



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee members
From: Daniel Dickerson, Fiscal Analyst
Date: May 8, 2015
Subject: Grant Request #2757, #2758

Enclosed please find two (2) items that the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the administration. One (1) limited-service position is associated with these requests.

JFO #2757 – One (1) limited-service position within the Agency of Education. The position would be titled Pre-K Monitoring Coordinator and paid for from funding related to the Vermont Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge grant (JFO #2668). The duties of the position would be to recruit and facilitate a PreK Monitoring Working Group, and help to design, manage and implement the PreK Monitoring System in Vermont.

[JFO received 4/27/15]

JFO #2758 - \$380,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to the Vermont Department of Public Service. These funds will be used as part of REVEAL (Recognizing Efficiency Value through Energy Asset Labeling), a collaborative program between Vermont and New Hampshire to make energy efficiency visible in the Northern New England real estate market by advancing building energy labeling, benchmarking and disclosure in VT and NH.

[JFO received 4/30/15]

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Daniel Dickerson at (802) 828-2472; ddickerson@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions or would like an item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by May 22, 2015 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of these requests.

RECEIVED

JFO 2757

APR 27 2015

JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

Agency of Human Services
Business Office
108 Hurricane Lane, Suite 103
Williston, VT 05495
802-871-3005 fax, 802-871-3001

TO: Justin Johnson, Secretary, Agency of Administration

THROUGH: Molly Ordway-Paulger, Director of Classification, Compensation & HRIS
Department of Personnel

FROM: Hal Cohen, Secretary, Agency of Human Services

CC: Rebecca Holcombe, Agency of Education

DATE: April 2, 2015

SUBJECT: Request for Additional Limited Service Position
Grant S412A130038 Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

The Office of the Governor was recently awarded the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge by the US Department of Education. This grant award provides funding in the amount of \$36,931,076 to improve the quality of early learning and development and close the achievement gap for children with high needs.

With this funding, Vermont plans four major investment strategies for these funds:

- Capitalize on the broad and deep professional linkages and relationship in a small, rural state to maximize service reach and effectiveness, and the efficient implementation of the State Plan
<http://governor.vermont.gov/sites/governor/files/VT%20ECH%20Framework%2010-29-13%20%282%29.pdf>;
- Invest in people through expanded personal and professional development to drive effectiveness and where needed, change;
- Improve standards, assessment and data integration to drive increased program quality and improvement and;
- Expand supports and services to improve outcomes for children in our highest need rural areas.

This work cannot currently be done by existing staff as the complexities and demands of successfully implementing this grant require dedicated professional full-time focus.

All required and relevant grant documentation has been attached to this request. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Manuela Fonseca at (802) 479-1418. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

APR 15 2015

**STATE OF VERMONT
Joint Fiscal Committee Review
Limited Service - Grant Funded
Position Request Form**

This form is to be used by agencies and departments when additional grant funded positions are being requested. Review and approval by the Department of Human Resources must be obtained prior to review by the Department of Finance and Management. The Department of Finance will forward requests to the Joint Fiscal Office for JFC review. A Request for Classification Review Form (RFR) and an updated organizational chart showing to whom the new position(s) would report must be attached to this form. Please attach additional pages as necessary to provide enough detail.

Agency/Department: Agency of Human Services (on behalf of AOE) Date: 04/02/2015

Name and Phone (of the person completing this request): Diane Cummings 802-871-3079

Request is for:

- Positions funded and attached to a new grant.
 Positions funded and attached to an existing grant approved by JFO # 2668

1. Name of Granting Agency, Title of Grant, Grant Funding Detail (attach grant documents):

US Department of Education
 Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge
 Grants Documents previously submitted with approved JFO #2668

2. List below titles, number of positions in each title, program area, and limited service end date (information should be based on grant award and should match information provided on the RFR) position(s) will be established only after JFC final approval:

<u>Title* of Position(s) Requested</u>	<u># of Positions</u>	<u>Division/Program</u>	<u>Grant Funding Period/Anticipated End Date</u>
Pre-K Monitoring Coordinator	1.0	Agency of Education	1/1/2014 to 12/31/2017

*Final determination of title and pay grade to be made by the Department of Human Resources Classification Division upon submission and review of Request for Classification Review.

