



Fiscal Year 2023 Early Childhood Development (ECD)

Technical Assistance Webinar

Transcript | February 21, 2023

Slide 1 – Introduction (Title Slide)

Yididya Amha

Thank you for your interest in the Health Resources and Services Administration’s fiscal year 2023 Early Childhood Development competitive funding opportunity. For the rest of today’s presentation, we will refer to this funding opportunity as ECD.

My name is Yididya Amha, and I am presenting with my colleague, Emily Leonard. We are members of the ECD technical assistance team in HRSA’s Bureau of Primary Health Care.

This presentation will provide you with helpful information to complete your application.

At the end of this presentation, we will provide you with information on how to contact the team if you have questions while developing your application.

A question-and-answer session will follow today’s presentation. You may submit your questions through the Q&A pod at any time during the presentation.

Slide 2 - Agenda

Yididya Amha

In this presentation, we will:

- Provide an overview of the ECD funding opportunity
- Highlight important considerations and reporting requirements
- Review technical assistance resources that may be helpful to you as you develop your project
- And end by answering your questions.

And now I am pleased to turn things over to CAPT Jaewon Hong, a member of BPHC’s Office of Health Center Investments Oversight Clinical Team, to share a bit about why it is so important for health centers to engage in this effort.

Slide 3 – Background

Jaewon Hong

Thank you very much for that introduction. As the slide notes, the early years are a critical time for identifying any delays in child development. Children who do not follow the expected social-emotional development path may experience undetected mental and emotional health problems. Unfortunately, many children with developmental disabilities are not identified until they are in school, resulting in missed opportunities for early intervention and treatment.

Slide 4 – Need

Jaewon Hong

There is a great need for developmental screening. Less than 37% of young children receive a recommended screening from a healthcare provider. And as we see in the statistics presented here, there are disparities in access to developmental screenings and services. One study found that babies from middle or high-income backgrounds were 26% more likely to have a developmental screening than babies from low-income backgrounds. The key to long-term success for kids with delays and disabilities is early intervention services. And with health centers serving over 2.8 million children from ages 0-5, this represents a key opportunity for ECD screening and related services.

Slide 5 – Funding Opportunity Overview

Yididya Amha

Thank you for that helpful background. We will now provide an overview of the ECD funding opportunity.

Slide 6 – Purpose

Yididya Amha

The purpose of ECD funding is to improve developmental outcomes among children served by health centers.

- Health centers will accomplish this by:



- increasing the number of developmental screenings and access to appropriate follow-up services for children ages 0-5
- and building ECD expertise into care teams.
- This funding presents an exciting opportunity to address a key presidential priority to invest in early childhood development and support children’s healthy growth.

Slide 7 – Award Summary

Yididya Amha

HRSA plans to award a total of 30 million dollars to up to 150 health centers.

Applicants may apply for up to 200,000 dollars per year.

The period of performance will be 2 years and the start date for FY23 ECD awards will be September 1, 2023. You will apply for 2 years of funding.

ECD funds will be awarded under a new grant number that will start with H8K. This is separate from your H80 award and will help you document the use of ECD funds separately and distinctly from other Health Center Program funds and other federal award funds.

Slide 8 – Objectives and Focus Areas

Yididya Amha

You will use ECD funds to achieve two objectives:

- First, increase the number of children ages 0-5 who receive recommended developmental screenings
- And second, increase the number of children and their families assisted with accessing appropriate follow-up services within 30 days of a developmental screening identifying an area of concern

You will advance these two objectives by implementing activities in four focus areas:

- Workforce recruitment, retention, development, and engagement,



- Access and affordability,
- Patient/caregiver experience,
- And population health and health-related social needs.

Slide 9 – Eligibility

Yididya Amha

This is a competitive notice of funding opportunity.

Current Health Center Program operational grant, or H80, award recipients are eligible for ECD funding

You'll see in the notice of funding opportunity that the only other criteria for having an eligible application are that you:

- Apply for the correct funding amount, which is up to \$200,000 per year,
- Upload your project narrative in EHBs, and
- Meet deadline requirements.

Slide 10 – Two-Tier Application Submission

Yididya Amha

The ECD application is a two-phase process.

You must first submit to Grants.gov, and then to EHBs. You must submit the Grants.gov application components by March 17th and the EHBs application components by April 18th. These deadlines are listed in the notice of funding opportunity, on the ECD technical assistance webpage, and on a slide later in this presentation.

