



OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

**District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)  
Direct Investment in Students (DIS) Grant Request for Applications (RFA)**

Questions & Answers

*Updated as of Oct. 6*

**Q: For program type two, I want to confirm that when you say "at institutions of higher education" you are referring to "credits accepted at" not where the coursework must take place.**

A: RFA section 1.10.2.3 outlines applicable services for Higher Education Coursework under Program Type 2. Where the section states, "Funds may be used to cover costs associated with eligible students participating in higher education coursework that is accepted for credit at institutions of higher education (IHEs)," the "coursework" must be accepted for credit at IHEs but does not need to take place physically at the IHE.

**Q: Regarding the [high-impact tutoring (HIT) professional development] workshops, will those be recorded for local education agencies (LEAs) unable to attend?**

A: The professional learning opportunity, *Developing an Evidence-Based High-Impact Tutoring Plan*, is recommended for all LEAs submitting a DIS grant application for HIT services. There are two options for LEAs to attend: Thursday, Sept. 3, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and Tuesday Sept. 8, 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. If an LEA is unable to attend either time, please reach out to [Sam.Angileri@dc.gov](mailto:Sam.Angileri@dc.gov) and [Jessica.Sobin@dc.gov](mailto:Jessica.Sobin@dc.gov) to discuss a shortened, virtual option.

**Q: If we use this funding to offer a for-credit SAT prep elective would it fit into the scope of the grant?**

A: A for-credit SAT prep elective that meets the requirements of the grant is an eligible course offering under Program Type 2.

**Q: Could any of the HIT providers offer SAT tutoring either for SAT math or SAT verbal?**

A: The HIT providers on the HIT Vetted Program List may offer SAT tutoring. An LEA, however, may not apply to use Program Type 1 DIS grant funds for SAT tutoring.

**Q: My colleagues and I at Trinity Washington University would be interested in working with LEA partners to offer a program that would fall into the category of 1.10.2.3 Higher Education Coursework. As you are probably aware, we currently offer the [Early College Program and the Advanced Technical Center Dual Enrollment Program](#) in partnership with OSSE and specific DC high schools.**

We want to be sure we are understanding the RFA guidelines correctly, specifically 1.10.2.5. Our thought is to offer our 18-credit [Certificate in Childhood Development](#), which provides the 120 coursework hours required for a Child Development Associate (CDA®) credential. However, the \$1,000/student amount is significantly different from the agreed-upon amount of our current DC public school partnerships, and it is difficult to see how a meaningful amount of higher education coursework could be offered for that amount. Are we reading this correctly? If so, can you point us to models that would make this guideline feasible?

A: Applications for Program Type 2 may request up to \$1,000 per student served. Dual enrollment programs are an allowable cost for this grant. OSSE understands that awarded funds may cover the full annual per-student cost for some dual enrollment programs, but not others, as the per seat cost for OSSE's Dual Enrollment Consortium Program ranges from approximately \$500-\$2,000. Grant awardees may need to identify and braid together additional funding to cover program costs.

**Q: Can individual schools apply for funding?**

A: Individual schools are not eligible for funding. Section 1.5 of the RFA states that, "Eligible applicants are DC public and public charter school LEAs serving one or more schools identified for comprehensive support and improvement or targeted support and improvement and/or LEAs that receive federal Title I, Part A funds in the same fiscal year as the grant."

**Q: Are schools permitted to apply for the grant money outside of the K-8 priority?**

A: Individual schools are not permitted to apply for this grant. Eligible applicants are permitted to apply for Program Type 1 for students in grades K-12. This grant will only fund HIT programs for the approved grades on the HIT Vetted Program List.

**Q: Can an application include multiple HIT providers?**

A: Yes, an application for Program Type 1 may include multiple HIT providers.

**Q: Can an LEA that is awarded funds for Program Type 1 switch providers after receiving an award?**

A: If awarded, an LEA may partner with a different provider on the HIT Vetted Program List than expressed in its application. However, the awarded LEA must submit a formal modification request with the rationale for switching programs and receive approval from OSSE.

**Q: What will be the allocation amount for a potential future continuation year?**

A: Section 1.6 of the RFA describes the continuation award process: "If OSSE issues funds in future fiscal years through continuation awards, continuation awards will be contingent upon: availability of funds; recipient's implementation and/or operation of the program as submitted in the application; recipient's demonstration that eighty percent or more of the target number of students in the prior year approved grant application were enrolled in and receiving the service based on ongoing monitoring and review of the recipient's reports; recipient's demonstrated ability to comply with the grant's monitoring and reporting requirements based on the timeliness and completion of prior year grant requirements and cooperation with scheduling any on-site monitoring activities; compliance with District and federal laws, regulations and guidance; and appropriate expenditure of funds throughout each grant award period based on documentation produced during fiscal monitoring.

