



Trust for
Learning

Ideal learning made real for all

ERA Grants Opportunity - Q & A

Updated 8/6/25

1. Does everyone applying for the grant have to have a tax-exempt status? **We would prefer to grant to tax-exempt organizations and grant funds can only be used for charitable purposes. If your organization does not meet this status and you still wish to apply, please reach out directly for additional guidance.**
2. If an organization supports both private and publicly funded programs through its projects, is it still eligible to apply for the grant? **Yes, as long as the project that is envisioned through this grant would support publicly funded programs.**
3. What's the age range for children or adults that the grant covers? **Funds can be used for children prenatal to age eight or educators (including parents) working with children during any period of this continuum.**
4. What kind of reporting would recipients need to submit? **Grantees will be expected to submit an interim grant report halfway through their grant period, and a final report at the end of the grant period. These reports include an update on the project's goals, impact, and challenges, as well as financial information. They are typically 2-3 pages in length.**
5. Would you consider an award that would be part of a larger/longer project? **Yes. Applicants should specify the specific piece of a larger project that this grant would go to support.**
6. How would you apply for a new project that you intend to pilot, where you don't know yet what your impact will be? **Applicants should estimate the number of children and/or educators the project has the potential to impact within the grant period. In addition, applicants should propose at least one measurable goal per grant objective.**
7. Who are the reviewers? And will they be compensated for their work? **The reviewers will be individuals with experience in early childhood philanthropy, policy, and practice. They will be offered an honorarium for their work.**



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8. How can programs that don't explicitly or tangibly do ideal learning approach this opportunity? **Applicants should discuss how their program's or organization's goals and practices align with the [principles of ideal learning](#), regardless of the specific pedagogical or curricular approach that it uses. Applicants will also need to demonstrate how their specific project meets one or more of the stated grant objectives: equity, relationships, and adult development.**
 9. Can an organization submit more than one application? **Yes, organizations can submit multiple applications.**
 10. How do we define "publicly funded"? Is this referring to traditionally publicly funded programs like Early Head Start? Or would Family-Based Child Care that is resourced by public subsidies qualify? **We define "publicly-funded" programs as any early childhood program, regardless of setting, that is supported through taxpayer funds. Family-based child care programs that accept subsidies would qualify.**
 11. Could you provide more information on how the application process will work, how funding will be allocated amongst applicants and projects, and what the expectation is for the verbal commitment of support? **The applications that we receive will be evaluated by peer reviewers who have experience in early childhood philanthropy, policy, and program implementation, and selected for funding provided by Trust for Learning. Preliminary commitments of support will be communicated to potential grantees in late September, and confirmed upon the completion of a due diligence review.**
 12. Can you further define what you're looking for in terms of partnership? Is it that multiple entities apply together? Or is it that one organization is subgranting to another? What is the extent of the partnership that you're looking for? **We are looking for organizations to work together to advance the mission of the project. There does not need to be an official subgranting of funds, and only one entity would be the official applicant. Applicants have the opportunity to describe the partnership in narrative form and upload any documents that they believe would be helpful in demonstrating a shared commitment to the work.**

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13. If an organization receives private funding for its advocacy work but public funding for other programs such as home visiting and early childhood mental health, should we focus only on the publicly funded programs in our application? **Yes.**
 14. Does this funding need to be used for a new or innovative project, or can it be used to support existing activities where there are gaps caused by shortfalls for special populations? **The project does not need to be new, but it needs to address at least one of the specific objectives outlined in the grant opportunity.**
 15. Would sites that accept vouchers for specific students count as publicly-funded programs? **Programs that accept vouchers or subsidies that are funded through taxpayer dollars (e.g. child care), would qualify as publicly-funded programs for purposes of this grant.**
 16. Is there a requirement for programs to serve only US citizens? **No.**
 17. If our organization is not a publicly funded entity, but the early childhood providers we would work with are publicly funded, would we be eligible? **Yes, as long as you are working with partners to expand access to ideal learning in publicly-funded settings.**
 18. Are there specific geographies the RFP is hoping to fund or are there geographies that will be prioritized? **No. All proposals will be evaluated equally.**
 19. Will the final grant awards be made public? **Trust for Learning will not publish the names or identifying information of ERA grant recipients on our website. Applicant information will only be shared internally with board members and other trusted partners.**
 20. Can grant funding be used for lobbying? **Funds may be used for federal lobbying, but not state lobbying. Additionally, it can be used for advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels.**