

Notice of Funding Opportunity  
Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant

Application Due Date: March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Issued By  
The Nevada Department of Education  
Office of Early Learning and Development

Funding Period:	July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026– June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2027
Funds Available:	\$13,646,507
Source of Funding:	State General Fund
Type of Grant:	<i>Competitive</i>
Submission:	<a href="#">Smartsheet</a>

*\*Subject to change pending Legislative Appropriation\**

**Questions related to this funding should be addressed to:**

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Contents

PART I – APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES .....3

    INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND .....3

        Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant Funding Opportunity .....3

        Eligible Applicants .....3

        Goals and Priorities .....3

        Participation and Evaluation .....3

        Technical Assistance and Support .....4

        Review Process .....4

        Proposed Timeline .....5

        Appeals Process .....5

        Whistleblower Protections .....5

    OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS .....6

        Pre-Award Assessment (PAA) .....6

        Certification .....6

        Assurances .....6

PART II – APPLICATION .....6

    Applicant Information and Program Form .....7

    Program Narrative .....7

    Budget .....7

    Pre-Award Assessment .....8

    Grant Assurances and Certifications .....8

PART III - APPENDICES .....9

    Appendix A: Scoring Rubrics .....9

    Appendix B: Glossary .....12

## PART I – APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

### INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

#### Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant Funding Opportunity

The Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant was established with the passage of [Senate Bill \(SB\) 460](#) in June 2025 during the 83<sup>rd</sup> session of the Nevada Legislature. These funds are intended to establish an innovative new program or to expand an existing early literacy program that supports children less than the age of six years old, their families, and early childhood professionals.

- Source of funding- State General Funds
- Amount of funding- \$13,646,507 per fiscal year
- Funding period: July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027
- Funds not committed for expenditure on or before June 30 of the fiscal year revert to the State General Fund.
- In the narrative, applicants must include an implementation plan which is financially sound and proposes to use all funds awarded within Fiscal Year 27.
- Funds awarded through the competitive application process must supplement and not supplant existing state or federal funds

#### Eligible Applicants

Eligible applications include school districts, sponsors of charter schools, institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), or non-profit organizations.

#### Goals and Priorities

Priority will be given to applicants who:

- Have demonstrated sustained success in improving the literacy and readiness for entering kindergarten of children less than 6 years of age; OR
- Provide services to geographical areas with higher proportion of children entering kindergarten who have demonstrated a deficit across early learning domains during the immediately preceding two years.

#### Participation and Evaluation

Each program supported by a grant awarded must:

- Serve children who are less than 6 years of age;
- Be evidence-based;
- Provide appropriate individualized accommodations and supports for children with disabilities;
- Include a plan of reporting accountability for the performance of the program; and
- Include an implementation plan which is financially sound and proposes to use all funds awarded within FY27.

#### Reporting Requirements

All subrecipients are required to submit requests for reimbursement and final financial reports in alignment with the due dates in the subaward agreement. All entities awarded funding must submit data as requested by NDE for NDE monitoring and reporting purposes. Entities that receive grant funding shall participate, as requested, in any United States Department of Education or State evaluation of the grant program and will cooperate with any audit or examination of records with respect to such funds. Subrecipients are also required to submit biannual monitoring reports aligned to their progress on stated goals and outcomes of their approved application.

#### Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements

Programs **must** track and report student outcomes to the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) to measure program effectiveness and guide continuous improvement. **All** subrecipients will be evaluated for financial risk and will undergo financial subrecipient monitoring, conducted on an annual basis throughout the grant performance period and liquidation of the grant. Subrecipients will also be evaluated for program accountability and effectiveness in promoting early childhood literacy.

**Technical Assistance and Support**

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) Office of Early Learning and Development (OELD) is committed to supporting all eligible entities applying for this grant opportunity through technical assistance and support. The link for the technical assistance webinar opportunity identified below will be posted with all other information contained in this NOFO on the Department’s webpage for [Grant Information](#).

