DCY Guidance Letter 24-035
DIVISION OF POLICY

TO: Early Care and Education Program Administrators
Family Child Care Providers
School-Age Program Administrators

FROM: Laura Graf, Division Director

DATE: November 20, 2024

SUBJECT: DCY Science of Reading Grant

Background

Governor Mike DeWine is committed to supporting emergent language development and early literacy wherever children are learning. In August 2023, the Governor announced the ReadOhio initiative, a statewide effort to encourage improved literacy skills for all ages, including the implementation of curriculum aligned with the Science of Reading (SoR). The Governor also released a video to explain what the science of reading is and why it is important.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) required the completion of SoR training under Section 265.330(A)(2) of House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly. The law awarded $43 million to reimburse school districts and community schools established under Chapter 3314 of the Revised Code, and STEM schools established under Chapter 3326 of the Revised Code to provide stipends for teachers who have completed the training.

To provide additional support for early care and education, the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY) is launching a parallel grant opportunity for eligible licensed early care and education programs. The grant will provide funding for administrators and lead teachers that have completed at least 10 hours of SoR training, as outlined in this letter. Approximately $5 million dollars have been made available through the Preschool Development Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Grant and the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). These trainings may also be used to meet professional development requirements for the revised Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) program.

Purpose

This letter outlines grant requirements for programs and staff, describes the application process and provides guidance for finding SoR training aimed at supporting Ohio's youngest learners.

Eligibility Criteria

Programs interested in the SoR grant must meet the program and staff eligibility requirements listed below.

Program Eligibility Requirements	Staff Eligibility Requirements
Be one of the following programs not currently covered under funding for Science of Reading through the Department of Education and Workforce: • Child Care Center • Private Preschool • Family Child Care Provider • Non-Public Preschool (example: Religious School, Charter School) • Non-Public District Preschool • Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Preschool • School-Age Program (SACC)	Role must be listed in the Ohio Professional Registry (OPR) as an Administrator, Lead Teacher, or Family Child Care Provider/Owner *(Ineligible OPR roles include: Assistant Teacher, Substitute, Floater, Cook, Program Management Not Used in Ratio, Program Management Used in Ratio, Individual Service Provider Not Used in Ratio, Individual Service Provider Used in Ratio, Extracurricular Not Used in Ratio and Extracurricular Used in Ratio.)*
Be licensed and in good standing from the time of application through issuance of the payment.	Each individual must complete at least 10 hours of training related to the Science of Reading.
Be open and serving children eligible for Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) and/or the Child Care Choice Voucher Program (CCVP)	Each individual must have the training hours verified in the OPR.
Have a provider agreement for early care and education services (previously known as the PFCC agreement) in place in Ohio Child Care Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS).	To receive funding, the following staff must have completed the required training: **Centers, Preschools & School-Age programs**: ☑ Administrator (For programs that have multiple administrators on the license, only one is required to complete the training.) ☑ Up to three Lead Teachers **Family Child Care Providers**: ☑ Provider/Owner only

Training Details

Required SoR training hours may have been completed anytime **between July 1, 2023 and January 31, 2025**. Grant funding is only available for Cox Campus (Infant/Toddler or Preschool Pathways) or DEW Learning Management System (LMS) (School-Age Pathways A and B) coursework.

Infant/Toddler and Preschool Age Levels through Cox Campus

DEW and DCY have partnered with The Rollins Center for Language and Literacy to offer free online SoR trainings through the Cox Campus online professional development community. Individuals can sign up for free courses by creating an account at Cox Campus here. Details for ensuring credit in the OPR for Cox Campus coursework can be found here.

To obtain SoR training targeted at either infant/toddler or preschool levels, please refer to courses of study listed below.

Cox Campus Emergent Literacy Series INFANT/TODDLER COURSES		
Level 1: Infant/Toddler Emergent Literacy Aware	Level 2: Infant/Toddler Emergent Literacy Informed	Level 3: Infant/Toddler Emergent Literacy Competent
*An Ecosystem Approach to Developing the Foundation for Reading in the Early Years (3.5 hours) ST 10125649 Power of Language for Infants and Toddlers (2 hours) ST 10126795 TALK with ME (3 hours) ST 10126794	TALK with Me Baby Early Care and Learning (4 hours) ST 10126791 Rhyme with Me (2.5 hours) ST 10126790	Read with Me: Part 1 (2.5 hours) ST 10126941 Read with Me: Part 2 (1.5 hours) ST 10126765 Monitoring Children's Progress in Language & Literacy in the Early Years (3.5 hours) ST 10126763

