NOEEN Coordinated Funding Request
Recommendations
November 28, 2017
I. Coordinated Funding Process Overview

II. Review of Citywide Needs Data

III. Consider specific Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations
CFR Process Overview

1. Operators complete applications
2. Evaluator Committees conduct site visits/interviews*
3. Evaluator Committees score applications and make draft allocation recommendations
4. NOEEN Steering Committee reviews & approves allocation recommendations
5. LDE reviews NOEEN recommendations and determines final allocations
6. BESE approves final allocations

*Sites that do not currently operate an LA 4, PEG, or NSECD program will receive a site visit.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>NOEEN Steering Committee considers approval of CFR process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 2</td>
<td>Agenda releases CFR application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4-11</td>
<td>Agenda conducts CFR process webinar for operators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>CFR applications due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 30-Nov. 10</td>
<td>E evaluators score CFR applications and conduct site visits/interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 13-16</td>
<td>Evaluator Committees deliberate to make draft CFR allocation recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Agenda publicly posts draft CFR allocation recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>NOEEN Steering Committee considers approval of Evaluator Committees preliminary CFR allocation recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Agenda submits NOEEN-approved CFR allocation recommendations to LDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>BESE considers approval of final LDE CFR allocations</td>
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### Overview of CFR Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>2017-18 Seats</th>
<th>Programs Requests</th>
<th># of Seats Requested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA 4</td>
<td>1,642</td>
<td>42 sites (includes 3 centers)</td>
<td>1,714 (increase of 72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSECD</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>11 nonpublic schools, 12 centers</td>
<td>717 (increase of 217)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEG</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>6 centers</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,302</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,591 (increase of 289)</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Scoring & Evaluation Committees

Each application will be scored based on rubrics included in the application materials. How scores will be weighted depends on the type of program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LA4 &amp; NSECD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality* 50%</td>
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*For applicants that do not have this data, a site visit will be conducted.

Scoring & site visits will be conducted by Evaluator Committees comprised of staff with expertise in each of the following.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluator Committees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public School Applications</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 RSD, 1 OPSB staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nonpublic School Applications</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 LDE staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Center Applications</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Agenda staff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Agenda

I. Coordinated Funding Process Overview
II. Review of Citywide Needs Data
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How Many Children are Eligible for Free PK4 Seats in New Orleans?

- **3,109 High Estimate**
  - LDE estimate of 4-year-olds in Orleans Parish from families at or below 185% of the FPL based on Orleans public schools kindergarten FRL-eligible cohort

- **2,951 Low Estimate**
  - 2016-17 number of PK4 applicants verified eligible for LA 4, NSECD, or PEG
How Many Eligible Children Are Enrolling in Free PK4 Seats?

- **Head Start**: 501 (Nov. 2016) → 574 (Nov. 2017)
  - Decrease: 73 enrolled
- **PEG**: 190 (Nov. 2016) → 142 (Nov. 2017)
  - Decrease: 48 enrolled
- **NSECD**: 513 (Nov. 2016) → 460 (Nov. 2017)
  - Decrease: 53 enrolled
- **LA 4**: 1,607 (Nov. 2016) → 1,581 (Nov. 2017)
  - Decrease: 26 enrolled

**Total Decrease**: 150 enrolled

**Nov. 2016**: 2,811 enrolled

**Nov. 2017**: 2,757 enrolled
Children Enrolled v. Available Seats

- **Nov. 2016**
  - 2,811 PK4 Enrolled (11/21/16)
  - 3,001 Free PK4 Seats Available
  - 190 seats, 6.3% open

- **Nov. 2017**
  - 2,757 PK4 Enrolled (11/27/17)
  - 2,894 Free PK4 Seats Available
  - 137 seats, 4.7% open
Why the Discrepancy?

If there are an estimated 2,950-3,100 four-year-olds in New Orleans eligible for a free PK4 seat, why are only ~2,900 currently taking advantage of this?

Possible reasons:

• **Hidden costs of assigned program are too high for some families** (program is in an inconvenient location; having to transport child to/from program; cost of before/after-care, etc.)