For general questions about this competitive grant application process, please submit inquiries to all three contacts listed below for subsequent development of an FAQ document, to be published no later than **48 hours** before the scheduled webinar.

*Technical Assistance Contacts*

Name	Email
Program	<a href="mailto:kaela.chantawansri@doe.nv.gov">kaela.chantawansri@doe.nv.gov</a>
Budget/Electronic Grants Management Program	<a href="mailto:grantsinfo@doe.nv.gov">grantsinfo@doe.nv.gov</a>
Pre-Award Assessment Technical Assistance	<a href="mailto:sidcompliance@doe.nv.gov">sidcompliance@doe.nv.gov</a>

*Scheduled Technical Assistance:*

Technical Assistance	Date and Time
Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant Webinar	March 6, 2026, at 1:00pm

**Review Process**

*Application Submission*

Applications should be submitted via Smartsheet to the Office of Early Learning and Development: [Smartsheet](#). Applications must be received no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, March 13, 2026**.

*Committee Review*

Upon receipt of grant applications, NDE will review each application to determine whether all materials were submitted as required; if the application lacks necessary documents, it will be removed from further consideration. Completed applications will be shared with the Review Committee for evaluation pursuant to NDE Policy and Procedure 10.2, Funding Opportunities, available upon request.

*Agency Goals and Priorities*

The Nevada Department of Education's Office of Early Learning and Development (OELD) prioritizes expanding access to high-quality early childhood education, strengthening professional development for educators, supporting data-driven decision-making, and ensuring alignment across early learning programs from infancy through third grade. These priorities directly inform the evaluation of the Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant, ensuring that funded programs align with state goals.

Subrecipients of this grant must demonstrate a focus on expanding pre-K access, particularly for underserved populations, ensuring participation in QRIS and adherence to Nevada Pre-K Standards, and assessing teacher qualifications and ongoing professional development. Programs will also be evaluated on their use of assessments and data tracking to measure student growth, their ability to engage families effectively, and their collaboration with community organizations to provide comprehensive services. These priorities help ensure that grant-funded programs contribute to the state’s long-term vision for equitable, high-quality early childhood education.

*Scoring and/or Allocation Methodologies*

The Review Committee will review and score the applications in accordance with the Scoring Rubric provided within this NOFO (Appendix A). All Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs grants will be awarded through a fair and impartial review process. To maintain fairness and equity, the committee will use a standardized, objective review process, assessing applications based on the quality and completeness of responses, fiscal responsibility, and alignment with funding guidelines. Each component will be scored according to the rubric’s defined criteria. The majority of the

**Nevada Department of Education**

Notice of Funding Opportunity

*Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant*



score will be based on the review committee’s assessment of key program components, and the Pre-Award Assessment Score will contribute to the final evaluation.

Only applications that strongly align with program goals and fully comply with application instructions will be considered for funding. Final funding decisions will be based on applicant scores, and available funds. Upon notice of award, applicants may request the scoring rubrics developed to determine allocation. NDE uses a combination of agency goals and priorities, scoring/allocation methodologies, and applicant prioritization to determine awards and allocations based on the rubric score of the application.

**Proposed Timeline**

The proposed timeline for the application period, review of applications, creation of the subaward agreement, and the funding period are available below:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>
<i>February 23, 2026</i>	Applications made available to applicants
<i>March 13, 2026</i>	Applications Due
<i>April 1, 2026</i>	Applications Reviewed by NDE Review Committee
<i>April 13, 2026</i>	Awardees Notified of Award or Non-Award through Notice of Award Letters
<i>April 13, 2026</i>	ePAGE opens for subgrantees to build FY27 budget
<i>July 1, 2026</i>	Effective Funding Date / Beginning of Period of Performance
<i>Ongoing</i>	Requests for Reimbursement (RFR) due 21 days after first complete month of funding; Programmatic Reports Due as required
<i>June 30, 2027</i>	All Funds Obligated or Expended, End of Funding Period
<i>July 21, 2027</i>	Final RFR due
<i>July 30, 2027</i>	Final Financial Report Due

*\* Please note that dates are subject to change. NDE will post any changes on the NDE website.*

**Appeals Process**

Any applicant who applies for the award but does not receive funding is entitled to appeal the decision. All review materials and scoring rubrics are public records and may be requested at any time. An applicant, in prelude to or as part of their appeal process, may request the supporting documentation detailing their assessment scores and the assessment scores of the awarded applicants.

