Philadelphia Early Learning Instructional Excellence Initiative-*Curriculum Fund*

Applications Questions

What needs to be submitted for an application to be considered complete?

Applications are considered complete when all sections have been fully answered and all attachments have been submitted. All narrative questions, including any sub-questions must be answered. The narrative questions answers should be typed into each box. Please do not write answers directly on the applications, handwritten answers they will not be considered.

What do I do if I need assistance completing the application?

If you need assistance with completing the application, please e-mail CurriculumFund@phmc.org. Assistance may be provided via e-mail, over the phone, or in person (by appointment) at our main office located at 1500 Market Street.

We don't currently have a curriculum or formal lessons plans, what should we submit instead?

You can submit any type of documentation used for planning classroom activities. It does not have to be a formal lesson plan. We will be reviewing the lesson plan to gain an understanding of your current curriculum and classroom activities.

How are priority areas determined?

Priority areas are determined using data from the Childcare Map. The Childcare Map is an interactive tool that allows users to view childcare supply and demand data for the City of Philadelphia. The Curriculum Fund defines a priority area as having a limited availability of high quality centers and high levels of poverty. To determine if your center is in a priority area, click on the link above to navigate to the Childcare Map.

Can I use the funds for non-OCDEL approved curriculum?

If your site is currently using an OCDEL approved curriculum, you may be able to purchase non approved supplemental materials. However, justification will need to be made in the narrative as to how it aligns with program vision/mission. Funding for supplemental materials may be limited.

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I am a family child care provider, am I eligible for this grant opportunity?

Yes, all types are eligible

Program Supports

What is the Fiscal Hub and what level of participation is required for this grant?

The mission of the Fiscal Hub is to help child care owners and directors improve their business management practices and financial operations through resources, technical assistance, and policy advancement. We are asking that all awardees complete the short (8-10) business practices survey. A Fiscal Hub representative will coordinate with curriculum fund awardees to determine readiness and timing for further participation.

What are Community of Practice Meetings and how often will they occur?

Community of Practice meetings will provide a shared learning environment where practitioners can connect with one another to share knowledge, discuss challenges, and build a sense of community. COP meetings for directors/administrators will focus on the programmatic supports needed for successful curriculum implementation, while COP's for teacher will focus on pedagogical learning. Teachers are required to participate in the bi-monthly COP meetings. Directors are also required to participate in quarterly COP meetings. The meetings will take place both in person and virtually.

What role will the Classroom Practices Facilitator have in providing support to my program?

The Classroom Practices Facilitator work with providers to determine the overall curricular needs, provide guidance on the different curricula and supplemental materials, and provide individualized TA to classroom teachers around curriculum implementation. Each provider will receive 20 hours of TA for the lead teacher and 10 hours of TA for the director/administrative lead. The facilitator will also coordinate and help lead the teacher COP meetings.

How will award amounts determined?

Award amounts will depend upon program size and demonstrated need. The Classroom Practices Facilitator will work with each program to determine the total grant amount and submit the program budget.

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Are there any supports for applicants that are not selected?

Yes, if your program is not selected to participate in the first cohort, you may be invited to attend a Community of Practice meeting or informational sessions to further your exploration of curriculum implementation. These meetings will offer participants insights to the programmatic supports needed to select and implement curriculum. Additional support will be offered to providers that need assistance with the grant writing process through in-person office hours.

Grants Funds

What are the OCDEL approved curriculum that I may purchase?

A complete list of OCDEL approved curriculum is available here.

Can we purchase computers/iPads/tablets with the funds?

Request for technological hardware will be considered on an individual basis. Applicants will need to justify in the narrative section how the technology will be used to support curriculum implementation.

We currently use Creative Curriculum but use Work Sampling for our assessments. Do I have to use the Creative Curriculum (GOLD) assessment?

No, you do not have to switch assessments, but we do encourage applicants to use the assessment designed for the curriculum. Be sure to justify in the narrative questions your decision to use a different assessment tool.

What age groups/care levels can be purchased with the funds?

Grant funds may be used to purchase curriculum for infants, toddlers, and pre-K students. The funding does not cover school-age curriculum.