

Request for Application:

Building Supports for Students with Unique Communication Needs

John White
State Superintendent of Education

May 2016

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

Building Supports for Students with Unique Communication Needs

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

This project provides funding to develop direct technical assistance programs and professional development resources for Louisiana school employees to support the needs of students with unique communication needs. Proposals must explain how the funds will lead to increased access to the general education curriculum for students with unique communication needs and should focus on at least one of the two areas:

- 1.) Improving services for students at the preschool level who have cochlear implants; and
- 2.) Improving services for students who have complex communication needs and often enter/exit school without a formal communication system.

As a result of this project it is expected that more students

- will have plans in place to address their auditory and verbal skill development; and
- will use appropriate augmentative or alternative communication systems to access the curriculum and interact with peers and adults.

Applicants should include the following activities when designing their application for funds:

- direct and targeted technical assistance for a cohort of school personnel working with students who have unique communication support needs (i.e., students who have cochlear implants or complex communication needs);
- development of professional development resources specific to one (or both) of the two focus areas to be housed on the LDOE website; and
- use of a group of individuals with expertise in these areas to guide the activities.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

A. Applications for funding should be submitted by July 5, 2016. All applicants must complete a proposal that addresses the following areas:

- Goal and Expected Outcomes
- Description of Activities
- Stakeholder Involvement
- Evaluation Plan
- Expansion beyond Year 1

See below for the links to the two *Project Applications* aligned to each of the Focus Areas. Keep the narrative section of the application to a maximum of five (5) pages.

- [Focus Area 1](#): Improving services for students at the preschool level who have cochlear implants
- [Focus Area 2](#): Improving services for students who have complex communication needs and often enter/exit school without a formal communication system

- B. Application Coversheet - Applicants will need to submit a completed application coversheet and with the proposal.
- C. Budget Process- Applicants will need to submit the completed budget detail and summary forms with the proposal.

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS:

Any public institution or agency or non-profit agency with expertise related to supports/education for students with unique communication needs is eligible to apply.

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

The project will be funded using IDEA funds. It is anticipated that two projects will be funded for a one year period at an amount ranging from \$80,000 - \$150,000. Applicants may submit proposals for an individual focus area or a combination of the two focus areas. It is anticipated that successful projects will be funded for two subsequent years at similar funding levels. This project will begin on October 1, 2016.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

Eligible applicants wishing to apply for funds under this proposal must complete all project application requirements described above in **Application Requirements**.

Deadline for proposals to be brought to 2016 August BESE meeting:

- Applications (five page narrative, plus the coversheet and budget) are to be submitted through email to specialeducation@la.gov by the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on Tuesday July 5, 2016. For information or questions on the content of the narrative, contact specialeducation@la.gov.

SELECTION CRITERIA/REVIEW PROCEDURES:

Applications will be reviewed by LDE staff to ensure all components of the grant are in compliance with the requirements. It is anticipated that grants will be considered by BESE in August 2016.

Timeline:

Applications released: week of May 30

Applications Due: July 5, 2016

Phone Interviews: July 6-8, 2016 (conducted on an as needed basis for clarification)

Submission to BESE: August 2016

Application Coversheet

Building Supports for Students with Unique Communication Needs

Name of Project

Amount of funding requested:

Please provide the following information for the application:

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| | Name of Organization: | |
| | Mailing Address: | |
| | Telephone: | |
| | E-mail Address: | |
| Fiscal Agent: | Name of Person: | |
| | Name of Organization: | |
| | Mailing Address: | |
| | Telephone: | |
| | E-mail Address: | |

Please provide the following information for the primary contact of this application:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Project Coordinator: | Name of Person: | |
| | Name of Organization: | |
| | Mailing Address: | |
| | Telephone: | |
| | E-mail Address: | |

| Signature | Name | Date |
|-----------|------|------|
| | | |

Program Budget

Budget Summary

| EXPENDITURE CATEGORY | AMOUNT |
|---|---------------|
| Salaries | |
| Employee Benefits | |
| Purchased Professional/Technical Services (PD services) | |
| Purchased Property Services (equipment rental) | |
| Other Purchased Services (travel, printing, etc.) | |
| Program Supplies | |
| Property (hardware) | |
| Other Objects (fees, dues, etc.) | |
| GRAND TOTAL | |

Budget Narrative

Please provide a description of how the funds will be spent for each of the categories identified above.

| BUDGET ITEM | DESCRIPTION | TOTAL ALLOCATION |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Salaries | | |
| Employee Benefits | | |
| Purchased Professional/Technical Services | | |
| Purchased Property Services | | |
| Other Purchased Services | | |
| Supplies | | |
| Other Objects | | |