

**NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS:
EQUITY FOR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND OTHER PROGRAM
BENEFICIARIES**

Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) ([20 U.S.C. 1228a](#)) applies to applicants for grant awards under this program.

ALL APPLICANTS FOR NEW GRANT AWARDS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN THEIR APPLICATIONS TO ADDRESS THIS PROVISION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER THIS PROGRAM.

Please respond to the following requests for information:

1. Describe how your entity's existing mission, policies, or commitments ensure equitable access to, and equitable participation in, the proposed project or activity.

The mission of the Department for Public Health is to improve the health and safety of people in Kentucky through prevention, promotion, and protection. Early intervention services are available in all geographic areas of Kentucky. The local lead agencies (Points of Entry offices) have service coordinators located in the main office and many place service coordinators at the satellite offices in their respective districts to facilitate delivery of services. Initial evaluations for eligibility are conducted in-person in the child's home or by tele-intervention. Early intervention services providers are contracted vendors available throughout the state and serve children in the natural environment.

2. Based on your proposed project or activity, what barriers may impede equitable access and participation of students, educators, or other beneficiaries?

Although early intervention services have been available since the 1990's, not all parents know about them. Kentucky's Early Intervention System (KEIS) is a program that many do not know about until there is a need for services. Barriers to equitable access include the lack of working phones and lack of knowledge of the program. Some families in the state illegally fear reports to immigration.

There are a couple of other issues that create barriers for families. Lack of transportation can prevent parents from going to a Point of Entry office or taking the child to a clinic. Absence of cellular service prevents use of tele-intervention as do limited data plans for computers and mobile devices. Another barrier to participation is the unavailability of specific early intervention services such as physical therapy. KEIS pays for transportation in situations where the child must be transported to services authorized by the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). Families are also provided compensatory services once the service is available for the time that the family waited.

3. Based on the barriers identified, what steps will you take to address such barriers to equitable access and participation in the proposed project or activity?

Kentucky plans to hire an Outreach Coordinator who will develop a strategic plan to reach families who may have potentially eligible children and families for whom English is a second language. Other tasks include developing child find materials, enlisting community partners, and assisting POEs that do not meet the expected target participation percentage. Recruitment for various types of early intervention providers is an on-going task. A request for increased reimbursement rates will be presented to agency leadership. If the increase comes to fruition, it will serve as a good tool for both recruitment and retention.

4. What is your timeline, including targeted milestones, for addressing these identified barriers?

Outreach Coordinator:

- *Paperwork to establish the position is in process. Anticipate hiring the position by September 1, 2023.*
- *Orientation to position and program training completed by November 1, 2023.*
- *Convene stakeholder workgroup to assist with development of Outreach Plan by January 15, 2024.*
- *Draft plan submitted to Division office and ICC July 2024.*

Reimbursement System Restructure:

- *Finish workgroup activities by May 31, 2023.*
- *Submit recommendations to Division Office for processing through Department and Cabinet approvals.*
- *If approved, draft changes to regulations no later than October 1, 2023.*
- *Proceed through the regulatory process, date TBD.*

Notes:

- 1.** Applicants are not required to have mission statements or policies that align with equity in order to submit an application.
- 2.** Applicants may identify any barriers that may impede equitable access and participation in the proposed project or activity, including, but not limited to, barriers based on economic disadvantage, gender, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, disability, age, language, migrant status, rural status, homeless status or housing insecurity, pregnancy, parenting, or caregiving status, and sexual orientation.
- 3.** Applicants may have already included some or all of this required information in the narrative sections of their applications or their State Plans. In responding to this requirement, for each question, applicants may provide a cross-reference to the section(s) and page number(s) in their applications or State Plans that includes the information responsive to that question on this form or may restate that information on this form.

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1894-0005. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain a benefit. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate or suggestions for improving this individual collection, send your comments to ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference OMB Control Number 1894-0005. All other comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual form may be addressed to either (a) the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section in the competition Notice Inviting Applications, or (b) your assigned program officer.