



Pre-K Grant Eligibility



This funding opportunity is designed for those who deliver prekindergarten services and are accredited and participate in the Maryland EXCELS program, including:

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) or qualified vendors (as defined in COMAR (13a.06.02) and private providers (**including, Head Start, Center Based, and Family Child Care programs**) who:

- hold a valid license.
- have not incurred any serious health or safety violations.
- rated at level 3, 4 or 5 in Maryland EXCELS. (*Help to meet this requirement for Push to Pre-K participants.*)

Priority will be given to programs with the following Maryland EXCELS ratings (in order of priority):

- Published at level 5 with a plan to maintain this level;
- Publish at level 4 with a plan to achieve level 5 within 5 years (if you fall into this criterion, you must include a plan to reach level 5 as part of your application); or
- Published at level 3 with a plan to achieve level 5 within five years (if you fall into this criterion, you must include a plan to reach level 5 as part of your application).

Priority will be given to high-quality programs that:

- are seeking renewal or expansion of existing programs with a demonstrable track record of success;
- are in areas of the State that have an unmet need for prekindergarten services; or
- include parental/guardian engagement and educational activities beyond the classroom.