Applicants have 10 business days from the date they receive notification to submit an appeal request. Once an appeal has been requested, all allocations must be paused until the appeal has been resolved. Upon receipt, the grant lead, in collaboration with their office director, has 5 business days to provide a response to the appeal to include justification and information related to the review process. The applicant may accept or refute the response; if they refute the response, review of the appeal is elevated to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, who has 10 business days to provide a determination. Please review Policy and Procedure 6.8, Complaint and Appeal Procedures for more information.

**Whistleblower Protections**

Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.217, applicants, subrecipients, and employees must be informed of Whistleblower rights and protections under both 41 U.S.C 4712 and NRS 281.611-671. An employee must not be discharged, demoted, or

otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing to a person or body information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of gross mismanagement of a Federal contract or grant, a gross waste of Federal funds, an abuse of authority relating to a Federal contract or grant, a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or a violation of law, rule, or regulation related to a Federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant. You may report fraud, waste, and abuse via [the Nevada Fraud Hotline](#).

## **OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **Pre-Award Assessment (PAA)**

The Pre-Award Assessment (PAA) (Attachment D) is the first assessment conducted as part of the financial risk-based assessment cycle. The PAA specifically determines whether a potential subrecipient or contractor is eligible to receive state or federal funds. The score is then used to determine financial subrecipient monitoring. For competitive applications, the PAA score is used as a weighted factor during the evaluation and review of a potential awardee, as required by state regulation. A Subrecipient PAA score is effective for one fiscal year (e.g., if an application is for FY26, the PAA is effective for FY26; a new score will be calculated for FY27).

The PAA is in alignment with federal requirements under 2 CFR 200, state requirements as outlined within the State Administrative Manual and the Office of Federal Assistance Grant Policy Manual, and best practices as cited by the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, the PAA brings NDE into compliance with state and federal requirements to assess subrecipients prior to awarding funds.

The subrecipient PAA is completed once for each subrecipient across all awards, with only three questions asked specific to each grant. If the applicant has previously completed the EGMP FY27 Financial Subrecipient Monitoring Application Supplement for the Pre-Award Assessment, the applicant needs only submit the attached grant-specific questionnaire as part of their application materials. If the applicant has not previously completed this documentation, they must submit a complete Pre-Award Assessment packet and submit copies of all associated policies and ledgers.

### **Certification**

Please see Attachment E, Certification Form; this form is required to complete the application. Program-specific certifications may also be added here.

### **Assurances**

Please see Attachment F for the relevant assurances for this award. Please note that assurances, once signed, are a binding legal contract setting the terms and conditions of this grant award. A signed copy of the applicable assurances must be submitted for consideration. Please read the assurances and their requirements thoroughly prior to submission.

## **PART II – APPLICATION**

The application will be reviewed to ensure: (1) the application is submitted by the deadline; (2) the application includes all required elements; and (3) all required information is included. All submissions will be scored by a review committee pursuant to NDE Policy and Procedure 10.2, Funding Opportunities, and in alignment with the rubric designed for this application. Please note that once the application has been submitted, no changes may be made to the scope of work submitted and approved during the development of the subaward agreement or subsequent revisions. The project plan submitted is binding upon approval.