Slide 11 – Application Components

Yididya Amha

This slide lists the application components that you will submit to HRSA in Grants.gov and EHBs.

For Grants.gov:

- You must complete the SF-424 form and a brief Project Abstract Summary. See the ECD notice of funding opportunity for required abstract content.



- You will also complete several other forms, including the project performance site locations form, Grants.gov lobbying form, and key contacts.

Once you submit this information to [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), you will receive an email notification confirming successful submission and will be able to start the application in EHBs.

Most application content is submitted in EHBs, so we encourage you to submit it to Grants.gov as early as possible to maximize the amount of time to complete your application in EHBs.

Your EHBs submission will include the project narrative, budget presentation, program-specific forms, and attachments.

The HRSA SF-424 Two-Tier Application Guide, available on the ECD technical assistance webpage, and the notice of funding opportunity provide guidance on completing and submitting your ECD application.

And EHBs will allow you to reopen your application if you submit it early and realize that you need to make an update before the deadline passes, but you must resubmit the application by the EHBs deadline.

Please note that the page limit for your application is set at 60 pages. If your application exceeds this page limit, HRSA will redact pages over the page limit before it moves to objective review. Make sure to check your application carefully before submitting it.

Slide 12 – Project Narrative – Review Criteria

Yididya Amha

The main component of the ECD application is the Project Narrative, which is organized into six sections. Each section has corresponding review criteria and assigned points.

- Need – 20 points– is where you will describe the need for developmental screening and follow-up services among children ages 0-5 in your service area.
- Response is 25 points total and is where you will describe your proposed project. The score for the Response is broken into two parts:
 - 10 points for your work plan and
 - 15 points for the activities evaluation.

- Collaboration – 10 points – is where you will describe the partnerships that will support your project. If you provide letters of support, they will be assessed as part of this section.
- Resources and Capabilities – 20 points – this is where you will document your health center’s qualifications to carry out your proposed project, as well as the resources that you will leverage to support project implementation.
- Evaluative Measures – 15 points – is where you will provide estimated increases in developmental screening and assistance with accessing needed follow-up for your proposed project.
- Support Requested – 10 points – is where your budget presentation will be assessed for consistency and alignment with the proposed plan to meet the ECD objectives.

See sections 4 and 5 of the ECD notice of funding opportunity for details.

Slide 13 – SF-424A Budget Information Form

Yididya Amha

The SF-424A is the standard budget information form.

You may request up to \$200,000 per year for two years. This means that sections A and B should reflect up to \$200,000 for year 1 of ECD funding and section E should reflect up to \$200,000 for year 2.

- Requesting the correct annual funding is an eligibility consideration, so make sure your annual federal request does not exceed \$200,000.

You must request funding in section A in the same subprogram proportions as your current H80 grant.

Detail any non-federal funds that will support your ECD project in section C, also broken down by subprogram.

In section E, include year 2 funding in the “first” future year field. Do not write anything in the other columns in section E.



Slide 14 – Budget Narrative

Yididya Amha

Your ECD application must include a budget narrative that details each federal and non-federal line-item cost by object class category for year 1 and year 2.

The budget narrative must outline and explain all federal and non-federal expenses that you propose to support your ECD project in both year 1 and year 2.

- Just like on the budget form, requesting the correct annual funding of \$200,000 is an eligibility consideration.

For year 1, the sum of the costs listed in the object class categories must match section B of your SF-424A. For year 2, indicate any substantive changes from year 1.

If you will use ECD funds to support personnel, including contracted personnel, your budget narrative must include a personnel justification table that demonstrates alignment with the current salary limitation of \$212,100.

An example budget narrative on the technical assistance webpage shows how you may list your proposed budget.

Slide 15 – Ineligible Costs

Yididya Amha

All proposed costs must support the ECD's purpose and objectives. The blue boxes on this slide list ineligible costs.

You may not use ECD funding for costs already paid for with H80 or related supplemental funds.

EHRs that are not ONC certified, and facility or land purchases are also unallowable costs.

ECD funds cannot be used to purchase and/or install trailers and prefabricated modular units, but mobile units and vehicles to transport patients are allowable.

Costs for minor alterations and renovations are not allowed, nor are costs for construction.

I'm going to now turn it over to Emily.



