

## Ready Start Transform Overview

### Purpose

Ready Start Transform is an opportunity for well-established Ready Start Networks and early childhood stakeholders to accelerate their work and develop cutting-edge strategies to transform early care and education at the local level. The aim of Ready Start Transform is for communities to create a transformative vision for achieving equitable supply and access to high-quality early care and education. Selected networks will assemble a team of high-level partners, community leaders, and stakeholders who will collaborate to develop and implement this vision.

### Requirements

Ideal candidates for this opportunity are networks that have consistently and successfully executed all Ready Start Network responsibilities and displayed the ability to engage a diverse group of stakeholders in a variety of efforts focused on sharing the importance of, and need for, quality early childhood care and education at the local level with the broader community.

Ready Start Transform grantees will be required to:

- Assemble a team of high-level partners, community leaders, and stakeholders who will work with the network to develop and implement this innovative vision, including:
  - Local government officials
  - Philanthropic organizations and/or private donors
  - Business and corporate executive officers
  - School system leadership
  - Early childhood advocates
  - Child care providers and educators
  - Grassroots advocates
  - Families/parents
- Develop strategies that address barriers to access to quality early childhood care and education including, but not limited to, the need for:
  - A qualified, consistent, and adequately compensated workforce
  - Funding and sustainability at the local level for higher levels of quality and expanded access
  - Alternative care programs that address the needs of all families (after-hours care, 24-hour care, weekend care, etc.)
  - Wraparound supports for children and families
  - Care that meets the needs of special populations and subgroups, including children with disabilities and children whose second language is English
  - Other community-level barriers significantly affecting supply and access
- Secure a financial commitment through matching funds. Ready Start Networks can apply for the 2022 calendar year for up to \$1,000,000, depending on the needs and size of the network, and will need to contribute with a local match of at least 15% for the first round of funding. Additional funds may be available in the subsequent calendar year with a graduated match and satisfactory completion of award deliverables.
- Be current recipients of a 2021 Community Supply Building and Access Expansion (CSBAE) Grant.

### Application Process

This is a competitive application process. Only networks that have demonstrated a comprehensive vision for early childhood transformation and assembled a dynamic team of stakeholders will be selected to move forward through the process.

Round 1: Interested Ready Start Networks will submit a Letter of Intent and participate in the first round of interviews.

Round 2: The Department will select a limited number of Ready Start Networks to move forward with the application process. Ready Start Networks selected for Round 2 will complete the Request for Applications (RFA) and a second round of interviews.

### Timeline

September 27	Ready Start Transform overview released
October 6	Ready Start Transform Kickoff webinar, 1 - 2 p.m.
October 13	Networks who anticipate applying for this opportunity email <a href="mailto:amy.poirier@la.gov">amy.poirier@la.gov</a> indicating interest and schedule first round interview (pending receipt of Letter of Intent)
<b>October 22</b>	<b>Letter of Intent due to the Department by 5 p.m.</b>
October 25-27	First round of interviews conducted
October 29	Notification and invitation extended to participate in second round
October 29	Request for Applications (RFA) released for second round applicants
November 3	RFA Review and Office Hours held for second round applicants
December 9	Application due to the Department
December 13-16	Second round of interviews conducted
December 17	Ready Start Transform grantees selected and notified
January 2022	Ready Start Transform grantees will receive funding and begin project

### Grantee Expectations

Ready Start Transform grantees are required to prioritize and regularly participate in all routine and requested activities including, but not limited to, meetings, webinars, individualized check-in calls, and any additional Department-initiated communication and supports.

Grantees will also be required to submit evidence of significant progress toward, and successful completion of, all grant requirements and deliverables as required/applicable.

### Letter of Intent

Interested networks should submit a Letter of Intent. At minimum, the Letter of Intent should include the following:

- **Organization description**, inclusive of all progress made as a Ready Start Network
- **Statement of need**, inclusive of information outlining the specific barrier(s) to supply and access that you anticipate addressing through this opportunity
- **Methodology**, inclusive of an overview of the strategies and activities that your organization plans to utilize to address the identified barriers
- **Outcomes** the organization hopes to achieve at the conclusion of Ready Start Transform
- **Credentials** of the Ready Start and Community Network leaders that will be responsible for this work
- **Partnerships**, inclusive of a list of current and potential executive-level community leaders who will actively participate on the Ready Start Transform team
- **Potential or Known Funding Sources** that might be explored or eligible to serve as the source of the network's match
- **Signatures** of the Superintendent or Executive Director and the administrator of the Ready Start Network

Letters should be written in paragraph form and should be 2-4 pages in length. Letters must be submitted via email as a PDF attachment to [amy.poirier@la.gov](mailto:amy.poirier@la.gov) by October 22, at 5 p.m. Questions can be directed to [amy.poirier@la.gov](mailto:amy.poirier@la.gov).