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Governor Scott Walker
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

May 20, 2016

Deborah Spitz and Gena Miller
U.S. Department of Education
Office of Early Learning
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-6200

Dear Deborah Spitz and Gena Miller,

This letter is to inform you of Wisconsin's request to amend its approved Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) plan and budget to extend the period of obligation for **Project 10: Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System: DCF**. The required documentation, outlined in the *Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge Amendment Requests with No-Cost Extension Guidance and Principles*, is described below.

Required Documentation

1. **Grant activity or project(s) that would be affected by the extension.** Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) needs additional time to accomplish the deliverables it committed to in its Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge application's approved Scope of Work (SOW). Specifically DCF will continue work on the cross agency Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) and take the lead on building a Distinct Count of children in various programs. Internally add Child Support data to the LIFT (Longitudinal Information of Family Touchpoints) data warehouse, bring in scholarship data to the agency, and support research analytics and data visualization on these data sources.
2. **Brief description of no-cost extension request.** Wisconsin DCF is requesting a provision of additional time due to project delays arising from data interdependencies complexities. This no-cost extension also allows for continuous improvement activities for the cross-agency ECIDS, Distinct Count and LIFT, while developing and executing a robust Research Agenda throughout 2017 (the obligation would conclude no later than December 31, 2017, for liquidation by March 31, 2018).

In addition, DCF would like to fund two full-time Research Analysts in 2017.

3. **Rationale and impact.** The proposed request to extend an additional year is required to complete the tasks stated in the SOW and include Child Support data, which was not originally available when DCF LIFT project started in 2013. Due to the delays and late

start of the project, the additional time would ensure successful completion for this project.

4. **Sustainability.** Project 10 has an active Sustainability Plan team. This team is currently working on the WI ECIDS Sustainability Plan, using the federally recommended framework. This plan will be enhanced throughout 2016 and 2017 and includes the cross-agency ECIDS, as well as individual agency sustainability. The plan should be completed by 3rd quarter of 2017, with sign-off and approval of the ECIDS Management Committee. Sustainability of DCF specific projects will be added to the annual Service Level Agreement IT planning process. Division of Early Child Care and Education will cover the maintenance for the Registry, Branagh, and scholarship projects. While LIFT maintenance, which is agency-wide, will be handled via a cost allocation process.
5. **Awards to sub-recipients (if applicable).** There will be no sub-recipients for this project.
6. **Budget documentation.**

After Y3 and Y4 estimates were calculated there is a total of \$1,069,074 left in DCF's IT Project 10 budget. These funds will be used to complete DCF specific tasks.

After Y3 and Y4 estimates were calculated there is a total of \$100,551 left in DCF's Research Project 10 budget. A total of \$268,852 is needed to cover overspending from previous years and fund two full-time research analysts in 2017. \$100,551 will be carried into 2017, \$151,858 will be added from the remaining DPI budget, and \$16,443 will be added from the remaining Project 5 budget.

An additional \$845,000 will be added from DPI. This will be used to complete a Distinct Count project and add program data to LIFT.

Wisconsin acknowledges that the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services may request supplementary information to inform consideration of this request.

As the designated payee or authorized representative for Wisconsin's Race to the Top - Early Learning Challenge grant, I certify that the grantee (Governor) is aware of this request, this request is being submitted prior to implementing any changes to the approved projects and/or budgets, and that this revision does not result in the grantee's failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this award and the Program's statutory and regulatory provisions.


Secretary, Department of Children and Families

5.23.16
Date