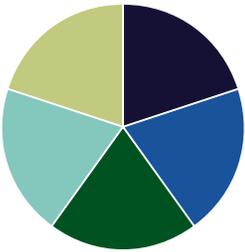




Race to the Top–Early Learning Challenge

(RTT-ELC) discretionary grant program supports states in building statewide systems that raise the quality of Early Learning and Development Programs and increase access to high-quality programs for children with high needs, so that all children enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

The RTT-ELC discretionary grant program is administered jointly by the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services. It is organized around five key areas that represent the foundation of an effective early learning and development reform agenda:



- ▲ **Successful State Systems** built on broad-based stakeholder participation and effective governance structures.
- ▲ **High-Quality Accountable Programs** based on a common set of standards aligning Head Start, CCDF, IDEA, Title I of the ESEA, state-funded preschools, and similar programs to create a unified statewide system of early learning and development.
- ▲ **Promoting Early Learning and Development Outcomes for Children** through the implementation of common statewide standards for young children, comprehensive assessments aligned to those standards across a range of domains, and clear guidelines for improving the quality of programs and services that promote health and engage families in the care and education of young children.
- ▲ **A Great Early Childhood Education Workforce** that is supported through professional development, career advancement opportunities, differentiated compensation, and incentives to improve knowledge, skills, and abilities to promote the learning and development of young children.
- ▲ **Measuring Outcomes and Progress** through the collection, organization, and understanding of evidence of young children’s progress across a range of domains, as well as implementing comprehensive data systems and using data to improve instruction, practices, services, and policies.

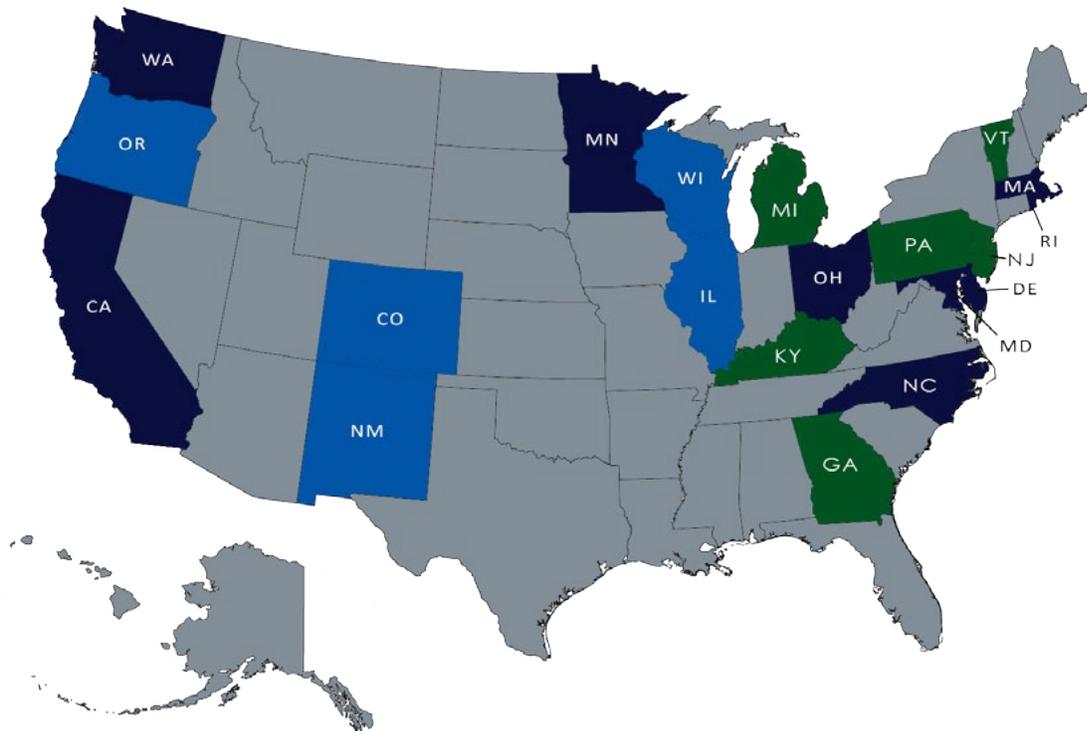
RTT-ELC grantees have proposed ambitious plans and targets to improve program quality and outcomes for young children and to increase the number of high-need children who are attending high-quality early learning and development programs. Grantees will be measured on their progress on the following performance metrics:

- ✓ Increasing the number and percentage of early learning and development programs participating in state’s tiered quality rating and improvement system (TQRIS);
- ✓ Increasing the number and percentage of early learning and development programs in the top tiers of the state’s TQRIS; and
- ✓ Increasing the number and percentage of high-need children in the early learning and development programs that are in the top tiers of the state’s TQRIS.

In addition, those grantees that identified these focused investment areas as part of their state plan will be measured on their progress toward:

- ✓ Leveraging resources to meet health promotion targets;
- ✓ Increasing the number of early childhood educators receiving credentials from postsecondary institutions and professional development providers with programs that are aligned to the state’s Workforce Knowledge and Competency Framework; and
- ✓ Increasing the number and percentage of early childhood educators who are progressing to higher levels of credentials that align with the state’s Workforce Knowledge and Competency Framework.

Learn more at <http://ed.gov/programs/racetothetop-earlylearningchallenge>



Thirty-five states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico applied for the 2011 round of RTT-ELC grants, and 16 states plus the District of Columbia applied for the 2013 round of grants. Since 2011, more than \$1 billion has been awarded for projects in 20 states.



The Early Learning Challenge Technical Assistance Program (ELC TA) was established to support the RTT-ELC grantees in the successful implementation of their RTT-ELC projects. The ELC TA program also supports non-grantees as they implement early learning reforms in their states. The ELC TA program provides and facilitates responsive, timely, and high-quality technical assistance through an action-oriented partnership among the RTT-ELC program office and other federal program offices, the ELC TA program staff (including the State Support Team experts), and more than 40 early learning technical assistance organizations.

Grantee States

Round 1 — 2011

California	\$75,000,000
Delaware	\$49,878,774
Maryland	\$49,999,143
Massachusetts	\$50,000,000
Minnesota	\$44,858,313
North Carolina	\$69,991,121
Ohio	\$69,993,362
Rhode Island	\$50,000,000
Washington	\$60,000,000

Round 2 — 2012

Colorado	\$44,888,832
Illinois	\$52,498,043
New Mexico	\$37,500,000
Oregon	\$30,763,353
Wisconsin	\$34,052,084

Round 3 — 2013

Georgia	\$51,739,896
Kentucky	\$44,348,482
Michigan	\$51,737,456
New Jersey	\$44,286,728
Pennsylvania	\$51,734,519
Vermont	\$36,931,076