Please note that if a grant recipient that demonstrates compliance with grant requirements serves their projected number of students or more in the previous year, the grantee may seek and be considered for additional funding during continuation grant periods, subject to fund availability."

**Q: What grades can HIT programs serve with the DIS grant funds?**

A: Eligible applicants are permitted to apply for Program Type 1 for students in grades K-12. Approved grades for each HIT program are identified on the HIT Vetted Program List.

**Q: For partners whose program length is defined as "10 weeks for a standard program cycle or a 29-week full-year cycle," are 10 weeks and 29 weeks the only allowable options, or may a program be implemented for an intermediate duration (e.g., 16 weeks) if both the LEA and partner agree?**

**A:** The program length information on the HIT Vetted Program List is the minimum allowable number of weeks for a program. In fiscal year 2027 (FY27), all programs must last at least 10 weeks. A program may be implemented for any duration above the 10-week minimum if both the LEA and partner agree.

**Q: For partners whose program length is defined as "full academic year" or "at least 20 weeks for school-year programming," would it be permissible to implement a shorter program (e.g., 16 weeks) if both the LEA and partner agree, given that grant awards will not be announced until late November?**

**A:** The program length information on the HIT Vetted Program List is the minimum allowable number of weeks for a program. In FY27, all programs must last at least 10 weeks. A program may be implemented for any duration above the 10-week minimum if both the LEA and partner agree.

**Q: When reviewing Appendix D: Application Scoring Rubric for Program Type 2 (page 33) in the [RFA](#), we noticed that the rubric includes the HIT Priority Points section, which is worth 50 points. Additionally, the Family Engagement section of the Program Type 2 rubric on page 32 also references HIT programming. Are these sections intended to be included in the scoring rubric for Program Type 2 applications?**

**A:** Section 1.2.2 of the RFA demonstrates that Statutory Priority and Additional Need-Based Priority applies to all Program Types. These priorities are worth up to 15 points. The Other Priorities for Program Type 1 only apply to Program Type 1 and are worth up to 35 points for Program Type 1 applications. Program Type 2 and 3 applications will receive zero of the possible 35 points for HIT programs but are eligible to receive up to 15 points through the other priorities.

In Appendix D of the RFA, Program Type 2 and 3 Application Scoring Rubric and Questions includes incorrect information in the Family Engagement Plan question. The question currently states:

*6) Describe how the applicant will engage families throughout the program, including:*

- *conducting outreach about enrolling students in the HIT program,*
- *sharing student progress throughout the HIT program, and*
- *reporting the results of the HIT program in an accessible manner to families.*

The question should state, in both locations:

6) Describe how the applicant will engage families throughout the program, including:

- conducting outreach about enrolling students in the program,
- sharing student progress throughout the program, and
- reporting the results of the program in an accessible manner to families.

**Q: Our initial understanding was that the HIT-related rubric components applied only to Program Type 1 and that Program Type 2 applications would be scored out of 100 possible points. However, we wanted to confirm that interpretation and ensure we understand the rubric correctly.**

**A:** Program Type 1 applications will be scored out of 100 points and be eligible for 50 priority points. Program Type 2 and 3 applications will be scored out of 100 points and be eligible for 15 priority points.

**Q: For Program Type 2: Does Section 1.10.2.1, "Additional Coursework," allow applicants to launch, expand, or strengthen student opportunities for middle grades students as well as high school students? The other components of Program Type 2 appear to be explicitly focused on high school students, but this section seems broader in scope.**

**A:** Eligible Program Type 2 services must serve students in grade 9 or above, including students in traditional high schools and students in alternative or non-traditional high school pathways.

**Q: May grant funds support students in a grade not listed for the selected provider, or must those students be excluded from the seat count and budget?**

A: Eligible applicants are permitted to apply for Program Type 1 for students in grades K-12. Approved grades for each HIT program are identified on the HIT Vetted Program List. Grant funds may not support students in a grade not listed for the selected provider.

**Q: Section 1.10.1 requires grantees to provide "at least the minimum dosage required by the selected provider on the OSSE HIT Vetted Program List." GO Tutor Corps' listing gives ranges rather than single values — 3–5 sessions per week, 30–45 minutes per session, and either a 10-week cycle or a 29-week full-year cycle. How does OSSE determine the minimum in that situation? Specifically: May the LEA and provider select within the listed range, and is the figure we enter on the Program Model tab the commitment OSSE will hold us to?**

A: The program length information on the HIT Vetted Program List is the minimum allowable number of weeks for a program. In FY27, all programs must last at least 10 weeks. A program may be implemented for any duration above the 10-week minimum if both the LEA and partner agree. The dosage entered on the Program Model tab in the Program Model and Budget Template is the expected dosage for FY27 and must be at least above the minimum values.