All requested forms must be submitted for consideration, to include:

- Applicant Information (Attachment A)
  - Program Form
- Program Narrative (to be written by applicant and uploaded)
- FY27 Budget Summary and Narrative Template (Attachment B), prepared using Budget Preparation Resources (Attachment C)
- Pre-Award Assessment; (Attachment D) prepared using Pre-award assessment rubric (Attachment G)
- Statement of Certification (Attachment E)
- General State Grant Assurances, signed (Attachment F)

**Applicant Information and Program Form**

Applicant information for the applying entity will be required for identification and compliance purposes, including up-to-date contacts for the organization (Attachment A).

Applicants must complete the *Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant Application and Program Form* (Attachment A). This form includes instructions to complete and submit the Program Description outlined in the next section. *Please note, funds awarded through the competitive application process must supplement and not supplant existing state or federal funds.*

**Eligibility requirements for the Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant**

- (a) Serve children who are less than 6 years of age and meet one of the following:
- a. Have demonstrated sustained success in improving the literacy and readiness for entering kindergarten of children less than 6 years of age; OR
  - b. Provide services to geographical areas with higher proportion of children entering kindergarten who have demonstrated a deficit across early learning domains during the immediately preceding two years.

**Program Narrative**

Attachment A contains further information on the Program Narrative. The narrative should be formatted with 1.5 or 2.0 spacing, 1-inch margins, 12pt. Times New Roman font, no longer than 10 pages in length. **Please submit the Program Narrative as a separate Word or PDF document through the [submission link](#).** The scoring rubric can be found in Appendix A.

**Program Narrative must describe in detail how your program meets the following grant criteria:**

<p><b>Description of the early childhood literacy &amp; readiness program (40 points).</b> This must address the following program elements at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Key program components used to support literacy and readiness</i></li> <li>• <i>Demonstrate program’s success in improving early literacy and readiness outcomes;</i></li> <li>• <i>Description of community need; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Alignment with early learning standards or kindergarten readiness.</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Demonstrate evidence-based practices for high quality early childhood literacy &amp; readiness program. (10 points)</b>          At a minimum, this section should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Developmentally appropriate practices</i></li> <li>• <i>Cite research and child outcomes</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Provide appropriate individualized accommodations and supports for children with disabilities. (10 points)</b>          At a minimum, this section should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Description of inclusive program</i></li> <li>• <i>Types of accommodations and supports</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>A plan for reporting accountability on the performance of the early childhood literacy and readiness program upon project completion. (15 points)</b>          At a minimum, this section should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Program evaluation plan</i></li> <li>• <i>Clear performance metrics and benchmarks</i></li> <li>• <i>Data collection methods</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>An implementation plan which is financially sound, aligns with the budget submitted, and proposes to use all funds awarded within FY27. (20 points)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Realistic project timeline and cost estimates</i></li> <li>• <i>Alignment between proposed activities and budget line items</i></li> <li>• <i>Plan for monitoring expenditures to ensure awarded funds are fully spent by June 30th, 2027.</i></li> </ul>

**Budget**

## Nevada Department of Education

### Notice of Funding Opportunity

#### *Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant*

Applicants must use Attachment B *FY27 Budget Summary and Narrative* template that will be provided upon email request to [Kaela.Chantawansri@doe.nv.gov](mailto:Kaela.Chantawansri@doe.nv.gov) by applicant. The *FY27 Budget Summary and Narrative* Template should be completed in accordance with the guidelines provided in the *FY27 Budget Preparation Guidelines & Chart of Accounts Supplemental Resource* document, which has been included as a resource with this NOFO.



For each expenditure, please provide, at minimum:

- The total number of units (or FTE, in the case of personnel) and the budgeted price per unit for each expenditure; the template is formatted to calculate the subtotals within each budget sheet (Instruction and Support Services), and the totals by Object Code will be auto populated into the Summary tab.
- The narrative description in the applicable section for each line-item expenditure is identified within the budget sheet.