3. Justification for this request as an essential grant program need:

The purpose of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) program is to improve the quality of early learning and development and close the achievement gap for children with high needs. Failure to accept these grant funds will prohibit the state from moving forward with its plan for moving our early childhood system forward by improving quality and access of education and services.

I certify that this information is correct and that necessary funding, space and equipment for the above position(s) are available (required by 32 VSA Sec. 5(b)).

Dixie Henry 4/13/15
 Signature of Agency or Department Head Date

Molly Paul 4.13.15
 Approved/Denied by Department of Human Resources Date

[Signature] 4/21/15
 Approved/Denied by Finance and Management Date

[Signature] 04/23/15
 Approved/Denied by Secretary of Administration Date

Comments:

APR 15 2015

Agency of Human Services
Business Office
208 Hurricane Lane, Suite 103
Williston, VT 05495
802-871-3005 fax 802-871-3001

TO: Sen. Jane Kitchel, Chair, Joint Fiscal Committee

FROM: Hal Cohen, Secretary, Agency of Human Services

CC: Justin Johnson, Agency of Administration
Rebecca Holcombe, Agency of Education

DATE: April 2, 2015

SUBJECT: Request for Additional Limited Service Position
Grant S412A130038 Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge

The Office of the Governor was awarded the Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge by the US Department of Education. This grant award provides funding in the amount of \$36,931,076 to improve the quality of early learning and development and close the achievement gap for children with high needs. Please find attached request for Pre-K Monitoring Coordinator Limited Service Position to support the activities of the grant. Initially, it was anticipated that a contract would support this activity so there are funds to support this change. We sought and received approval from our Federal Partners to move forward with this change.

Request for PreK Monitoring Coordinator Position

Major Job Duties and Expectations:

- Recruit a stakeholder group to comprise the PreK Monitoring Work Group; the work group is to include representation from across relevant agencies and from different settings in which prekindergarten (PreK) education is provided.
- Convene and facilitate bi-weekly or monthly meetings of the PreK Monitoring Work Group.
- Work with the contractor selected to design Vermont's PreK Monitoring System and act as a liaison between the contractor and the PreK Monitoring Work Group.
- Provide input on the design of Vermont's PreK Monitoring System to the contractor to assure the design builds upon the state's current monitoring systems (e.g., child care licensing, STARS).
- Create materials and provide information on the PreK Monitoring System to the field through various means (e.g., face-to-face, webinar, fact sheets).
- Pilot the new PreK Monitoring System under the director of the contractor and PreK Monitoring Work Group. Tasks include recruiting programs and assessors, gathering relevant data, reporting results, and developing strategies with the program for continuous improvement.
- Work with the contractor and the PreK Monitoring Work Group to analyze the results of the pilot, refine the PreK Monitoring System as needed, and transition to full implementation.
- Manage and implement the Vermont PreK Monitoring System. Implementation will include onsite visits, desk reviews, gathering data from several sources, and communication across agencies, and with PreK programs.
- Monitor the quality of implementation of the system in consultation with the with the PreK Monitoring Work Group.
- Represent the Agency of Education on relevant committees.
- Work with Agency of Education staff to align related activities (e.g., assessments, early learning standards).
- Other duties as assigned

Justification:

Vermont's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant includes the development, implementation, and evaluation of a PreK Monitoring System. The original proposal called for issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify an individual or an organization to research, design, pilot, evaluate and fully implement a monitoring

system. Over the past few months, we have released two RFPs for this work. Unfortunately, we did not receive any proposals whatsoever.

Given the importance of creating and implementing a PreK Monitoring system, we will divide the work into two overlapping segments: (1) an RFP for a contractor to design the system, and (2) create a full-time limited state position for a PreK Monitoring Coordinator to work with the selected contractor. We believe that the contract for the design and evaluation would attract more national research organization, and the limited state PreK Monitoring Coordinator position would be more attractive to Vermonters due to the benefits package and its predictability.

**Integrated Support for Learning
Pre-K - Middle**

