

FY 2026 Preschool Development Grant Subgrant and Microgrant Application

QUESTIONS AND SCORING RUBRIC

SCORING	Exceptional	Enhanced	Basic	No Score
	5	3	1	0
Section I. PROJECT OVERVIEW, NEEDS, AND GOALS				
1. Briefly describe the project or initiative you are requesting funding for. (Max 300 words)	<i>Project or initiative was fully described and included a description as to how the project or initiative relates to increasing slots for children, increasing hours of enrollment for children by providing before and/or after school care or additional days of operation, or</i>	<i>Project or initiative was described in some detail but lacked a specific description as to how the project or initiative relates to increasing slots for children, increasing hours of enrollment for children by providing before and/or after school care or additional days</i>	<i>Project or initiative was not clearly described and included minimal explanation as to how the project or initiative relates to increasing slots for children, increasing hours of enrollment for children by providing before and/or after school care or additional days of</i>	<i>Project or initiative was not described or addressed.</i>

	<i>providing materials for quality improvement.</i>	<i>of operation, or providing materials for quality improvement.</i>	<i>operation, or providing materials for quality improvement.</i>	
2. What specific need does this project or initiative address within your program? (Please explain how this project will enhance learning and/or well-being for students and/or families.)	<i>Need was described clearly in detail and included clear examples as to how this project/initiative will enhance learning or well-being for students and/or families.</i>	<i>Need was described in some detail but lacked specifics as to how this project/initiative will enhance learning or well-being for students and/or families.</i>	<i>Need was not clearly described and included minimal explanation as to how this project/initiative will enhance learning or well-being for students and/or families.</i>	<i>Need was not described or addressed.</i>
3. Describe your goals for this project. What do you hope to accomplish?	<i>Goals were described clearly in detail with an exceptional and relevant explanation of what is to be accomplished through the project/initiative.</i>	<i>Goals were described in some detail but lacked a relevant explanation of what is to be accomplished through the project/initiative.</i>	<i>Goals were not clearly described and/or were not relevant and lacked an explanation of what is to be accomplished through the project/initiative.</i>	<i>Goals were not described or addressed.</i>
Comments:				

Section II. PROJECT TIMELINE

<p>4. What is your timeline for implementing this project? Please include month and year for the following steps in your response:</p> <p><i>If applying for Option 1 to increase slots for children from birth through five (5) years of age, please include the date you expect the classroom(s) to open and any additional steps applicable to this option.</i></p> <p><i>If applying for Option 2 to increase hours and/or days of additional programming, please include the date you plan for the new hours and/or days to be</i></p>	<p><i>A detailed and clear timeline is mapped out for each step or phase of the project/initiative, including the month/year of anticipated implementation.</i></p>	<p><i>A detailed and clear timeline is mapped out, including the month/year of anticipated implementation, but several vital steps were not included.</i></p>	<p><i>A timeline is provided, but it is unclear, lacked details, and/or did not include the month/year of anticipated implementation.</i></p>	<p><i>A timeline was not provided or addressed.</i></p>
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<p>available for families and children and any additional steps applicable to this option.</p> <p>For all options, please include dates and steps in your timeline for a planning phase, purchasing phase, and implementation phase when new materials or equipment will be in use.</p>				
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Comments:

Section III. PROJECT BUDGET

<p>5. Please provide a simple line item budget to demonstrate how funds will be used for personnel, benefits, materials and supplies, equipment</p>	<p><i>A detailed budget was submitted that met grant guidelines and aligned with the overall project/initiative and anticipated accomplishments. Narrative detail</i></p>	<p><i>A budget was submitted that met grant guidelines and aligned with the overall project/initiative and anticipated accomplishments, but a vague</i></p>	<p><i>A budget was provided, but it does not meet grant guidelines and/or does not align with the overall project/initiative and anticipated accomplishments.</i></p>	<p><i>Budget was not provided and/or was not within grant budget guidelines.</i></p>
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<p>(limit of \$5,000), and other expenses. (Please see Grant Budget Award Amounts and Guidelines.docx for award amounts and budget line item designations. Note: This is a reimbursement grant. Funds will only be reimbursed for expenses incurred on or after your award notification. All funds must be drawn down on or before September 29, 2026.)</p>	<p><i>was provided addressing how funds will be used.</i></p>	<p><i>and/or no narrative was provided addressing how funds will be used.</i></p>	<p><i>No narrative was provided addressing how funds will be used.</i></p>	
<p>Comments:</p>				

Section IV. MEASURES OF PROGRAM QUALITY

<p>6. What curriculum are you currently using in your existing early learning classroom(s)? What training has your staff had in using this curriculum? Please identify the name of the curriculum (High Scope, Creative Curriculum, Connect 4 Learning, a similar research-based early childhood curriculum, etc.)</p>	<p><i>A high-quality research-based curriculum is currently being used in existing early learning classrooms. All early learning staff have been adequately trained to use this curriculum.</i></p>	<p><i>A high-quality research-based curriculum is currently being used in existing early learning classrooms. Early learning staff have not had training on how to implement this curriculum or only some of the staff has had training.</i></p>	<p><i>The current curriculum in early learning classrooms is not research-based, but the school or district is planning to implement a new, research-based curriculum and demonstrated a clear plan for its implementation. The plans for implementation are in progress and part of the funding request.</i></p>	<p><i>Curriculum was not identified or was not research-based.</i></p>
<p>7. What certifications, credentials and/or experience do staff currently working in your existing early learning</p>	<p><i>100% of teaching staff hold an early childhood degree and/or licensure and at least 80% of the teaching assistant</i></p>	<p><i>75% of teaching staff hold an early childhood degree and/or licensure and at least 60% of the teaching assistant</i></p>	<p><i>50% of teaching staff hold an early childhood degree and/or licensure and at least 25% of the teaching assistant</i></p>	<p><i>Credentials were not identified, and/or no staff hold an early childhood</i></p>