Slide 16 – Forms and Attachments

Emily Leonard

This slide lists the program-specific forms and attachments that you will submit in EHBs. Some are required for all applicants while others are required only if applicable to your proposed project.

All the forms are completed directly in EHBs, while attachments are files that you must upload to your application in EHBs.

We've already described the standard budget request form.

You will also complete a Project Overview Form and a Staffing Impact form, which I'll discuss in more detail shortly.

You will only complete the Equipment List Form if you propose to use ECD funding to purchase equipment. You may request to use up to \$150,000 of your year 1 funding for purchasing equipment.

If you propose to partner with other providers or organizations to implement your ECD project, you will provide letters of support in attachment 1.

If you include indirect costs in your ECD budget, upload a copy of your negotiated indirect cost rate agreement in attachment 2.

And you can upload other documents as desired in attachment 2 as well, just know that anything included here other than the indirect cost rate agreement will count against your 60-page limit.

The notice of funding opportunity has instructions for completing these application components.

Slide 17 – Project Overview Form: Work Plan

Emily Leonard

The Project Overview Form includes 2 sections: a structured work plan and an ECD expertise question.

The work plan is described in section 4 of the notice of funding opportunity.

An example work plan is available on the technical assistance webpage.



Your work plan will outline your proposed 2-year activity plan. Your activities must advance progress on the ECD objectives.

Your work plan includes four fields: focus area, activity area, activity, and time frame for activity completion.

The four activity focus areas, which you will see on the next slide, are all required and are pre-populated in the form.

You must select at least one activity area under each focus area.

Then you will write in at least one activity for each selected activity area. There is no maximum number of activities.

In the time frame field, you will indicate if each proposed activity will be completed in year 1 or year 2. If an activity will be ongoing throughout the 2-year period of performance, select 'ongoing.'

The information in your work plan should align with the information provided in your other application components. For example, if you have activities related to hiring for new positions, those positions should be listed in the budget narrative.

Slide 18 – Example Activity Areas by Focus Area

Emily Leonard

This slide lists the four required focus areas in blue. They are:

- Workforce recruitment, retention, development, and engagement.
- Access and affordability.
- Patient/caregiver experience.
- And population health and health-related social needs.

The activity areas that you will select in EHBs are listed under the focus areas.

There is one required activity area: Team-base care coordination, which is under patient/caregiver experience. This activity area is required to ensure coordination across multiple providers that assess and support childhood development within health centers and across community settings.

You can also write in your activity areas in EHBs if needed.



Slide 19 – Project Narrative Form: ECD Expertise

Emily Leonard

When planning your ECD project, you must ensure that your health center has the ECD expertise necessary to support increased screening and assistance with accessing needed follow-up services.

You will indicate to HRSA that you will have the necessary expertise by selecting that you will do one or both of the following:

- Enhance existing ECD expertise, such as through training current staff, and/or
- Hire or contract with new personnel

Slide 20 – Staffing Impact Form

Emily Leonard

You will use the Staffing Impact Form to list direct hire personnel and/or contractor FTEs that you will pay with ECD federal funds.

Do not include personnel who will not be supported with ECD federal funds.

This slide lists the personnel categories you'll find on the Staffing Impact Form.

An example form is available on the ECD technical assistance webpage. Position descriptions are available in the 2022 UDS manual.

Slide 21 – Other Considerations and Reporting

Emily Leonard

Now, I will review other considerations related to award factors and the scope of the project, as well as reporting requirements.



Slide 22 – Other Considerations: Award Factors

Emily Leonard

The notice of funding opportunity includes a few factors that will be assessed at the time HRSA makes funding decisions. These factors could impact your ability to receive funding. See the notice of funding opportunity for details.

Slide 23 – Other Considerations: Scope of Project

Emily Leonard

If you anticipate that a scope adjustment or change in scope will be necessary to implement your proposed project, you must submit your request outside of the ECD application, and obtain approval before implementing a new service, service delivery method, or site.

Keep in mind that screenings fall under well-child services on your Form 5A.

If you plan to use ECD funds to purchase a mobile unit, you will need to revise your Form 5B to add that mobile unit to the scope before deploying it.

Slide 24 – ECD Reporting

Emily Leonard

You will document ECD-specific progress in semi-annual reports that will describe accomplishments and barriers toward implementing your proposed project.

