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Governor Scott Walker
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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: DPI**. 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.** This request is for a no-cost extension for Project 10 of the Wisconsin RTT-ELC Grant. This is listed in the grant as (E)(2) Goal: Develop federated Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System (ECLDS) that supports data exchanges as well as ad hoc research requests. The relevant aspect of the section of the RTT-ELC plan impacted by this request is on page 43 of the grant application. Specifically this item: "Implement programming and infrastructure upgrades needed to align data collection standards and create efficient and reliable interoperability between PSA data systems." The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) would use the no-cost extension to perform continuous improvement activities for the newly created Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) within the areas of Data Governance, Data Request Processes and Procedures, the Technical Solution (the Knowledge Base) and by developing and executing a robust Research Agenda throughout 2017.
2. **Brief description of no-cost extension request.** DPI would use the no-cost extension to perform continuous improvement activities for the newly created ECIDS within the areas of Data Governance, Data Request Processes and Procedures, the Technical Solution (the Knowledge Base) and by 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).
3. **Rationale and impact.** Within years two and three of the grant, Project 10 faced time delays due to on-boarding staff to work on the project, rapid turnover of staff and a delay

in the approach for the matching tool technical solution. Because of these delays the project really did not get ramped up until much later into the grant period. From November of 2014 to present, the project has recovered momentum, however the early delay has caused a reduction in scope which is reflected in the current Scope of Work (SOW). The goal has been to reach closure of the tasks in the current SOW by 12/31/2016. Since 1/1/2016 the team is realizing that the current work involving the co-ordination of efforts between the technical solution build, the data governance needs and improvements, the research agenda and the data request processes and procedures has not been trivial. We are learning and improving as we are going along. However, we are now acknowledging the time-consuming nature of completing the work we are currently charged with within the SOW. The no-cost extension will allow the team to keep our momentum around the co-ordination of these tasks and allow the completion of a product which will truly be useful to researchers and content experts within the three agencies. The current plan anticipates a base technical solution to be in place by fall of 2016, with the appropriate Data Governance structure and processes in place, as well as the basic data request processes and procedures in place. The pilot execution of the solution will take place by late fall, with the execution of the three approved analytical questions. We could wrap-up the basic package with documentation and some basic training by 12/31/2016.

However, by taking advantage of the no-cost extension, the team could extend their work beyond the basic package and initial pilot execution of the first three analytical questions. DPI would like to extend their work by keeping the present Research Work Group team in place with the goal of developing and executing a more robust Research Agenda for the no-cost extension year of 2017. A goal that will track hand-in-hand with the execution of more research is to allow for continuous improvements throughout 2017 in the areas of Data Governance, Data Request processes and procedures and some possible enhancements to the technical solution. In addition to the cross-agency Research Work Group (DPI Research Lead, Department of Health Services (DHS) Researcher, Department of Children and Families (DCF) Researcher), the continuous improvement efforts will require cross-agency team members as follows: The ECIDS Management Committee, DCF Project Manager (PM) Liaison, DHS PM Liaison, DPI Overall Project Manager (Portfolio Manager), DPI Data Governance Lead, DCF Data Governance Work Group Member, DHS Data Governance Work Group Member, DPI Systems/Business Analyst, DCF Data Request Processes Work Group Member, DHS Data Request Processes Work Group Member, DPI Technical Lead, DCF Technical Work Group Member, DHS Technical Work Group Member. The DPI staffing required is detailed in the ECIDS Budget for Y5 and all DPI positions needed are covered, as well as the Department of Employment and Training (DET) costs. DCF and DHS are welcome to make use of underspent funds from DPI's ECIDS budget (See suggestion in Y5 budget spreadsheet.).

By 12/31/2017, the team would expect to have evolved the ECIDS into a much more mature solution, learning where improvements can be made as we continue to put the system and processes "through the paces". This would be a solution which would obviously have much more benefit to show from a sustainability viewpoint, as opposed to the very basic product coming out of the fourth quarter of 2016. Return on investment could start to be measured by early 2018, helping to ensure the long-term interest in the WI ECIDS.

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. The plan should be completed by 3rd quarter of 2017, with sign-off and approval of the ECIDS Management Committee. Additionally the costs projected for DET (Infrastructure and Hardware) beyond the grant years has been agreed by all three agencies to be shared by all three agencies and will be incorporated into each agency's biennial budget. Each agency is also incorporating into their biennial budget planning for the roles which will need to be played (staffing) to sustain the WI ECIDS. Those roles are currently being decided. In addition the Wisconsin ECIDS Data Governance Charter, approved in December of 2014, is currently being followed and is designed to be a sustainable structure beyond the grant years.

5. **Awards to Sub-recipients.**

The Department of Children and Families, as the fiscal lead for WI's RTT-ELC grant, will extend its contract with the WI Department of Public Instruction for Project 10 through December 31, 2017.

There will be no sub-recipients for this project.

6. **Budget documentation.**

After Y3 spending and Y4 estimates were calculated there is a total of \$1,949,449 left in DPI's Project 10 budget.

- \$136,808 will be used to fund a full time Research Analyst.
- \$319,318 will be used to fund contract IT staff.
- \$16,158 will be used to fund other technology related costs.
- \$80,850 will be used to fund other indirect costs.
- The remaining \$1,396,585 will be divided up by DCF and DHS for use during 2017.

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