit a joint application during the next funding cycle (apply in September 2016 for Summer 2017)

Funding and Budget-Related

Is there a maximum number of summer programs that you are going to fund within elementary and middle school?

A: No, there is not a maximum number of summer programs that we are going to fund. Instead, we will try to 'maximize funding' by supporting as many programs as possible. But with any finite resource, we are not able to award funding to every program that applies.

For middle school programs, is \$320,000 the maximum amount that all programs are competing for? Is this funding for all programs or just new programs?

A: Yes, \$321,832 is the maximum amount available for all new middle school programs. Existing programs will continue to be funded at the level they were previously awarded through Summer 2019, assuming student outcomes and contract obligations are met.

For middle school programs, what was the funding break-down for last year's applicants?

A: Last year, we received two applications for middle school summer programs, and fully funded both programs.

Can we leverage funding with other resources such as DSHS (Department of Social and Health Services)?

A: Yes, we encourage all applicants to leverage other funding where possible.

Can stipends be provided in our budget?

A: Yes, but please explain how and why stipends will be used in Attachment 6: Annotated Budget as well as the relevant sections of your application.

Questions? Please email Long Phan, Summer Program Lead, at long.phan@seattle.gov by Friday October 23, 2015 at 4:30pm