Please be sure to reference the instructions provided in the *FY27 Budget Preparation Guidelines & Chart of Accounts Supplemental Resource* document regarding what is required to be included in the narrative description, as well as to assist you in placing expenditures in the correct Object Code. All expenditures should be aligned to the implementation plan and should be reasonable, necessary, and allowable to support the implementation of the grant requirements and application.

#### **Pre-Award Assessment**

All applicants who have not previously submitted a current fiscal year EGMP Application Supplement for the PAA must submit a complete questionnaire, along with all attachments, as outlined in Attachment D. Applicants who have already completed their subrecipient PAA are eligible to complete only the grant-specific portion. The rubric for the PAA is available in Attachment G.

#### **Grant Assurances and Certifications**

Applicants are required to complete and submit Certifications (Attachment E) and General State Grant Assurances (Attachment F) with the application materials. Please review both documents thoroughly prior to signing, as they outline the provisions and requirements of this grant funding.

## PART III - APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Scoring Rubrics

Criterion	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Needs Improvement	Poor or Missing Details
<b>1. Description of the early childhood literacy &amp; readiness program. (40 points)</b>	<b>36-40</b> Provides a comprehensive and well-structured program description addressing all required elements in detail, including core program components used to support literacy and readiness, demonstrated program success, community need, and alignment with early learning standards.	<b>30-35</b> Addresses most required elements with clarity but lacks full detail in some areas such as demonstrated program success, community need, or alignment with early learning standards.	<b>24-29</b> Covers basic program elements but lacks depth and detail. Some required elements are missing or not fully explained.	<b>18-23</b> Program description is vague and does not fully address required elements.	<b>0-17</b> Does not provide a clear or structured program description.
	<b>9-10</b> Clearly integrates developmentally appropriate practices supported by strong research citations. Connects practices to expected child outcomes and demonstrates a clear understanding of evidence-based methods.	<b>7-8</b> Includes developmentally appropriate practices with some research support and child outcomes but lacks depth in explanation or connection to best practices.	<b>5-6</b> Mentions developmentally appropriate practices but lacks clear research citations or connection to child outcomes.	<b>3-4</b> Provides minimal discussion of developmentally appropriate practices and does not effectively connect them to research or outcomes.	<b>0-2</b> Does not demonstrate knowledge of developmentally appropriate practices or provide research support.
<b>3. Provide appropriate individualized accommodations and support for children with disabilities. (10 points)</b>	<b>9-10</b> Provides a well-developed and detailed description of an inclusive program with a variety of accommodations for children with disabilities. Strong emphasis on individualized support.	<b>7-8</b> Includes a solid plan for an inclusive program with types of accommodation and support, though some areas lack depth or specificity.	<b>5-6</b> Addresses inclusivity and accommodations but provides only a general description without clear implementation details.	<b>3-4</b> Minimal focus on inclusive programming, accommodations, or supports. Plan lacks clarity or specificity.	<b>0-2</b> No meaningful plan for inclusion, accommodations, or supports for children with disabilities.

	14-15	11-13	8-10	5-7	0-4
<b>4. A plan for reporting accountability on the performance of the program. (15 points)</b>	Provides a well-defined program evaluation plan with clear metrics and data collection methods.	Includes a solid accountability plan with program evaluation, though some aspects lack detail or specificity.	Covers basic accountability measures but lacks clarity in performance metric and benchmarks that will be implemented.	Mentions accountability but does not clearly define how program performance metrics will be collected or evaluated.	No clear accountability plan, evaluation strategy or data collection methods.
<b>5. An implementation plan which is financially sound, aligns with the budget submitted, and proposes to use all funds awarded within FY27. (20 points)</b>	Provides a clear, detailed, and financially sound implementation plan in alignment with the budget. Addresses all key areas, including project timeline, cost estimates, and monitoring expenditures. Ensures full use of the funds awarded within FY27.	Presents a strong implementation plan with solid alignment between proposed activities and budget line items. The timeline or cost details could be more specific. Demonstrates likely FY27 fund use.	Includes a basic implementation plan that generally aligns with the budget but lacks specificity in one or more areas. FY27 completion is implied but not well justified.	Plan is weak or incomplete, with inconsistencies in budget alignment. Cost estimates or timeline are unclear. Using full use of funds are not addressed.	No clear implementation plan or financial alignment. Missing or poorly defined monitoring of expenditures. No evidence that project can be completed or funds used within FY27.

