



**Solicitation Information  
December 20, 2013**

**Addendum #3**

**RFP # 7540370**

**TITLE: RTT/ELC – CENTER(S) FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHING AND  
LEARNING**

**Submission Deadline: January 17, 2014 @ 11:00 AM (Eastern Time)**

**PLEASE NOTE: ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS WILL BE RECEIVED UNTIL JANUARY  
3, 2014 AT 5:00 PM.**

**ATTACHED ARE VENDOR QUESTIONS RECEIVED TO DATE, WITH STATE  
RESPONSES.**

**Gail Walsh  
Chief Buyer  
State of Rhode Island  
Division of Purchases**

Questions Regarding: **RFP Bid #7540370**

Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge Centers for Early Childhood Teaching and Learning

1) Is the indirect/overhead rate for this proposal based on the Race to the Top guidelines of 10% or is it the IHE's overhead rate?

**Answer: The state will consider a proposal with indirect costs above 10%, if the approval is submitted with a copy of the approved rate; however, RIDE reserves the right to limit the rate to a reasonable amount.**

2) Is this proposal expected to provide a plan for delivering the entire bachelor's degree program through off site or alternative delivery methods (e.g., cover all General Education courses, electives, and other non-ECE certificate courses)?

**Answer: Yes.**

3) Which specific WKC framework is the grant referring to?

**Answer: Bidders should primarily utilize the WKC Framework for Early Childhood Teachers ([http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Instruction-and-Assessment-World-Class-Standards/Early-Childhood/Workforce/WKC\\_FINAL\\_TEACHERS\\_EI\\_SPED.pdf](http://www.ride.ri.gov/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Instruction-and-Assessment-World-Class-Standards/Early-Childhood/Workforce/WKC_FINAL_TEACHERS_EI_SPED.pdf)).**

4) On page 10, the RFP states that the proposal must offer field experiences and include "the parameters for choosing high-quality settings." What is the definition being used by RIDE for "high quality settings" or is the proposal supposed to define and support this term?

**Answer: The proposal is expected to define and support this term.**

5) In order to develop a credible sustainability plan, we need to know what funding mechanisms will be available to support the target population to enroll in credit bearing college level courses/ programs once the RTT-ELC funds end. The RFP mentions one mechanism, T.E.A.C.H. scholarships. Conversations with T.E.A.C.H representatives indicate that such funds may end at the same time RTT funds end.

**Answer: Eligible applicants for this RFP are already providing access to credit bearing college level courses/ programs for this population using traditional funding mechanisms. The demand for professionally prepared early childhood educators is expected to increase consistently in future years. Both federal and state initiatives aimed at increasing access to high-quality prekindergarten lead by certified teachers who are compensated adequately will drive this demand. Specifically, in RI, the RIDE has committed to phasing in a \$10M**

investment to support access to Pre-K for 4 year olds. The focus on improving the quality of all early care and education programs via the state’s Tiered Quality Rating system, in part by raising credentials of staff, will also contribute. Additionally, RI’s Early Learning Council Strategic Plan sets aggressive targets for increasing staff credentials. In order to achieve these goals, RI allocated significant resources under its ARRA Early Learning Council grant and its RTT-ELC grant to support access to scholarships. The process of planning for sustaining RTT-ELC investments is ongoing and continued support for access to credit bearing courses is a priority given the instrumental role of teachers in improving outcomes for children. Thus, ongoing funding mechanisms will include a mix of traditional and state sponsored strategies.

6) The RFP states that “Bidders must propose a track leading to PK-2 certification” - does this also include Early Childhood - Special Education certification?

**Answer: No.**

7) Is the Center also responsible for finding and recruiting students to participate in this program?

**Answer: T.E.A.C.H. will be responsible for recruiting students to participate in the program.**

8) The description of the Director includes “experienced in large-scale program evaluation.” Please explain what is meant by “large-scale program evaluation?”

**Answer: Large-scale program evaluation refers to program evaluations in which sample sizes are large in scope/extent, results are generalizable and describe the effectiveness of an entire system or its parts. Examples of large-scale evaluations include evaluation of a state’s Pre-K program or of the implementation of a teacher training curriculum across several regions.**

9) Please indicate the specific RIPA standards to which the grant refers - are they the IHE Program Approval Standards?

**Answer: Yes, RIPA Standards refer to the standards used to approve teacher-preparation programs by RIDE.**

10) Did the WKC survey section “Supports needed to meet goals” differentiate between hybrid and fully on-line courses?

**Answer: No, the workforce study did not differentiate between hybrid and fully on-line courses.**