Because ECD awards will be separate from the H80 award, you will also be required to submit a non-competing continuation progress report, or NCC report, to access year 2 H8K funding. Your NCC report will include an updated year 2 budget and work plan, along with data on the number of children assisted with accessing appropriate follow-up services.

You will also report data on the assistance with follow-up measures through a separate report in Year 2.

Slide 25 – Funding Beyond 2-Year Period of Performance

Emily Leonard

ECD funding may extend beyond the two-year period of performance.



HRSA will use your performance on the ECD objectives to make future funding decisions.

- Developmental screening progress will be assessed through a new Uniform Data System, or UDS, measure. The measure will first appear in the 2023 UDS report, and the data will establish your baseline. Your 2024 UDS data will be used to assess your progress.
- As I just mentioned, HRSA will measure progress on assisting with follow-up objectives using your NCC Progress Report in year 1 and a separate report in year 2.
- In addition to progress on the two ECD measures, future funding is contingent upon congressional appropriation and a decision that continued funding is in the best interest of the federal government.

Slide 26 – Key Dates

Emily Leonard

The first part of your application is due on Grants.gov by 11:59 PM eastern time on Friday, March 17.

The second part of your application is due in EHBs by 5PM eastern time on Tuesday, April 18.

HRSA expects to announce awards right around the project start date of September 1.

Slide 27 – Technical Assistance Resources

Emily Leonard

Now I will discuss the technical assistance resources that are available to support your application development and submission.

Slide 28 – ECD Technical Assistance Webpage

Emily Leonard

We've mentioned the ECD technical assistance webpage throughout this presentation. A link is available on this slide. The webpage offers helpful materials that can answer most of your application-related questions.



Slide 29 – TA Contacts

Emily Leonard

After today's call, use the BPHC contact form to contact the ECD technical assistance team for application questions. Be sure to select Early Childhood Development within the selection options on the BPHC Contact Form. You can use the same contact form to reach Health Center Program Support for EHBs system issues.

For any Grants.gov issues, reach out to the Grants.gov Contact Center.

And if you have any questions about federal grant requirements, or how to complete your budget components, contact the ECD grants management specialist, Vera Windham.

Slide 30 – Questions

Emily Leonard

This concludes our ECD summary. Now, let's turn to your questions. We are joined by Rebecca Levine, a team lead in Expansion in the Bureau of Primary Health Care. We are also joined by grants management specialists from the Office of Federal Assistance Management.

To ask your question, type it into the Q&A pod. If we are unable to get to your questions today, submit them to the ECD technical assistance team using the BPHC contact form after today's discussion.

Question & Answer (Q&A)

Rebecca Levine

Thank you so much, Emily and Yidi. Thanks, everyone for joining. As Emily alluded to and as you can see in the chat, a recording of this presentation along with the slides will be available within about a week and posted to the ECD technical assistance webpage. Thank you for your patience while we get that up there in about a week. The first question I am going to loop in is about our colleagues from the Maternal and Childhood Health Bureau here at HRSA.



Is there a specific developmental screening tool that folks should be using, or that we might recommend, or if it is open to the Health Center's choosing?

Dina Lieser

Thank you so much, Rebecca. This is Dina Lieser from the Maternal Child Health Bureau. I wanted to refer you to the Notice for Funding Opportunity Appendix B, pages 32 to 33, and then the resources that follow that.

There is a continuum of the kinds of things that are important to include in your screening, such as developmental milestones and social and emotional development, and caregiver depression. Many of those are fully aligned with Bright Futures guidelines, which sets the standards for pediatric care.

So, the key thing is that it is not a requirement to use particular screenings for each, however, they should be evidence-based recommended screenings, and there is a continuum of them. There are several resources in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics Policy Statement. And ones that link to something called the Star Center that speak to the specific screens. You can choose what fits best.

Some considerations to keep top of mind, some are open-sourced and publicly accessible. Others require fees and how you might integrate them into your broader system. There is also a reference in the NOFO to comprehensive tools called the Well Visit Planner that includes a continuum of open-sourced screens, so there is quite a bit of flexibility, but the idea is to align with the continuum that is spelled out in the Notice of Funding Opportunity and to align with Bright Futures and AAP recommendations.

Rebecca Levine

Thank you so much, Dina.

Can you provide an example of how funds can support workforce retention?

Rebecca Levine

So, what we are expecting you to do is not only to increase the developmental screenings and to increase assistance with access to follow-up. But you also need to make sure you have the capacity to be able to do those things.



