

The list below constitutes frequently asked questions about the Judy Center Expansion Grant. This page will be updated with frequently asked questions and answers on a continual basis.

QUESTION:

Can the \$80,000 in-kind include the LEA supervisor, grant manager, and administrative assistant?

ANSWER:

The \$80,000 in-kind funding must be applied toward the **required** Judy Center positions of site-based coordinator and family service coordinator.

QUESTION:

Will there be flexibility with the timeline for hiring staff?

ANSWER:

The new site's staff should be onboarded by January. It is a grant requirement that the site be staffed by January for its first year of operation. Onboarding staff in year one allows the new staff to build their capacity to understand the Judy Center requirements and outreach to families and children in the catchment area.

QUESTION:

Since the NOGA will not be awarded until October 1st, should October be the first month used in the Outreach Plan?

ANSWER:

Your Outreach Plan will start in October and end in March. If your site is selected for an FY25 Expansion Grant, you will update the plan for the remainder of the grant period in March.

QUESTION:

Do signatures need to be handwritten, or is electronic okay?

ANSWER:

Electronic signatures are acceptable.

QUESTION:

What will we do about the KRA or lack thereof for FY25?

ANSWER:

MSDE is still vetting new KRA assessment options. However, we must include a standardized measurement tool in the expansion grant. Please use the emerging readiness, approaching readiness, and demonstrating readiness indicators to project where students will be for FY25. We are hopeful the new tool will align with these indicators. If it does not, we will adjust once the assessment tool is released.

QUESTION:

The Steering Committee and social media will be part of the outreach plan. Should we count them more than once?

ANSWER:

You should not include them more than once in the plan for the first six months. We are looking for various outreach activities that give the reviewers a clear plan for how you are communicating with the community and others in the school about the Judy Center. Outreach is a deliberate communication effort to inform the community about the Judy Center Early Learning Hub and its array of programs, services, and supports. The primary goal is to convey how the Judy Center Early Learning Hub can play a crucial role in supporting child development and positively influencing school readiness. This can involve meeting with potential partners, attending partner and school-wide events, meeting with local businesses and healthcare providers, and more.

QUESTION:

Do I budget for a full year of salaries even if we may not be fully staffed until January 1?

ANSWER:

Staffing is not required until January. You will budget for salaries from January 1, 2025, until the end of the grant period. However, if you plan to bring staff on board before January, the additional months should be included.

QUESTION:

Judy Center Partners- Page 19 of the GIG states, *"This list is not all-inclusive. Add additional partners..."* Should we include partners who participate and contribute to the work of the Judy Center even if they haven't signed an MOU? If so, how many from one agency can be listed?

ANSWER:

There are no required MOUs for year one. Please refer to the Community Partnership Development section of the Planning Deliverables Checklist. In the chart, you should list any potential partners and add the primary point of contact for each agency/ potential partner. If there are already partners who are working with other Judy Centers and will work with the new site, they should be included as well.

QUESTION:

Why are there only seven (7) expansion sites for FY25 and not nine (9)?

ANSWER:

Seven sites were funded for FY25.

QUESTION:

Will the Customer Service/ Information Session PowerPoint be available for us to review?

ANSWER:

You may access the PowerPoint presentation by clicking [here](#).