Cox Campus Emergent Literacy Series PRESCHOOL COURSES		
Level 1: Preschool Emergent Literacy Aware	**Level 2: Preschool Emergent Literacy Informed**	**Level 3: Preschool Emergent Literacy Competent**
*An Ecosystem Approach to Developing the Foundation for Reading in the Early Years (3.5 hours) ST 10125649 *The Power of Language: Preschool/Pre-K (2.5 hours) ST 10126793 *Meaningful Conversations PS/PK (1.5 hours) ST 10126695 *Transforming Story Time (3.5 hours) ST 10126792	*Building Word Knowledge (2 hours) ST 10126788 Foundations of Learning to Read (5 hours) ST 10126787 *Supporting Dual Language Learners Right from the Start (4 hours) ST 10126786	Sharing Ideas Through Writing (4.5 hours) ST 10126760 Connecting the Dots for Dual Language Learners Throughout the Preschool Day (2.5 hours) ST 10126755 *Monitoring Children's Progress in Language & Literacy in the Early Years (3.5 hours) ST 10126763

* Indicates courses in the DEW Science of Reading Pathway G (20.5 hours total)

School-Age
For school-age professionals there are the two following options:

1. **School-age teachers with an active educator license through the Department of Education and Workforce**
   DEW LMS offers free courses and professional development ONLY for current DEW-licensed educators. Pathways A and B: Ohio's Introduction to the Science of Reading Course (Kindergarten-Grade 5) outlines coursework for school-age learners. Complete information about accessing the LMS can be found here.

   Note: Any other trainings accepted by DEW that meet Pathways A and B requirements **are not** accepted for this grant opportunity. Any courses taken through DEW LMS for SoR training must be submitted by the trainee to the OPR for verification.

2. **School-age professionals without a DEW educator license**
   DCY encourages these staff members to complete 10 hours of preschool courses through Cox Campus, listed in the chart above, in order to meet the grant requirements.
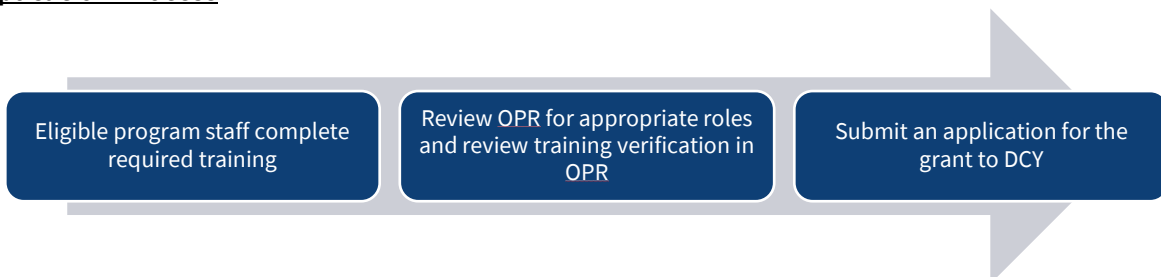
Award Amounts

Available awards and grant amounts vary by program type. See below for payment amounts, award maximums and number of available awards per program by type.

Program Type	Payment	Available Awards Per Program
Child Care Center, Private Preschool, Non-Public Preschool (example: Religious School, Charter School), Non-Public District Preschool, Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) Preschool	$750 per staff, up to $3,000	1,450
Family Child Care Homes	$750 for FCC provider/owner	1,100
School-Age (SACC) Programs	$750 per staff, up to $3,000	25

Application Process

Eligible program staff complete required training → Review OPR for appropriate roles and review training verification in OPR → Submit an application for the grant to DCY

Before applying, programs must ensure that their eligible staff have completed the required training and review the OPR for appropriate roles and training verification. Grant applications are to be submitted to DCY using the following link: https://forms.office.com/g/rLfg4yP8tc.

The following criteria must be met to be considered a complete application:
1. Must have a valid license number, program email, and program name matching the Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS)
2. Must have staff names, roles, and OPIN that match the OPR
3. Must list completed trainings by each individual staff member

4. Must include at least one administrator and up to three staff who have completed the required training. (*Do not submit additional applications as staff complete their training. Wait until all staff have met the training requirement and then submit one application for the program.*)

This grant is <u>not</u> a competitive grant with a scoring process. **The first complete applications that meet eligibility criteria will be awarded.** If an application is denied for being incomplete, the program may reapply. If that is the case, review of the new application will occur in the order it was received regardless of the time or date of the original application.

<u>Timeline:</u>

October 22, 2024	Grant announcement in monthly stakeholder call
November 20, 2024	Application window opens, guidance letter sent to stakeholders and posted to the DCY website
January 31, 2025	Last day to complete training
February 14, 2025 or when funding is exhausted	Application window closes
March 1, 2025	Final award notices complete
April 2025	Grant payments issued

<u>Contact</u>
Please contact OCCRRA with questions about the OPR and training verification at support@occrra.org or 614-396-5959.

For questions about grant application or payment, contact the Family and Customer Support Center at 1-877-302-2347, option 4 or childcarepolicy@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov.