



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



February 6, 2014

Harriet Dichter  
Director, Office of Early Learning  
820 N. French Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Wilmington, DE 19801

Dear Ms. Dichter:

This letter is in response to Delaware's request to amend its approved Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant projects. The U.S. Department of Education approved Delaware's grant projects and scope of work in December, 2012. On November 6, 2013, Delaware submitted an amendment request for the RTT-ELC grant and supporting information to the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (the Departments).

As you are aware, the Departments have the authority to approve amendments to your RTT-ELC plan and budget, provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On July 18, 2012, the Departments sent a "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document to RTT-ELC Project Directors indicating the process by which amendments would be reviewed and approved or denied. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Departments have applied the conditions noted in that document and compared it with RTT-ELC program requirements and conditions.

The following amendments to the State's performance targets are approved, as described below:

Delaware will change its targets under Performance Measures B(2)(c) and B(4)(c)(1) to go from 942 programs participating in 2015 to 442. The new target includes 40% of all programs and 72% of center-based/large family care programs. The changes to tables B(2)(c) and B(4)(c)(1) impact only the number of programs participating.

Delaware presented several justifications for this change. First, the target in the application was based on Delaware's limited experience with its TQRIS program, which meant that calculations for voluntary enrollment and movement patterns were largely modeled on states with existing, longer-standing QRIS. Second, it did not take into account the fact that programs in "licensing enforcement" are not eligible to participate in TQRIS. Because of this, 100% participation is not a possibility. Third, the number of family child care providers has declined considerably, with reductions each year of the past 3 years. The original forecasting did not account for this decline.

This amendment impacts the number of programs expected to participate in Delaware's TQRIS. The target for the programs reaching the highest tiers of the TQRIS remains the

same at approximately 42%. The year two target for the percentage of children with high needs in Stars top tier programs is 35% while the target for the percent of children with high needs in the Stars /QRIS programs at any level is 50%.

It is our understanding that this amendment will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, participation rates, and grant activities, nor will delays in spending funds substantially change the scope of work. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department of Education's website as a record of the amendment request.

We are confident that Delaware will continue its comprehensive efforts towards building successful state systems of early learning. If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding RTT-ELC, please do not hesitate to contact the Project Officers for this grant, Richard Gonzales at [Richard.Gonzales@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:Richard.Gonzales@acf.hhs.gov) and Deborah Spitz at [Deborah.Spitz@ed.gov](mailto:Deborah.Spitz@ed.gov).

Sincerely,



Libby Doggett  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Office of Early Learning  
Office of Elementary and Secondary  
Education  
U.S. Department of Education



Linda K. Smith  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early  
Childhood Development  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services

Cc: Governor Jack A. Markell