

**NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS:
EQUITY FOR STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND OTHER PROGRAM
BENEFICIARIES**

Section 427 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA) ([20 U.S.C. 1228a](#)) applies to applicants for grant awards under this program.

ALL APPLICANTS FOR NEW GRANT AWARDS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN THEIR APPLICATIONS TO ADDRESS THIS PROVISION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER THIS PROGRAM.

Please respond to the following requests for information:

1. Describe how your entity's existing mission, policies, or commitments ensure equitable access to, and equitable participation in, the proposed project or activity.

The Kentucky Early Intervention System (KEIS) is a statewide program with fifteen regional offices serving as local lead agencies. Regional demarcations of the Kentucky Area Development Districts established the regions in 1992, resulting in offices serving multiple counties. All local lead agencies follow uniform regulations and procedures. Referrals for services are accepted from anyone who suspects an infant or toddler has a developmental delay or disability. Referrals are documented and followed up. Early intervention service providers enroll with the Department for Public Health as vendors and identify counties that will be served. Early intervention services can be provided in-person or virtually. State staff monitor the availability of services in each region. Child find is also monitored annually through Medicaid.

2. Based on your proposed project or activity, what barriers may impede equitable access and participation of students, educators, or other beneficiaries?

The family's location in rural areas where there is a dearth of healthcare services is a barrier. Other barriers to equitable access to early intervention services include a lack of awareness of the program, a shortage of specific professionals (primarily physical and occupational therapists), and enrolled providers being unwilling to drive more than 40 miles to a child's home. Some families do not want services in the home and/or do not have the capacity to participate virtually.

3. Based on the barriers identified, what steps will you take to address such barriers to equitable access and participation in the proposed project or activity?

The reimbursement rate for early intervention service providers has recently increased. The goal is that the increased rates will encourage providers to be more willing to serve families in their homes.

Two initiatives are planned. One is a child-finding campaign in partnership with the regional offices to raise awareness among families and community agencies of the KEIS program. A new partnership with childcare through the Help Me Grow referral/surveillance program recently started.

4. What is your timeline, including targeted milestones, for addressing these identified barriers?

Initiative 1: Child Find

- April 1-detailed implementation plan outlined and approved
- April 30-all promotional items ordered and delivered
- July 1-first regional activity kick-off
- July through October-continue regional activities

Initiative 2: Childcare Partnership

- Establish bi-monthly check-ins with Help Me Grow staff to review issues and data
- Continue support and check-ins through the end of the fiscal year
- Engage a group of stakeholders to review progress to date in January; make recommendations

Notes:

1. Applicants are not required to have mission statements or policies that align with equity in order to submit an application.
2. Applicants may identify any barriers that may impede equitable access and participation in the proposed project or activity, including, but not limited to, barriers based on economic disadvantage, gender, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, disability, age, language, migrant status, rural status, homeless status or housing insecurity, pregnancy, parenting, or caregiving status, and sexual orientation.
3. Applicants may have already included some or all of this required information in the narrative sections of their applications or their State Plans. In responding to this requirement, for each question, applicants may provide a cross-reference to the section(s) and page number(s) in their applications or State Plans that includes the information responsive to that question on this form or may restate that information on this form.

Paperwork Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1894-0005. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain a benefit. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate or suggestions for improving this individual collection, send your comments to ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference OMB Control Number 1894-0005. All other comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual form may be addressed to either (a) the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section in the competition Notice Inviting Applications, or (b) your assigned program officer.