While there is no specific hiring requirement or staffing requirement for this funding, we do expect that if you do not have the capacity at the current time, you would either train current personnel to be able to perform those functions and to support these two objectives, or you would be able to contract with someone or hire someone new to be able to fill out your care team to make sure that you are able to address these two objectives.

Can we use existing implemented screenings that we already use?

Rebecca Levine

Of course. We welcome you to use existing screenings, existing procedures, processes, and services you already have in place.

But you need to use ECD funding to expand what you are already doing. So, if the address of the current service is, you can currently screen a given number of patients. The purpose of this funding is to be able to expand on that and screen more patients and assist more patients with accessing any appropriate follow-up.

For this one, I am going to ask our Grants Management Specialist to chime in.

Are we required to include generated program income in the budget, or is it fine to just include Federal funding alone totaling up to \$200,000?

Vera Windham

Hi. For program income and non-Federal resources, it is totally up to the grant recipient. You can either submit your budget just showing the Federal funds or if you choose to use non-Federal resources or program income you can do that as well.

Rebecca Levine

Thank you so much, Vera.

Will ECD awards roll into the base grant after two years?

Rebecca Levine

As Yidi and Emily mentioned during the presentation, you are going to report on a developmental screening measure that will be newly added to the uniform data system reports in 2023. Also, assistance



with accessing appropriate follow-up-services measures. HRSA is going to determine if you are going to receive ongoing funding based on your progress on these two measures, as well as based on information from your semi-annual progress reports and the availability of future funds to support ECD.

Now, what is a little different about this NOFO as opposed to some of the other service expansion awards that you may receive through HRSA is that HRSA is going to collect baseline information on the developmental screening measure through your 2023 UDS report, and measure progress from the baseline data through your 2024 UDS report. HRSA is also going to collect baseline information on the assistance with accessing appropriate follow-up services measure through your Non-Competing Continuation Progress Report. Then, measure progress from the baseline data through your Follow-up Assistance Data Report.

So, during the two years, in the first year you are going to provide a baseline, then in the second year we are going to measure increases from that baseline that you provided in that first year.

To reiterate, if you are currently doing developmental screening or assisting children and families with accessing follow-up, you just need to increase the number of patients accessing those services. You don't necessarily need to do something new, but you need to be able to expand what you are currently doing using this funding.

If an attachment is not applicable to my project, do I need to submit a non-applicable placeholder attachment in EHBs?

Rebecca Levine

You should not have to submit anything in EHBs if the attachments don't apply to you. You should be able to move forward even if you don't submit something because it does not apply to you.

Can you review who is eligible to apply for this grant?

Rebecca Levine

Sure. Current HRSA-funded health centers are eligible to apply for this grant. So, any organizations that are currently Health Center operational grant award recipients.

If you do not receive an operational grant award from HRSA, then you are not eligible to apply for this funding. And if you have questions related to your specific organization's eligibility, you can contact us



through the BPHC Contact Form. There is a link in the chat, and we will be happy to address that with you one-on-one.

Can we use any funding to pay for transportation costs such as providing gas cards, to help patients access follow-up services?

Rebecca Levine

Yes. Transportation is considered an enabling service, so you can. That is one way that you can help patients access appropriate follow-up, by providing transportation for them. But the caveat is that the transportation should be to an in-scope service, at an in-scope site. You can't necessarily keep transporting patients to an organization that is not affiliated at all with the health center or in your health center's scope. You should be using the transportation to transport from an in-scope service center to an in-scope site.

Can we assist with paying for fees such as purchasing glasses if they do not have any other source of funding?

Rebecca Levine

It is important that whenever you are providing activities and services using ECD funds, you keep in mind your sliding scale fee. You can't necessarily just provide to patients that don't have insurance. You are required to follow Chapter 9 of the Compliance Manual, your Sliding Fee Discount Program, and Chapter 16 Billings and Collections of the Health Center Compliance Manual. But regarding glasses specifically, the purpose of the NOFO, the objective of the NOFO is to support patients by helping them access appropriate follow-up services.

So, you wouldn't necessarily be able to pay for the patient's treatment plan or pay for the glasses, but the point is to assist them with accessing the appropriate follow-up. Because there is a wide variety of interventions that could be necessary following a screening showing a concern.

So, we want to maintain the focus on screening and assisting with accessing the appropriate follow-up.

