

Frequently Asked Questions

Kindergarten Transition Seed Money Funding Opportunity 2023

Q. How much funding will be awarded to selected organizations?

A. Up to \$10,000 will be awarded per organization. Awards will be based on a true and accurate budget included in the application.

Q. Is this award state or federal funds?

A. These awards are federal funds through the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five.

Q. Can Head Start programs apply?

A. Yes, Head Start programs can apply.

Q. When do the funds have to be spent?

A. The innovative kindergarten transition activities must be completed by August 31, 2023, and invoices must be submitted by September 30, 2023, with proof of completing a final feedback survey.

Q. Can a public charter school apply?

A. Yes, charter schools can apply.

Q. Are public school districts able to apply?

A. Yes, public school districts can apply.

Q. If my school district has received this funding before, are we eligible to apply again for this funding?

A. No, an organization that has received this funding before is not eligible to apply again. This is a one-time funding opportunity.

Q. Does my Transition Team have to watch all 9 videos to be eligible to win an award?

A. Yes, your transition team must watch all 9 videos and complete the survey questions at the end. The application review team will verify this for each application.

Q. Can home daycare providers apply for this funding if they have kindergarteners in their daycare?

A. You are eligible to apply for this funding opportunity and like all applicants must answer the application questions. To apply, you watch the nine short videos on the importance of strong kindergarten transition practices, complete the participant survey and then fill out the application.

Q. Kindergarten transition programs/activities can be particularly valuable to immigrant families with age relevant kids who didn't send their kids through NYC's free PreK program. Does this opportunity include public/charter schools or only community organizations who serve the hard-to-reach populations by PreK programs?

A. This funding opportunity is available to public schools, charter schools, Head Start programs, community-based organizations, non-profits etc. The purpose is to bring community partners together to build a team in supporting children and their families with the important transition to kindergarten.

Q. Besides watching the videos and submitting the application, are there any other requirements in order to be approved? Is a small Family Day Care able to apply for this funding?

A. This funding opportunity is available to public schools, charter schools, Head Start programs, non-profits, community-based organizations etc. The purpose is to bring community partners together to build a team in supporting children and their families with the important transition to kindergarten. In the application there is a list of community partners that every application will need to engage with to come up with the plan and budget. Only one of the community partners will be the receiver of the funding (fiscal agent), but all will be on the team and work on the innovative project together. Also, there are fiscal and reporting requirements after the funds are spent. There are also monthly planning meetings with the grant lead and community team.

Q. I am a Legally Exempt Provider and I wanted to know if I'm eligible for this funding opportunity?

A. This funding opportunity is available to public schools, charter schools, Head Start programs, non-profits, community-based organizations etc. The purpose is to bring community partners together to build a team in supporting children and their families with the important transition to kindergarten. In the application there is a list of community partners that every application will need to engage with to come up with the plan and budget. Only one of the community partners will be the receiver of the funding (fiscal agent), but all will be on the team and work on the innovative project together. Also, there are fiscal and reporting requirements after the funds are spent. There are also monthly planning meetings with the grant lead and community team.

Q. Would a Young Kindergarten class be a program that would be eligible for this funding?

A. This funding opportunity is not for one class. It is for all children in a community that are transitioning into kindergarten. Innovative transition practices incorporate community partners/agencies to make the transition to kindergarten positive and successful for all the children and their families in the community.

Q. I am the youth services coordinator at a small public library, and we were thinking of applying in some way to support our district's kindergarten transition. I'm having a hard time finding examples of programs done through community organizations. Is there a list of past programs I could look at to see how we might be able to best support our district? Or any examples I could look at? I will obviously watch all the videos should we apply. If there's one I could start with besides the introduction to get an idea of what might be a good fit, could you recommend one?

A. There are examples of what agencies and districts ([and libraries](#)) are doing for kindergarten transition practices in the nine videos. Also, you could connect with school districts or a local Head Start program in your area to see what practices are in place locally and plan with them on what could be strengthened.

Q. Are early childhood programs eligible? I am the Executive Director of a program that has multiple DOE classrooms and have helped our students through the kindergarten transition through the years.

