NOEEN Coordinated Funding Request
Recommendations
November 29, 2016
Agenda

I. Coordinated Funding Process Overview

II. Review of Citywide Needs Data

III. Consider specific Coordinated Funding Request Recommendations
BESB Bulletin 140 requires the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) to work with each Lead Agency to unify funding requests from each provider in the network for “seats” in state-funded early childhood programs (LA4, NSECD, and Preschool Expansion Grant) into a single, annual “coordinated funding request.”

The goal of NOEEN’s 2016-17 Coordinated Funding Request is to ensure that the limited number of publicly-funded early childhood seats are allocated to those programs that:

- Meet families’ needs;
- Are high quality; and
- Are in high demand by parents.
CFR Process Overview

Operators complete applications → Evaluator Committees conduct site visits/interviews* → Evaluator Committees score applications and make draft allocation recommendations → NOEEN Steering Committee reviews & approves allocation recommendations → LDE reviews NOEEN recommendations and determines final allocations → BESE approves final allocations

*Site visits conducted for programs that are eligible to apply and do not currently have EnrollNOLA data for LA 4, NSECD, or PEG seats.
## Overview of CFR Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Programs Requests</th>
<th>2016-17 Seats</th>
<th># of Existing Seats Requested</th>
<th># of New Seats Requested</th>
<th>Total # of Seats Requested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA 4</td>
<td>37 schools, 3 partnerships</td>
<td>1,640</td>
<td>1,607 (decrease by 33)</td>
<td>+100</td>
<td>1,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSECD</td>
<td>11 nonpublic schools, 9 centers</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>536 (decrease by 6)</td>
<td>+120</td>
<td>656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEG</td>
<td>9 partnerships, 10 centers</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>220 (decrease by 10)</td>
<td>+200 (centers only)</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,412</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,363 (decrease by 49)</strong></td>
<td><strong>+420</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,783 (+ 371)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scoring & Evaluation Committees

Each application was scored based on rubrics included in the application materials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LA4 &amp; NSECD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quality 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Demand* 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting Families’ Needs Bonus Points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on EnrollNOLA data. For applicants that did not have EnrollNOLA data, information based on a site visit was considered instead.

Scoring & site visits were conducted by Evaluator Committees comprised of staff with expertise in each of the three early childhood settings participating in the CFR process.

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

Agenda for Children made the final decision to recommend keeping all current PEG classrooms because all partnerships decided to continue in the 2017-2018 school year. Centers that applied for the Preschool Expansion Grant without a confirmed school partner were not considered.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>NOEEN Steering Committee considers approval of CFR process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Agenda releases CFR application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Agenda conducts CFR process webinar for all operators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 28</td>
<td>CFR applications due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1-11</td>
<td>Evaluators score CFR applications and conduct site visits/interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Evaluator Committees deliberate to make draft CFR allocation recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>Agenda publicly posts draft CFR allocation recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 29</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. 17</td>
<td>BESE considers approval of final LDE CFR allocations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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How Many Free PK4 Seats Do We Need to Serve All At-Risk Children?

3,420 - 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

3,215 - AFC estimate of at-risk children based on census data estimates of families at or below 185% of FPL and estimated number of children at moderate to high risk of developmental delay

2,951 - 2016-17 number of PK4 applicants verified eligible for LA 4, NSECD, or PEG
How Many Free PK4 Seats Are Families Taking Advantage of?

2,811 four-year-olds enrolled (11/21/16)

- Head Start: 501
- PEG: 190
- NSECD: 513
- LA 4: 1,607
How Many Eligible Four-Year-Olds Are Not Being Served?

~100-600 eligible four-year-olds not being served
Children Enrolled v. Available Seats

- 3,420 children enrolled
- 3,215 children enrolled
- 2,951 children enrolled
- 3,001 Free PK4 Seats Available
- 190 available seats are not being taken advantage of

Enrolled (11/21/16):
- 2,811

Available Seats:
- 3,001
Why the Discrepancy?

If there are an estimated 3,000-3,400 four-year-olds in New Orleans eligible for a free PK4 seat, why are only ~2,800 currently taking advantage of this?

Possible reasons:

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

• **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 who are 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.**

• **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.)
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:

**Serving all eligible four-year-olds**

- ~3,000-3,400 seats

  May result in some empty seats not being taken advantage of

  Under-enrolled classrooms; programs operating at a financial loss; closing classrooms mid-year; laying off staff

**v. Filling all publicly-funded PK4 seats**

- Max. 2,900 seats

  Would mean giving up existing publicly-funded seats

  Closing existing classrooms for next year and having to turn away any additional eligible four-year-olds
Achieving the Right Balance

Given these two extremes, we recommend that NOEEN attempt to strike a balance by:

• requesting from LDE a very small increase in publicly funded seats for 2017-18 in programs & program types where demand outstripped supply, and

• more aggressively helping to fill PK4 seats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>2016-17 Available Seats</th>
<th>2017-18 NOEEN Recommendation</th>
<th>Change (16-17 to 17-18)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA 4</td>
<td>1,640</td>
<td>1,687</td>
<td>+47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSECD</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>+14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEG</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>(assuming) 589</td>
<td>(assuming) 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,001</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,052</strong></td>
<td><strong>+51</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rationale for Requested Additional Seats

- The amount of seats requested-3,052-is still at the conservative end of the range of total needed seats to serve all eligible PK4 seats (~2,900-3,400).
- We expect an increase in eligible families applying for free PK4 seats for 16-17 due to increased awareness and familiarity with the process.
- Some Head Start programs may decrease the number of PK4 Head Start seats available for 2017-18 to serve more PK3 children.
- This year, ~60 PK4 children who live outside of Orleans Parish are enrolled in NSECD or Type 2 charter school LA 4 programs; with 580 seats currently available to out-of-parish families, although not expected, it is possible more out-of-parish families may take advantage of these seats next year.
- During Round 2 last year, some eligible families applied for a free seat through EnrollNOLA while simultaneously committing (via deposit) to a paid program to meet that program’s deadline; with no Round 2 this year, families will be able to immediately select and enroll in a free program in May and June.
- Only those programs with a good chance of filling (based on EnrollNOLA data and neighborhood need) are being recommended for increased seats.
What Else Can Be Done to Help Fill Seats?

- EnrollNOLA, NOEEN, and Head Start providers work together to help set and review enrollment targets for Head Start PK3 and PK4 seats to ensure alignment with striking the right balance between serving all eligible PK4 children and filling classrooms.
- Agenda increases support to existing PEG centers to recruit eligible children to apply to those classrooms.
- If a current PEG center voluntarily drops a classroom before the fall and PEG seats are “freed” up, AFC will either return those seats to LDE or transfer them to a center or school that has reliable data to demonstrate that they can fill all the seats.
- Agenda, EnrollNOLA, and providers determine new ways to collaborate to reach more eligible families to make them aware of enrollment process and program options.
- Agenda and providers work with EnrollNOLA to implement the coordinated enrollment changes approved by the NOEEN Steering Committee at the last meeting to help improve the coordinated enrollment process for families.
- Additional recommendations?
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Approvals to Consider

• Recommendations for NSECD Nonpublic Schools
• Recommendations for NSECD Centers
• Recommendations for LA 4:
  ✦ Preferred Recommendation
  ✦ Backup Recommendation
• Recommendations for Preschool Expansion Grant