That is what is important to keep in mind with this funding.

This is a great question that I think our Maternal and Child Health Bureau colleagues will be very pleased to hear.



Does the health center currently receiving TPEC funding qualify to apply for the ECD Grant?

Rebecca Levine

TPEC is through the Maternal and Child Health Bureau here at HRSA. If you are a current H80 award recipient and receive TPEC funding, yes, you are welcome to apply for this funding. We hope you do so, and we hope that everyone who applies is able to do so. We are always pleased to see our programs coming together, so that is a great question.

How is HRSA defining receiving assistance within 30 days of developmental screening, identifying an area of concern?

Rebecca Levine

So, the key thing that I want to point out regarding that second measure, which is assisting with accessing the appropriate follow-up, is the patient, or the family does not have to receive the follow-up within 30 days.

The key is that they receive the assistance within 30 days. So that means that if you are providing, for example, an enabling service that may be case management or transportation, they don't have to complete the appointment, but they must assist within 30 days in accessing the appropriate follow-up. But, again, just the assistance needs to be done within 30 days. Assist is a flexible term. It doesn't look one way. It depends on the circumstance.

Again, the key is that you are making a connection with a patient to help them with transportation, or you are helping to identify a provider or providing case management services or different types of enabling services that will help them get to the next step that is identified for them.

The point of that is so there is not an identified area of concern, and they are just dropped from the radar. We want to make sure that patients are getting the identified follow-up that they need.

The other aspect of that is that not everything is within the health center's control. We want to recognize that any follow-up following concern from a screening, maybe within the health center. The health center may provide what is needed as a follow-up, but it also may be outside the health center. So, we don't want to create any expectation that you need to be able to help get people an appointment



elsewhere, for example, within 30 days, because that is not feasible. We want to make sure you are providing that assistance within 30 days.

Will the ECD Non-Competing Continuation be combined into or submitted separately from the H80's Non-Competing Continuation?

Rebecca Levine

The ECD Non-Continuation Progress Report will be separate. I know sometimes it is a little challenging to keep track of all the different reporting requirements from HRSA, but we do appreciate that you stick with us. NCC for ECD will be submitted separately. It will be streamlined but it would be separate, it will be its own Non-Competing Continuation.

Which UDS measures was the slide referring to when discussing the continuation of funds beyond year 2?

Rebecca Levine

To reiterate, only the developmental screening measure will be measured through UDS. The assistance with accessing appropriate follow-up will be measured first in the NCC for year 1. Then we are going to have a separate report that we are calling the Follow-up Assistance Data Report that is going to measure that data piece for year 2.

Can two health centers submit a joint application?

Rebecca Levine

Yes. One application can be submitted for two health centers, but you would only be eligible for the \$200,000. You wouldn't be able to submit one application and try to request \$400,000 through that application per year.

What are the four activity areas? A focus on one is required, correct?

Rebecca Levine

If it's possible, can we scroll back to the slides with the activity areas, it's a little bit of a ways back. So, these are the activity areas defined by the focus area. The focus area is in blue, and the activity areas are in gray. Only one of them is a required activity area. That is the team-based care coordination activity



area under Patient/Caregiver Experience. You are required to select at least one activity area per focus area. But that team-based care coordination activity area is the only one that is required.

Could you please repeat the information about the use of mobile units?

Rebecca Levine

Yes. Mobile units are allowed. You can purchase a mobile unit using this funding. I will ask you, though, if you propose to use ECD funds to purchase a mobile unit, you may need to check your Form 5B and see if you need to add a new mobile unit, or if it is replacing a current mobile unit, but please review your Form 5B if you plan to use ECD funds to purchase a mobile unit.

Is there a target for the number of children served per year per organization?

Rebecca Levine

There is no set target. We ask you to provide a projection, a projected increase in your Project Narrative on the number that you anticipate serving through this funding, the number you anticipate increasing by. But we do want you to increase in consideration of the capacity of your health center, and the amount of funds that you will be getting.

If you are a large health center and you are getting \$200,000, we probably don't expect to see the number 5, we will probably be a little concerned about that. So, it should be reasonable given your health center's size, capacity, and the amount of funds that you are being given through this award.

Can you please clarify the \$200,000? Is it \$200,000 per year or is it \$100,000 each year for a total of \$200,000 for both years?

Rebecca Levine

That is a great question. I know a lot of folks can get tripped up on that.