**Q: The FY27 award period runs through Sept. 30, 2027, and Section 1.10.1.6 allows grantees to request spreading reach and budget across the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years. We would like to use the same tutors for summer school in summer 2027. GO Tutor Corps' "time of day" field on the vetted list reads "During the school day; Before or after school" and does not name summer programming, though several other listed providers do. May we use grant funds for summer 2027 tutoring with this provider, and if so, how should summer sessions be reflected on the Program Model tab?**

A: A program may be implemented during the summer if both the LEA and partner agree. Since the Program Model and Budget Template does not include summer as an option for Timing of HIT, please select "During School" and write the provider name and "Summer" in the Tutoring Provider field. For example, for each row indicating a summer tutoring program, write "OSSE Tutoring Provider Summer" in column D and "During School" in column J, in addition to other program model details.

**Q: If this is a payment request-based grant, would carryover be assuming an LEA missed milestones? Or is the carryover respective to the state education agency's (SEA's) Title I allocation at large to extend the possibility of the grant into the 2027-28 school year?**

A: If a DIS grantee does not receive payment for the full total DIS award amount in FY27, the balance is eligible for carryover in FY28. Carryover will be used to support students with grant program services in FY28. Grantees may not receive a performance milestone payment or will receive a portion of a performance milestone payment, if a grant recipient does not submit satisfactory documentation within three months of achieving a milestone.

**Q: How should we build applications to ensure that we are adhering to DC Procurement Regulations, given we have a HIT Vetted Program List? We are not able to commit to provider(s) at time of application, as the awarded vendors are subject to contracting requirements.**

A: Eligible programs must provide a letter of intent (LOI) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to indicate proof of partnership with each third-party tutoring provider. These agreements are not required to be binding. OSSE recommends that applicants seek legal counsel to ensure adherence to DC Procurement Regulations for grant program implementation.

**Q: If an LEA proposes 100 seats, with an expectation that at least 25 students will phase out, allowing the LEA to serve at least 125 students total, should we list 125 as total students served in the Budget Template, with 100 being the total seat count in the LEA program model tab?**

A: OSSE uses seats to determine program counts. Please enter the number of seats on the HIT LEA Program Model tab. The template will calculate the total seats in the HIT LEA Program Model tab and enter that value into the Budget tab. The initial template had an issue with this function. The template currently on the website has fixed that.

**Q: Would launching new summer intensive programming opportunities (not currently offered at a student's school) for ACT/SAT preparation and college essay writing workshops be considered an eligible opportunity under the Program Type 2 "Additional Coursework" category?**

A: Launching a new summer intensive programming opportunity for ACT/SAT preparation and college essay writing workshop is an eligible opportunity under Program Type 2.

**Q: If my LEA is unable to provide an LOI or MOU due to procurement timelines, what should be submitted to meet this requirement?**

A: An eligible LOI or MOU must indicate intent to partner with a narrowed list of preferred providers. This can be demonstrated by submitting the request for proposals created for this grant to contract provider(s) and/or the list of preferred provider(s) that meet an LEA's needs and interest.

If awarded, an LEA may partner with a different provider on the HIT Vetted Program List than expressed in their application. However, the awarded LEA must submit a formal modification request with the rationale for switching programs and receive approval from OSSE.

**Q: When submitting an MOU form, would an unsigned MOU from the provider be acceptable if a fully executed MOU is contingent on funding?**

A: Yes, a non-binding document such as an unsigned MOU, LOI, request for proposals, or list of preferred providers is acceptable documentation for the required supporting documentation for a partnership with each HIT provider.

**Q: Why didn't a provider I've worked with through a different OSSE HIT program make the HIT Vetted Program list?**

A: The federal funding source for this grant mandates that applicants proposing HIT programs must partner with an approved program on the HIT Vetted Program List created by OSSE.

A program included on the OSSE HIT Vetted Program List will:

1. Meet all application standards;
2. Meet all organization standards;
3. Meet all HIT program design standards;
4. Meet gold, silver, or bronze evidence standards; and
5. Serve students in the subject and grades represented in the studies that meet the evidence standards.

The inclusion standards for the vetted list are posted online: [OSSE HIT Vetted Program Profiles](#).

**Q: How do I submit an application for multiple program types?**

A: Each application must only include one Program Type. An LEA that is applying for multiple Program Types must submit only one application for each Program Type. Each application should only contain

information in one of the Program Type tabs. LEAs will create a Sub Project Code in OSSE's Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS) for each application for a Program Type.

**Q: How do I revise my application that I already submitted before the deadline extension?**

A: If you have already submitted an application in EGMS and wish to revise it, you may submit another application for each Program Type. OSSE will review only the last application submitted before the deadline for each Program Type.

**Q: Is there a place to find all the updates and changes for the application?**

A: OSSE identified the updates to the grant RFA in the notice of extension posted on the website.

**Q: Is there a revised timeline for the announcement of awards? Can LEAs still project to be able to implement beginning January 2027?**

A: The timeline for the announcement of grant award is late November or early December.