

# FY27 Shared Visions Preschool Application

## Frequently Asked Questions

This document is intended to guide prospective applicants and current grantees in implementing a Shared Visions Preschool Program. It addresses all questions received to date regarding the FY27 competitive application process.

### Shared Visions Preschool Application Questions/Answers

#### 1. Do current grantees need to reapply?

**A:** Yes. All interested and eligible applicants, including current grantees, must submit a new application for the upcoming grant cycle. The Iowa Department of Education is now accepting applications for the Shared Visions Preschool Program for fiscal years 2027–2031. All Iowa schools and programs serving preschool children who meet certain at-risk criteria are encouraged to apply for this five-year grant opportunity. Applications must be submitted through the IowaGrants.gov online system by **4:30 p.m. on February 6, 2026**.

#### 2. How much funding is available?

**A:** Grant funding depends on annual legislative appropriations. In FY26, the Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) awarded **\$6,286,379** to preschool program grantees. Current grant awards and locations are listed on the Shared Visions Programs webpage. Program requirements are detailed in the grant funding opportunity and in Iowa Code sections 279.51 and 256A, and Iowa Administrative Code 281.64.

#### 3. Can an organization submit more than one application for multiple locations?

**A:** Yes. Organizations may submit separate applications for different locations. There is no requirement to combine all locations into a single application. Alternatively, an organization may choose to include multiple classrooms or sites within one application.

#### 4. Are private, for-profit providers eligible to apply for a Shared Visions Preschool Grant?

**A:** No. Eligible applicants include public schools, licensed nonprofit child care centers, Head Start agencies, community action agencies, and other public or nonprofit agencies. For-profit providers are not eligible to apply for or receive Shared Visions Preschool grant funding.

#### 5. How do I apply for a Shared Visions Preschool Grant?

**A:** The Iowa Department of Education is now accepting applications for the Shared Visions Preschool Program for fiscal years 2027–2031. Eligible organizations serving preschool children who meet certain at-risk criteria are encouraged to apply for this five-year grant opportunity. Application materials, timeline information and supporting documents can be found on the [Shared Visions Web page](#).

#### 6. If a district does not require preschool families to complete free and reduced-price meal paperwork, does that make the district ineligible for the grant?

**A:** No. Iowa schools and programs serving preschool children who meet certain at-risk criteria are encouraged to apply for the Shared Visions Preschool Program. Applicants will describe how they meet eligibility requirements and identify at-risk factors within the grant application.

**Awarded applicants are expected to:**

- Follow program requirements as outlined in [Iowa Administrative Code 281.64](#), [Iowa Code 256A](#), and [Iowa Code 279.51](#).
- Enroll no fewer than 80 percent of age-eligible children from families meeting the financial eligibility criteria for free and reduced-price meals (primary eligibility: Iowa Administrative Code 281.64.29).
- Enroll no more than 20 percent of age-eligible children based on other risk factors (secondary eligibility: Iowa Administrative Code 281.64.30).

**7. Will grant funding remain the same each year, or could amounts change over the five-year period?**

**A:** Grant awards are made for one year at a time, with the option to renew for up to five years, provided program requirements are met. All funding is contingent on annual legislative appropriations, so award amounts may vary from year to year.

The funding periods are:

- Year One (FY27):** July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
- Year Two (FY28):** July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028
- Year Three (FY29):** July 1, 2028 – June 30, 2029
- Year Four (FY30):** July 1, 2029 – June 30, 2030
- Year Five (FY31):** July 1, 2030 – June 30, 2031

**8. Are Area Education Agencies (AEAs) eligible to apply for the Shared Visions Grant? What would that involve?**

**A:** Yes. AEAs are eligible to apply as public nonprofit agencies. To be considered for funding, AEAs must submit a competitive grant application through [IowaGrants.gov](#), the same as other eligible organizations. Detailed materials and related information are posted on the Iowa Department of Education's [Shared Visions webpage](#).

**9. How is eligibility determined for the State of Iowa Shared Visions Grant? Specifically:**

1. **For families meeting primary eligibility, does this include all those at or below 185% of the federal poverty level, or only those at or below 130%?**
2. **For enrolling families under secondary eligibility, is the 20% over income limit at or below 185%, or is it for families above 185% with high-risk factors?**

**A:** Eligibility for Shared Visions services is outlined in [Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 64](#). Additional details regarding income eligibility are available in resources for preschool programs under technical assistance on the [Shared Visions webpage](#).

**10. If a program does not have current NAEYC accreditation, can it use Iowa Quality Preschool Program Standards (IQPPS) to qualify for the Shared Visions grant?**

**A:** Programs may select the program standards they will meet—NAEYC Accreditation, IQPPS, or HSPPS—as outlined in the grant application. Selected standards must be met within the first year of the grant award. Programs that do not achieve accreditation, meet the chosen standards, or obtain a waiver from the Child Development Coordinating Council (CDCC) will not be funded. Grantees must maintain the selected

standards throughout the five-year grant cycle, unless unforeseen circumstances arise; any exceptions are considered at the CDCC's discretion.

Grantees must also participate in monitoring for their chosen standards:

- **NAEYC:** Accreditation process conducted by the National Association for the Education of Young Children
- **IQPPS:** State review and activities conducted by the Iowa Department of Education
- **HSPPS:** Periodic federal monitoring conducted by the Office of Head Start

**11. For a Shared Visions grant, what are the requirements for using Teaching Strategies GOLD®? Must the full GOLD assessment be completed three times a year, or is it acceptable to complete the full assessment once and key areas at the other checkpoints?**

**A:** The Child Development Coordinating Council has approved Teaching Strategies GOLD® as an appropriate system for assessing all children. All Shared Visions Preschool grantees are required to maintain subscriptions under the Iowa State Umbrella Agreement for GOLD®. Grantees are expected to complete three checkpoints—fall, winter, and spring—for all children enrolled in Shared Visions classrooms. Checkpoint dates are set by the Iowa Department of Education.