A. Yes, early childhood programs are eligible for this funding opportunity. After watching the 9 short videos, you'll have a better understanding of how to partner with other community-based organizations and the schools in your community. In the application, there is a **Local Kindergarten Transition Team Planner** to fill out which helps to guide you to the community approach to strengthening successful transitions into kindergarten.

Q. We are looking into the seed money for kindergarten transition and are wondering if we could include our Pre-K students in the transition activities and opportunity. We recently added two full pre-k programs and we feel that it would be beneficial to give the same opportunity to those students.

A. A community should include prekindergarten children and their families in transition activities and opportunities.

Q. Is the funding for one year or could it be used over a couple of years? I guess the question really is can this be a multiple year grant if awarded?

A. No. This is one-time funding for 1 year with the hope being that your innovative transition activities will become a permanent practice in your community (with other funding).

The timeline is listed on the application. Activities must be completed by August 31, 2023, and submission for reimbursement and all reporting is due by September 30, 2023.

Q. If one was awarded the funds, would the organization be able to use it on any school related purchases or would the funds have to be used for specific purchases?

A. In the past, awardees have purchased bookbags for incoming kindergarten children and school supplies. The funds must be used to support the kindergarten transition students. The application includes a budget. Only approved spending will be reimbursed. Food is not an allowable expense.

Q. If a Head Start program is awarded the grant, would a school district host the event?

A. It's up to your Kindergarten Transition Planning team on which agency will 'host' the event(s).

Q. If awarded this funding opportunity, can you use the money to staff employees for a Kindercamp program?

A. Yes, if the employees are not 12-month employees. You may not supplant any funds you already receive from another source.

Q. Can individual schools apply?

A. If your school is part of a district with multiple elementary schools, you will need to include the other elementary schools and not just one particular building. And you need to include the other community partners listed in the application.

Q. Should there be representation from all the roles listed on the Local Kindergarten Transition Team Planner?

A. You need to get commitments from at least 15 members. This is what makes it a community effort that can have lasting change. Please ask if you need help connecting to an agency that is new to you.

Q. Can you only apply for new activities?

A. This funding is for new and innovative activities and applicants must follow the guidance in the application after watching the videos. This funding does not pay for activities you are already doing.

Q. Can you pay administrators for their time in planning an event?

A. If an employee is a 12-month employee, the answer is no. You may not replace any existing funding. This funding is for an innovative idea, it should not pay for existing staff that are implementing the new idea. Your planning team will have other resources to contribute to the big idea.

Q. Can you pay for food with this funding?

A. No food is not an allowable expense. Food may not be part of the budget. Your budget should list each item or expense. If you are buying multiply items you need to list it clearly. For

example: If you are planning an event for 300 children and you want to purchase a specific book that will cost \$5.00, that would be $300 \times \$5 = \$1,500$.

Q. Can a 4410 program apply for funding?

A. Yes, a 4410 program is a community-based organization and is eligible to apply for this funding. Keep in mind it is not just for the children in your program, but all children in the community that are transitioning into kindergarten. There is a Local Kindergarten Transition Team Member Planner as part of the application this will help you include the community.

Q. Can you use the funding to create a local kindergarten transition team?

A. Creating a Kindergarten Transition Team is exactly what you should do. You may not pay people to be members of this team. The local kindergarten transition team is made up of community members, many of whom also have positive transitions as part of their goals/work.

Q. Can the funding purchase materials to address and fill any gaps that may be present from the pandemic?

A. The intent of the funding is to not fill gaps related to the pandemic and it is not to replace current funding. You must justify all expenses in the budget as part of the application.

Q. Can the funding help staff plan and administer assessments for our youngest learners?

A. No, the funding may not be used to plan and administer assessments.

Q. Can we use the grant money to identify students who have not been to any type of Preschool before coming to kindergarten?

A. Yes! That's exactly what you can do. As an example, you could take out an ad in a community newspaper or have a billboard to remind parents that it is time to register for kindergarten and invite them to a transition event.

Q. Can the funding be used to build connections with our local library and town programs?

A. Building connections with library programs does not cost money. Libraries are more than willing and happy to connect with early childhood programs and participate on a planning team.