• **Family Preferences:** Families unable to get a program they highly preferred are instead choosing no care or paid care over a free seat in a program they do not want. There’s a mismatch between where parents want to send their children and where seats are available.

• **Some over-income children with developmental delays are not being identified.**

• **Awareness:** Some eligible families are not aware of opportunity for free pre-K

• **Verification Obstacles:** Some families are unable to meet procedural requirements of enrolling in a program (verification paperwork, travel to FRC or Head Start center during work hours, parents with literacy challenges may find the process difficult, etc.)

• **Decrease in eligible population:** The city’s number of economically disadvantaged kindergartners has decreased since 2014. This decrease may be indicative of larger demographic shifts in our city’s population of low-income families.
How Should this Data Inform the Coordinated Funding Request?

This data highlights an important tension that NOEEN needs to keep in mind when planning for the coordinated funding request:

**Offering enough seats to serve all estimated eligible four-year-olds**

- ~2,950-3,100 seats
- May result in some empty seats
- Under-enrolled classrooms

**Offering the number of seats we know we can fill**

- ~2,800 seats
- Would mean giving up existing publicly-funded seats
- Risk of having to turn away additional eligible four-year-olds; not allowing any room for choice/transfers mid-year
Additional Factors to Consider

• LDE Early Childhood staff have shared that they intend to seek BESE approval to expand income eligibility for LA 4 and NSECD from 185% of the FPL to align with Medicaid eligibility (~212% of the FPL), effective August 2018; we estimate this could result in an additional ~150 children citywide being made eligible for LA 4, NSECD, and PEG.

• The federal Preschool Expansion Grant expires at the end of the 2018-19 school year. If Congress does not reauthorize this grant, the city will lose 160 publicly-funded PK4 seats.
Achieving the Right Balance

Given this information, we recommend that NOEEN attempt to strike a balance by requesting from LDE a very small increase in publicly funded seats for 2018-19. These increases encompass the addition of 2 new sites, with the possibility for more new sites to be added in the upcoming month, expanding choice for families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>2017-18 Available Seats</th>
<th>2018-19 NOEEN Recommendation</th>
<th>Change (17-18 to 18-19)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA 4</td>
<td>1,642</td>
<td>1,674</td>
<td>+32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSECD</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>+5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEG</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>(assuming) 592</td>
<td>(assuming) 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,894</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,931</strong></td>
<td><strong>+37</strong></td>
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</table>
The LA 4 recommendation includes one new LA 4 site – Elan Academy on the Westbank.

All current LA 4 providers were granted the increases or decreases in seats they requested, with the exception of a couple of sites that are anticipated to close or be taken over by new charter operators next year, pending BESE and OPSB decisions and processes.

If any additional sites/operators that are recommended for LA 4 seats closes or changes operators, RSD and OPSB will work with LDOE to reassign these seats to different school sites, as appropriate, with the goal of not losing any LA 4 seats citywide.

The recommendation includes 40 seats that are currently unassigned. RSD and OPSB are currently working with charter operators to assign these seats in the coming months to new school sites, again, with the goal of not losing any LA 4 seats citywide.
CFR Recommendation – NSECD

• All current NSECD providers are recommended to keep NSECD seats.

• For the past two years, the legislature has cut the funding source LDOE uses to fund NSECD seats, resulting in LDOE cutting seats to our providers at the beginning of the school year. Because of this, even though we received many requests from providers for an increase in NSECD seats, we only asked for a negligible increase of 5 NSECD seats.

• Our request used quality and enrollment data to reduce some seats among current providers so that one new site could open an NSECD classroom next year (Good Shepherd).
Given that 2018-19 is the final year of the PEG grant (unless Congress chooses to reauthorize it), Agenda did not open up the PEG grant for new sites.

All current centers have committed to maintain the existing PEG classrooms for the 2018-19 school year.
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Approvals to Consider

- Recommendations for NSECD
- Recommendations for LA 4
- Recommendations for Preschool Expansion Grant