

Transition Readiness Grant (TRG) 2020-2021 Webinar Q & A

Q: Where do I find the PowerPoint for this webinar?

A: The PowerPoint can be found on the WDPI Transition Readiness Grant page, located at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/topics/transition/transition-readiness-grants>. The recorded webinar can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/kA-qlfQm-eA>.

Transportation Options

Q: I'm working with our local district to write for a van and as well affording professionals working with disabilities in a five day Job Skills Bootcamp. Would this be a feasible proposal?

A: A van to be use for special education related expenses would be an allowable, but the expense to run a 5-day boot camp would not be.

Q: In a past grant, we were able to gets funds for getting driver's licenses for students in a rural setting. Is this still able to be funded?

A: Yes, this is still allowable. This could be considered a transportation service.

Q: Does it have to be van purchase, or can it be a lease?

A: Transportation can include a lease. Any costs associated with travel are acceptable.

Q: Can you address more specific details regarding the topic of getting licenses for students in rural areas?

A: The funds could be used for items such as fees associated with obtaining a license or on the road training.

Q: Can the \$25,000 be put towards purchase of a handicap accessible bus?

A: Yes. There is no stipulation on what kind of vehicle is to be purchased.

Q: If we want to purchase two vehicles, can we request \$50,000?

A: No. Transportation is set at \$25,000. You cannot request more or less in this category.

Q: Regarding the scope of the use of a vehicle purchased, can this vehicle only be used for transition activities?

A: The vehicle must be used to support special education related costs, with a preference to transition services, but it is not a requirement.

Q: If we receive the transportation portion and decide to contract, would that need to meet the full \$25,000?

A: Any transportation costs incurred can be used to meet the \$25,000. If you do not incur the full \$25,000, you would submit for reimbursement for the portion you incurred.

Q: Is \$25,000 the maximum amount you can apply for transportation? Or can you put in for a new van and then look for taxi tickets also?

A: The \$25,000 is the maximum you can request for reimbursement. You can use these funds for a combination of transportation expenses, such as a new van and taxi tickets, but it cannot exceed the \$25,000.

Q: Will transportation just be a vehicle or can you hire a driver?

A: You can hire a driver. Salary, insurance, etc., can be included in reimbursable claims.

Project SEARCH Tuition/Supports for Student(s)

Q: If a school does not have any students in Project SEARCH and has been awarded monies in that area, is that money NOT given to the school district?

A: Correct. Districts must spend the funds in that area and then file a claim for reimbursement. Funds are not given prior to the expenses.

Q: What is included under Project SEARCH limited transportation?

A: This could include taxis, contracted transportation, or bus passes to and from the Project SEARCH site.

Q: When requesting funds for Project SEARCH, do we just use the full \$9,000 or the specific tuition amount for our site?

A: It would be the specific amount of tuition your district incurs. If it is less than \$9,000, you could include the cost for items, such as uniforms, up to the full \$9,000.

Q: Could we use funds for laptops for Project SEARCH?

A: Yes, if they are required for them to attend Project SEARCH.

Q: If we apply for 3 Project SEARCH seats and only 2 students attend, can we use that third \$9000 towards laptops, etc.?

A: Yes, the funds that would not be used to support the third student attending Project SEARCH could be allocated to additional expenses related to the first two students attending Project SEARCH.

Transition Certificate for Staff Member(s)

Q: What is the Transition Certificate?

A: The Transition Certificate is awarded to individuals that have completed coursework structured around transition. It is currently being offered through UW Whitewater and UW Milwaukee.

Q: Is there a specific program that is recommended for the transition certificate for staff members?

A: The only two programs that are accepted at this time are run through UW Whitewater and UW Milwaukee.

Training for Paraprofessionals

Q: For the paraprofessional training- the \$600 covers travel and wages for employees, but is there a registration cost for the event that needs to be considered?

A: There is no fee to register for the training. The \$600 can be used to cover travel, lodging, and wages. It is at the district's discretion how much and what they want to pay/reimburse for this training.

Q: Can a teacher accompany the para and can costs be covered for both?

A: The funds from the grant can only be used to support the paraprofessional (wages, travel, expenses). A teacher may attend the training, but the grant funds cannot be used to support the teacher.

Application Details

Q: What is the line item on the application for the Community Conversation for \$500?

A: All districts receiving the grant will need to host a Community Conversation. The \$500 will be added to the requested amount and should be used to cover costs incurred for the Community Conversation.

Q: Can we combine with other districts as a consortium?

A: Yes. Each district will need to submit a separate application. On the application there is an area to indicate that you are applying as part of a consortium. This area will need to be completed on each application and a fiscal agent will need to be identified. Please email the applications for the consortium together and indicate in the email it is a consortium application.

Other Q&A

Q: We have applied in the past, but not awarded a grant. Are we able to see why we weren't selected to help us in our future application?

A: Please contact Alicia Reinhard at Alicia.reinhard@dpi.wi.gov to schedule a time to connect and review previous applications your district may have submitted.

Q: Any unused funds are returned to the grant, is that right?

A: Funds are not given in advance for expenses, so there would be no funds to return. The district must spend the funds first, then submit for a reimbursement.

Q: Are districts encouraged to re-apply if they have received the grant in the past? For example, if in 19-20 the district was awarded the grant and included a van purchase, could the district apply again in 2020-21 for a van purchase again for a 2nd van?

A: Yes, districts that received the grant in a previous year may still apply. Priority is given to districts that show a need and have not received the grant previously. However, this does not disqualify those that have previously received funds.

Q: Is the financial part of this in a Portal in Secure Home like other grants?

A: No, we are not able to submit reimbursement requests through the portal. Districts will need to use the Program Fiscal Report for this.

Q: I am new to my district. How do I know if the district applied in the past?

A: Contact Alicia Reinhard at Alicia.reinhard@dpi.wi.gov. She will be able to help you determine if your district applied and previously received this grant.

Q: If we receive funds for one category, such as transportation, but do not use them all, can we use them in another category?

A: No. Funds must be used in the same category they were granted. They cannot be transferred.

Q: Could funds be requested to pay for a consultant stipend?

A: No this is not an allowable cost within the grant program. Contact Alicia Reinhard at Alicia.reinhard@dpi.wi.gov with specific questions on allowable costs.

Q: On average what percent of applications get awarded grant money?

A: Last year, 34% of the districts who applied received the grant funds.