You may request up to \$200,000 for each year, so that is \$200,000 for year one, and \$200,000 for year two. Please make sure you are careful when you fill out the SF-242A form because you will be filling that out for one year at a time. Certain sections are just for year one, Section A and B. Then Section E will be only for year two. So be mindful of how to fill out the form. We have an FAQ on the web page that identifies in which section of the form you need to fill out for year one, and which you need to fill out for year two and make sure you don't either split it and request \$100,000 in each or you don't accidentally



request \$400,000 at once. I refer you to the FAQ if you have questions on how to fill out the Budget Information Form.

Is there an actual work plan template available to use? I only see an example on the ECD technical assistance webpage.

Rebecca Levine

There is no specific template on the webpage. The ECD Technical Assistance webpage, as you mentioned, does have an example Work Plan.

The Work Plan is a structured form in the EHBs portion of the application. So, the focus areas are going to be prepopulated. The activity areas, you are going to select from a list. You are going to write in your activity, and then you are going to select the timeframe.

As I said, you shouldn't need a template to be able to submit, but you should be able to look at the webpage for the example, and then look at your NOFO to see the different activity areas that are going to be available, and the focus area, as well as the timeframes. If you have any specific questions, you can ask us through the BPHC Contact Form.

How will you track changes in developmental screening and referrals? What is the baseline?

Rebecca Levine

As I mentioned earlier, we are going to be tracking the baseline for the developmental screening measure through your 2023 UDS report, and the increase we are going to measure from the difference between your 2024 UDS report from your 2023 UDS report.

The assistance with accessing appropriate follow-up, the baseline is going to be established through your first Non-Competing Continuation Progress Report. And then we are going to measure progress from that baseline. You are going to submit what we are calling a Follow-up Assistance Data Report. The purpose of that report is to show us the increase in that second objective, or that second measure, from the baseline data in the NCC.



There is a question about changes in scope.

Rebecca Levine

You don't need to wait until you have received an award to submit a change in scope request. We encourage you to submit them before we have made decisions about awards so that at the time when you get an award you will already be ready to set up, to start implementing your award. But any changes in scope or any change in scope requests do have to be submitted outside of the application. You can't make any changes in the scope or submit any requests through the application itself.

If we are planning on contracting with an external child development education agency, does the agency need to be identified before submitting the proposal, or can we identify an external contractor after receiving a Notice of Award?

Rebecca Levine

You are expected in your application to submit letters of support from anyone whom you identify will have a significant role in implementing your award. You can also put in your application that you are budgeting for a contract. If you think you will be able to get that contract, otherwise, you may be finding a little difficult afterward if your budget for that contract and then it doesn't work out.

You don't necessarily have to have the partnership in place, but we do hope that you will start that process beforehand so that you are set up and ready to go once you get the award.

One slide indicated that the funding needs to be budgeted in the same sub-program proportions as the current H80 grant. Can you explain this further?

Rebecca Levine

Sure. For those organizations that are current Health Center Program operational grant award recipients, you receive your H80 grant award through sub-program proportions. There are four sub-programs. Migrant Health Centers, Public Housing Primary Care, Community Health Centers, and Health Care for the Homeless. On your SF-424A, your budget information form, you will be requesting \$200,000 broken down by the same subprogram proportions in those four subprograms that you receive the current H80 Grant.



If you receive the H80 Award, say 50% through Community Health Centers and 50% through Migrant Health Centers, then you are going to request \$100,000 through Community Health Centers and \$100,000 through Migrant Health Centers. If you have any questions about that, and if you are not sure about the subprogram proportions, again, you can ask us through the BPHC Contact Form, and we will be happy to help you out with that breakdown. It is not going to be determinative, and it is not going to make or break your budget, but that is how we expect you to be able to submit your budget.

Can we use existing staff that is repurposed for the ECD project?

Rebecca Levine

Absolutely. You can expand, maybe expand the staff FTE to be able to cover some of the ECD work. We also encourage you to train staff so that they are better prepared to support this project maybe in a new way. But we support using existing staff to repurpose.

The only thing that you can't do, you can't sort of double-pay them from multiple grants to do the same work. You can repurpose your staff.

I think there is a question about what Dina is referring to for resources, on pages 32 and 33.

Rebecca Levine

That was referring to the Appendix in the NOFO itself. There are some great resources, Appendix B of the NOFO is what we refer to as the ECD Care Continuum. If you have more questions about that, you can submit them, and we would be happy to address that.

