



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Dear [CSSO]:

In the appropriations bill for fiscal year 2015 that Congress passed and the President signed into law on December 16, 2014, Congress included \$14 million to provide additional support to local educational agencies (LEAs) that, in calendar year 2014, experienced a “significant increase” in the number of immigrant children and youth enrolled in their schools. This letter outlines the U.S. Department of Education’s plan for awarding and administering these funds and requests a response from you by Friday, April 3, 2015, if you do not wish to receive the funds for which you are eligible.

Public Law 113-235, the “Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015,” (2015 Appropriations Act) authorizes the Secretary of Education to make grants to State educational agencies (SEAs) in States that meet certain conditions. Specifically, the 2015 Appropriations Act authorizes grants to SEAs in States that have at least one county where, during calendar year 2014, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) placed a minimum of 50 unaccompanied children<sup>1</sup> with an appropriate sponsor (parent, family member, or other appropriate adult) while their immigration cases are resolved. The U.S. Department of Education will allocate funds to each eligible SEA based on its State’s share of unaccompanied children, as reported by ORR for calendar year 2014 (January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014). Based on the ORR 2014 data, of the total \$14 million available to States, [State Name] is eligible to receive [\$xxxxx]. The final amount may increase depending on whether one or more eligible SEAs choose to decline their share of funds.

Upon receipt of funds, each SEA must award subgrants to each LEA that experienced a significant increase (as defined by the State), during the 2014–15 school year, in the number or percentage of immigrant children and youth (as defined in section 3301(6) of Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended) who are enrolled in their schools, as compared to the average of the two preceding years (school years 2012–13 and 2013–14). Each SEA is responsible for establishing a definition of significant increase, including whether or not to use a number or percentage calculation in the definition, for the purpose of determining an LEA’s eligibility to receive these funds.

In sum, the U.S. Department of Education will allocate funds to SEAs based on ORR data; then each SEA will make subgrants to its eligible LEAs based on the SEA’s definition of significant increase in the number or percentage of immigrant children and youth. The specific method by which an SEA determines the amount of each LEA’s subgrant, based on the definition the SEA develops, is left to the SEA’s discretion.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on unaccompanied children, see the U.S. Department of Education Fact Sheet, available at: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/rights/guid/unaccompanied-children.pdf>.

As a condition of receiving funds, the 2015 Appropriations Act requires each SEA that receives funds to submit a report to the Secretary identifying the LEAs that received subgrants and describing the definition of significant increase it used to make these subgrants. Please note that the SEA may not reserve any portion of its grant for administrative costs. For that reason, we do not plan to include reporting requirements beyond what the 2015 Appropriations Act stipulates.

While some States experienced large increases in their populations of immigrant children and youth (including unaccompanied children) during the 2014–15 school year and will welcome this financial relief, other States may have experienced relatively small increases and thus, for that reason or for other reasons specific to a particular State, may choose to decline these funds. If your SEA wishes to decline these funds, please send an email from yourself or your designee to Supreet Anand at: [supreet.anand@ed.gov](mailto:supreet.anand@ed.gov) by 11:59 pm EDT, April 3, 2015, indicating your receipt of this letter and your decision to decline your SEA’s share of the \$14 million. We intend to make grants to eligible SEAs as soon as possible and, therefore, request your prompt response only if your SEA wishes to decline these funds.

If we do not hear from you or your designee by 11:59 pm EDT, April 3, 2015, then we will assume that you choose to accept your SEA’s share of the funds, and you will receive a grant award notice shortly thereafter. In the meantime, please review the enclosed “Questions and Answers” document. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact Supreet Anand at (202) 401-9795 or by email at: [supreet.anand@ed.gov](mailto:supreet.anand@ed.gov). Thank you for your continued efforts to enhance educational opportunity and excellence for all of your students.

Sincerely,

Deborah S. Delisle  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure: Questions and Answers

cc: State Title III Director