



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

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Commissioner

Connecticut Administered State-Funded Program General Policy

C-06

- OEC Child Day Care Contractors
- OEC Competitive School Readiness Municipalities
- OEC Priority School Readiness Districts
- OEC State Head Start Supplement
- OEC Smart Start

TO: Mayors, Superintendents, School Readiness Council Chairs/Co-Chairs and Liaisons

FROM: Harriet Feldlaufer, Director
Early Care and Education
Office of Early Childhood (OEC)

SUBJECT: School Readiness Non-Residency Option

Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) section 10-16p (c) and (d) (1) below, establishing a School Readiness grant program has been amended as follows:

Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2015):

(c) The commissioner shall establish a grant program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs located in priority school districts, as described in section 10-266p, or in former priority school districts for eligible children. Under the program, the grant shall be provided, in accordance with this section, to the town in which such priority school district or former priority school district is located. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation as a priority school district for the initial year of application, except that if a school district that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as a priority school district at the end of such five-year period, such former priority school district shall continue to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this subsection. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools for such priority school district or former priority school district shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the local request for proposal process to the commissioner. The commissioner shall review and approve such plans. The plan shall: (1) Be developed in consultation with the local or regional school readiness council established pursuant to section 10-16r, as amended by this act; (2) be based on a needs and resource

assessment; (3) provide for the issuance of requests for proposals for providers of accredited school readiness programs, provided, after the initial requests for proposals, facilities that have been approved to operate a child care program financed through the Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority and have received a commitment for debt service from the Department of Social Services, pursuant to section 17b-749i, on or before June 30, 2014, and on or after July 1, 2014, from the office, are exempt from the requirement for issuance of annual requests for proposals; and (4) identify the need for funding pursuant to section 17b-749a in order to extend the hours and days of operation of school readiness programs in order to provide child care services for children attending such programs.

Sec. 2. Subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2015):

(d) (1) The commissioner shall establish a competitive grant program to provide spaces in accredited school readiness programs or school readiness programs seeking accreditation located in (A) an area served by a priority school or a former priority school, (B) a town ranked one to fifty when all towns are ranked in ascending order according to town wealth, as defined in subdivision (26) of section 10-262f, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p, (C) a town formerly a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, as provided for in subdivision (2) of this subsection, or (D) a town designated as an alliance district, as defined in section 10-262u, whose school district is not a priority school district pursuant to section 10-266p. A town in which a priority school is located, a regional school readiness council, pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, for a region in which such a school is located or a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision may apply for such a grant in an amount not less than one hundred seven thousand dollars per priority school or town] equal to the number of spaces in an accredited school readiness program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation multiplied by the per child cost set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 10-16q. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's designation as having a priority school or being a town described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision for the initial year of application. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools of the school district or the regional school readiness council shall submit a plan, as described in subsection (c) of this section, for the expenditure of such grant funds to the commissioner. In awarding grants pursuant to this subsection, the commissioner shall give preference to applications submitted by regional school readiness councils and may, within available appropriations, provide a grant to such town or regional school readiness council that increases the number of spaces for eligible children who reside in an area or town described in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subdivision, in an accredited school readiness program or a school readiness program seeking accreditation. A town or regional school readiness council awarded a grant pursuant to this subsection shall use the funds to purchase spaces for such children from providers of accredited school readiness programs or school readiness programs seeking accreditation.

The following guidelines must be followed by the local School Readiness Council and their sub-grantee School Readiness programs:

1. The local School Readiness Council shall establish a written policy regarding whether to allow sub-grantee School Readiness programs to enroll non-resident children. The local School Readiness Council may choose not to implement the non-residency option. The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) recommends that the local School Readiness Council implement the non-residency option only if the School Readiness grantee has a history of under-utilization of School Readiness spaces filled by residents. All School Readiness children must be residents of Connecticut.
2. If the local School Readiness Council allows non-residents to be accepted into local sub-grantee School Readiness programs, the sub-grantee School Readiness program is required to prioritize enrollment of 3- and 4-year olds from the grantee's municipality before accepting non-resident children.
3. The local School Readiness Council will deem appropriate timelines to allow sub-grantee School Readiness programs to enroll non-resident children. Enrollment of nonresident children may begin as early as July 1 of the grant year and spaces for resident children may not be held open past the November reporting period of each fiscal year.
4. School Readiness programs must continue to serve 60% School Readiness children at or below 75% of the State Median Income (SMI).
5. School Readiness programs must continue to serve 50% full-day School Readiness children unless granted a waiver by the OEC.
6. If a non-residency option is allowed by the local School Readiness Council, School Readiness programs must prioritize full-day spaces for non-resident School Readiness children.

For further information concerning this GENERAL POLICY please contact:

SCHOOL READINESS
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