Can the applicant be a partner of the Health Center Program applying to collaborate and support the grant objectives within a health center?

Rebecca Levine

Only current Health Center Program award recipients can be applicants and can receive an ECD grant award. If you are an organization that does this type of work, or you think your expertise and your line of work may be helpful to a Health Center, I do encourage you to reach out to your local health center and discuss partnership opportunities to support an ECD project.

But organizations that are not current Health Center Program operational grant award recipients are not able to apply for or to be award recipients.



Someone notes the ECD web page does not contain a link to the slides.

Rebecca Levine

Again, they will be posted within a week. We do not have them posted at this time.

Do you expect the pediatrician to do the screening?

Rebecca Levine

If it is okay with you, Dina, I am going to kick this one back over to you.

Dina Lieser

That is certainly not required. There are many opportunities for ECD support staff, other parallel staff for it to happen even pre-visit, the actual screening, and scoring, so there are many different approaches to who and how, and where the actual screening occurs.

But it is critical that it is part of the visit and the pair itself that the screening gets addressed and any issues discussed and any interventions or supports made.

Rebecca Levine

Thank you so much.

Rebecca Levine

There are a lot of questions about the new UDS measure that is going to be in the 2023 UDS.

Rebecca Levine

It is going to be available in the 2023 UDS Manual which is not currently available yet. But we will make sure that is available to you as soon as possible. But that information on the exact measure is not available yet. So, I know that is a little challenging, but we will get that, that should be ready not too long.



How are we defining expansion. Is there a specific percent increase or service area number we need to meet?

Rebecca Levine

There is no defined increase requirement. We want to take into consideration your health center's capacity, the amount of funds that you are going to get, and then the plan and the activities that you are going to be performing. So, it is specific to your health center and the program that you are going to be able to build, what you are doing already, and if you are starting from ground zero. So, it is specific to your health center.

If you are going to serve 1,000 new patients, versus just supporting like 100 new patients, that doesn't necessarily mean that you are going to score lower on your application if you propose a lower increase. Again, it really depends on your Health Center's capacity, the activities that you anticipate performing, and the program that you want to build, because if you are a smaller health center, the expectations are going to be different than if you are a very large health center with more resources.

Can we use funds to support upgrading our EHR, and electronic health records?

Rebecca Levine

Absolutely. We support you to support coordination through the funding and that is part of the reason the team-based coordination is a required activity. We want you to be able to make any upgrades to your EHR that you can to meet the needs, especially because we are implementing new UDS measures that are coming up. We want to make sure you can account for all those changes.

It was mentioned before that we should apply for the correct funding amount. Is that based on the number of patients? How is that assessed?

Rebecca Levine

The correct funding amount is up to \$200,000. You can request up to \$200,000 and anything above that will be problematic, but you are welcome to request up to \$200,000 to your Health Center.



If we offer the transportation service on our own van, is gas, transportation, and personnel salary eligible?

Rebecca Levine

You can support a driver for your transportation. Vera, do you have any input on gas and repairs for their own van for transportation?

Vera Windham

Yes. If you are using the van to support the scope of the grant, yes, that will be an allowable cost.

They are wanting to pay the driver of the van. Is that correct?

Rebecca Levine

Yes. The driver and for some of the expenses of the van maintenance and gas.

Vera Windham

Yes. That will be an allowable expense under the "other" category for gas and the maintenance and upkeep of the van if the van is being used to serve the purposes of the grant.

The driver will be paid as a contractor, or, if they are just hiring the driver just to drive the van, he could be hired as a contractor, as well, to support the needs of the grant.

Rebecca Levine

Thank you so much. Well, it looks like we are out of time. I apologize if we did not get to your questions today. Please make sure to submit them through the BPHC Contact Form so we address them for you and adequately support you to apply for this funding.

I will turn it back over to Emily and Yidi.

Emily Leonard

Awesome. Thank you so much, Rebecca. That was a great Q&A Session. Thank you all for your questions. Now we have some poll questions. We appreciate your opinion on today's session, which helps us to improve the technical assistance that we provide. We will offer you a few moments to respond to the poll questions.



Thank you for joining us today. HRSA encourages every eligible Health Center to apply for ECD funding to expand developmental screening and assistance with assessing appropriate follow-up. Have a great day.