<p>classroom(s) have? (For teaching staff, how many <u>do or do not</u> hold an early childhood teaching license? For teaching assistants, how many <u>do or do not</u> hold a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential or an early childhood degree? Please note if any are currently in progress.)</p>	<p><i>staff hold an early childhood degree and/or CDA credential or are currently working toward that degree and/or CDA credential.</i></p>	<p><i>staff hold an early childhood degree and/or CDA credential or are currently working toward that degree and/or CDA credential.</i></p>	<p><i>staff hold an early childhood degree and/or CDA credential or are currently working toward that degree and/or CDA credential.</i></p>	<p><i>degree and/or CDA credential.</i></p>
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Comments:

STOP: If applying for Option 3 (materials, small equipment, and/or TDOE approved training for quality improvements), you do not need to complete sections V and VI. Please go to Section VII.

Section V. CAPACITY OF SCHOOL OR DISTRICT TO CARRY OUT PLAN

<p>8. What is the capacity of your school or district to carry out these plans? (Please include information about available space; any previous history of similar work of opening new classrooms, recruiting new students, and/or increasing program hours; and/or the ability to fund staff if necessary).</p>	<p><i>Capacity to carry out the applicant's plan is clear and detailed, and the space that will be needed has been identified. The school or district has a positive history of similar work. The plan includes how new students will be chosen and/or recruited and how high-quality staff will be recruited and/or funded if necessary.</i></p>	<p><i>Capacity to carry out the applicant's plan is clear, and the space that will be needed has been identified. However, some details are lacking such as the history of similar projects, student recruitment plans, staff recruitment or staffing plan, etc.</i></p>	<p><i>Capacity to carry out the applicant's plan is unclear or lacks details. No previous history of expansion has been provided, and there is no explanation of how the increase in available services will be marketed to recruit new high-quality staff and/or students.</i></p>	<p><i>Capacity to carry out the applicant's plan was not discussed or addressed.</i></p>
<p>9. Are there any barriers that might affect your ability to implement this project? (If so, what are they, and how do you</p>	<p><i>Barriers are identified, and there is a clear, realistic plan of how they will be addressed, including</i></p>	<p><i>Barriers are identified, and there is some evidence of a plan for how they will be addressed. However, the</i></p>	<p><i>Barriers are identified, but the plan to address them is vague or lacks details.</i></p>	<p><i>Barriers are not identified or addressed.</i></p>

<i>plan to address them?)</i>	<i>evidence of how similar barriers have been addressed in the past.</i>	<i>response lacks evidence of how similar barriers have been addressed in the past.</i>		
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Comments:

Section VI. PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

10. Do you plan to sustain this project after the grant funding ends? If so, how do you plan to accomplish this? (Please include long-term goals and potential alternate funding sources, etc.)	<i>There is a clear and detailed plan for sustainability to allow this project to continue after the grant funding ends. Alternative funding sources have been identified.</i>	<i>There is a clear plan for sustainability to allow this project to continue after the grant funding ends. However, there are no alternative funding sources identified at this point.</i>	<i>Sustainability is uncertain, and the applicant demonstrates little planning or goals for how this project will continue after grant funding ends.</i>	<i>Sustainability was not discussed or is not being planned.</i>
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Comments:

Section VII. BONUS SECTION (OPTIONAL)

For each response, please answer YES or NO

and provide a brief explanation to support your answer.

SCORING	Exceptional	Enhanced	Basic	No Score
	5	3	1	0
Are you currently accepting childcare subsidies or are you willing to begin accepting them?	YES			NO
NOAre you seeking to add or expand infant care in your grant proposal? (N/A if applying for Option 3 (materials/training for quality improvement))	YES			NO
Are you located in a childcare desert (<i>as defined by the 2024 Tennessee Child Care</i>	YES			NO

Desert Fact Sheet 2024-Child-Care-Desert-Fact-Sheet.pdf?				
<p>Are you serving populations in distressed or at-risk counties (as defined by the County Economic Status Map for Fiscal Year 2026 Transparent Tennessee: OpenECD TNECD Performance Metrics Distressed Counties)?</p>	<p>YES</p>			<p>NO</p>
<p><u>Optional Supporting Materials:</u> (Max of 5 pages) You may upload any additional information to support your application. This may include photographs, letters of support, data, or any other documentation showing the quality of your current early learning programs</p>	<p><i>Supporting materials were exceptional and relevant to the details of the grant application, showing support from the school and community, with detailed data points and/or photos showing a clear need for funding.</i></p>	<p><i>Supporting materials were relevant to the details of the grant application. However, there was little to no evidence of either the support from the school and/or community OR little to no data or other documentation showing the need for funding.</i></p>	<p><i>Supporting materials were acceptable; however, the evidence provided to show support or need for funding was minimal.</i></p>	<p><i>No supporting materials were provided.</i></p>

and/or demonstrating need, etc.				
Comments:				
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS				
Options 1 and/or 2: Subgrants to Expand Access and Services				50
Optional – Bonus Points				25
				75
Option 3: Microgrants to Improve and Enhance Quality				40
Optional – Bonus Points				20
				60