

IA-CLSD Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

1. What is the IA-CLSD project?

The Iowa Comprehensive Literacy State Development (IA-CLSD) project is a federally funded initiative designed to enhance literacy instruction from birth through grade 12. The program focuses on literacy leadership, professional development, evidence-based instructional practices, and family and community engagement.

2. Who is eligible to apply for an IA-CLSD subgrant?

Eligible applicants include Local Education Agencies (LEAs) such as public school districts, charter schools, and early childhood providers partnered with a school district.

3. What are the key dates for the 2025 grant cycle?

- **Application Window:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 - Monday, June 10, 2025
- **Informational Webinar:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. [See the recording](#) on the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant webpage.
- **Technical Assistance Webinar:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. [Register for technical assistance webinar](#). (Recording will be available on the [Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant webpage](#).)
- **Application Deadline:** Tuesday, June 10, 2025 by 11:59 PM CST
- **Award Announcements:** July 8, 2025
- **Public Notice of Awards:** July 11, 2025

Application Process & Requirements

4. How do LEAs apply for the IA-CLSD grant?

LEAs must consider a list of pre-application questions before applying. If they determine that they meet the criteria to apply, each LEA will complete a full application detailing their literacy plans, including a needs assessment, instructional strategies, professional development plans, and sustainability efforts.

5. Can LEAs apply for different grade bands?

Yes, LEAs may apply as a complete **Birth-Grade 12** feeder system (which includes additional competitive points) or for specific grade bands such as:

- Birth-Grade 5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 6-12
- Grades 9-12

6. What are the scoring criteria for the application?

Applications are evaluated based on:

- General Information (4 points)
- LEA Application Structure & Participants (30 points)
- LEA Demographics (10 points)
- LEA Goals (10 points)

- LEA Literacy Strategy Self-Assessment (65 points)
- Sustainability Assurances (15 points)
- Competitive Preference Points (22 points)
- CLSD Planning Grant Budget (20 points)

Grant Fund Usage

7. How can grant funds be used?

Funds must be used for:

- Hiring Literacy and Leadership Grant Support Providers (GSPs) to facilitate grant activities and professional development, including job-embedded coaching support. GSPs will receive specific training from the Grant Coordination Team to help guide subgrantees.
- Developing a Literacy Leadership Team (LLT) to guide local literacy improvement.
- Conducting a Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment (CLNA) to identify areas of strength and need.
- Creating a Local Literacy Plan (LLP) to establish a literacy framework aligned to the Iowa's Comprehensive State Literacy Plan that includes short and long-term literacy goals, action plans, and progress monitoring steps.
- Supporting professional development in comprehensive literacy, which includes structured literacy, Science of Reading-based instruction, adolescent literacy, and disciplinary literacy.
- Implementing Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) for evidence-based interventions.
- Expanding family and community literacy partnerships to engage parents and caregivers.

8. Can IA-CLSD funds be used to purchase instructional materials?

Not in Year 1. The first year focuses on planning. Funds for Years 2-5 can be used to acquire High-Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) for literacy instruction, but LEAs must provide a 50% matching contribution.

9. Can IA-CLSD funds be used for salaries?

No, grant funds cannot be used to pay full-time or part-time staff salaries. However, **stipends** for work outside contract hours (such as planning meetings or professional learning) are allowable.

10. What travel expenses are covered?

IA-CLSD funds may cover **travel costs** related to professional learning, such as:

- Attending the summer Iowa Reading Research Center Science of Reading Summit
- Visiting schools implementing high-quality literacy programs
- Participation in LETRS® training

Implementation & Sustainability

11. What is required for LEAs in Year 1?

Year 1 focuses on planning and foundational development, including:

- Establishing a Literacy Leadership Team (LLT)
- Conducting a Comprehensive Literacy Needs Assessment (CLNA)
- Developing a Local Literacy Plan (LLP)
- Receiving foundational professional learning on evidence-based literacy instruction, structured literacy, the Science of Reading, adolescent literacy, and disciplinary literacy.

12. What happens in Years 2-5?

- Implementation of literacy strategies and purchase HQIM
- Scaling professional learning for educators and administrators
- Expanding Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) interventions
- Increasing family and community literacy engagement
- Ensuring long-term sustainability and funding alignment

13. What are the sustainability expectations for IA-CLSD subgrantees?

LEAs must:

- Develop long-term literacy leadership structures
- Maintain data-driven assessment systems
- Sustain professional learning efforts post-grant
- Ensure HQIM adoption and usage remains consistent beyond grant funding

14. What are competitive preference points, and how can LEAs earn them?

LEAs can receive up to 25 bonus points for:

- Having implemented or currently implementing state-endorsed literacy programs (e.g., Reading Assistant/Amira, LETRS)
- Being a first-time applicant to a state literacy grant
- Representing a small, rural district

Accountability & Reporting

15. What data and reporting requirements must subgrantees meet?

LEAs must submit:

- Annual progress reports on student literacy outcomes
- Implementation walkthrough data for literacy instruction
- Assessment data from universal screeners and standardized tests
- Professional development participation records
- Family & community engagement activities

16. What assessments are required for tracking literacy progress?

Subgrantees must use:

- Early literacy screeners for kindergarten students
- Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) for grades 3-10
- Oral language assessments for four-year-old students

17. What happens if an LEA does not meet grant requirements?

LEAs that fail to comply with program expectations, reporting deadlines, or implementation benchmarks may lose eligibility for continued funding in Years 2-5.

Additional Support & Assistance

19. What technical assistance is available for applicants?

The Iowa Department of Education will offer:

- Informational webinars (recordings provided)
- Technical assistance sessions for applicants
- Individualized support from Grant Coordination Team and Grant Support Team members

20. What type of professional learning support is provided to districts as part of the grant?

Each LEA may select the Grant Support Provider from the Department's list of approved providers. The LEA will then contract with the provider using CLSD funds. Together, they will determine the support services based on their Local Needs Assessment as well as using guidance from the Iowa Department of Education.

21. Are districts required to only contract with people who are listed on the Department's list of Grant Support Providers? Can districts contract a literacy consultant from another organization?

Grant awardees must contract with a consultant or organization that is listed on the Department's list of Grant Support Providers. Districts may not use CLSD funds to contract with anyone outside of the approved list.

21. Who can I contact for more information?

For IA-CLSD grant inquiries, reach out to:

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