**Nevada Department of Education**  
 Notice of Funding Opportunity  
*Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant*

	<b>Program Criteria Early Childhood Literacy &amp; Readiness Program Grant</b>	<b>Scored Result</b>	<b>Total Points Possible</b>
1.	Description of the early childhood literacy & readiness program.		40
2.	Demonstrate evidence-based practices for high quality early childhood literacy & readiness program.		10
3.	Provide appropriate individualized accommodations and supports for children with disabilities.		10
4.	A plan for reporting accountability on the performance of the program upon project completion.		15
5.	An implementation plan which is financially sound, aligns with the budget submitted, and proposes to use all funds awarded within FY27.		20
6.	<i>Pre-Award Assessment</i>		5
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

## Appendix B: Glossary

**Assurances:** The grant Assurances provide information regarding the obligations, requirements, and agreements associated with a grant subaward, and are included as a component of the contractual agreement between the Nevada Department of Education and the subrecipient entity. The grant Assurances will be specific to either state or federal funding and may include additional provisions based on the particular requirements of the grant funding.

**Competitive Funds:** Competitive funds are those that the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) has discretion to award based on merit of application, specifically through the use of open competitive applications which are scored by a review committee, using the rubric included in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, and allocated according to project proposal and fit.

**Compliance:** All references to Compliance (as a proper noun) specifically refer to the Office of Division Compliance, Student Investment Division; Division Compliance is responsible for the Pre-Award Assessment and financial monitoring activities associated with subaward agreements as conducted on behalf of the Nevada Department of Education. Division Compliance maintains a universal email address for all financial risk assessment and monitoring inquiries: [sidcompliance@doe.nv.gov](mailto:sidcompliance@doe.nv.gov).

**Contractor:** Individuals or entities from which state agencies procure goods and services to carry out a project or program. May also be referred to as “vendors”.

**Electronic Grants Management Program (EGMP):** the electronic platform used by the Nevada Department of Education for online grants management activities, including submission and approval of original subaward budgets, budget revisions, Requests for Reimbursement (RFR), and Final Financial Reports (FFRs).

**Grants Management Unit:** The Grants Management Unit (GMU), within the Office of District Support Services, Student Investment Division, is responsible for the financial management of all grant subawards within the Nevada Department of Education. The GMU maintains a universal email address for all grant related fiscal inquiries: [grantsinfo@doe.nv.gov](mailto:grantsinfo@doe.nv.gov).

**Notice of Funding Opportunity:** A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is formally issued announcement regarding an upcoming opportunity to apply for pass-through funding from the Nevada Department of Education. The NOFO includes eligibility and evaluation criteria as well as information about the purposes and goals of the specific grant funding, the application process, including submission requirements and deadlines, opportunities for technical assistance, and expected timelines.

**Notice of Intent to Apply:** A Notice of Intent to Apply is a preliminary form completed by interested grant applicants prior to the submission of their complete application. This prerequisite may or may not be required as part of a NOFO or grant application process but should always be clearly identified.

**Pre-Award Assessment:** The Pre-Award Assessment (PAA) is a financial-based risk assessment which must be completed for all subrecipients prior to entering into a subaward agreement. The results of the PAA are used for financial monitoring purposes, including identification of technical assistance and supports specific to each subrecipient.

**Program:** All references to Program (as a proper noun) specifically refer to programmatic offices within the Nevada Department of Education (NDE). Programmatic offices serve as the lead in all grant funded initiatives and are responsible for ensuring that the purposes and goals for which the grant funding was appropriated are met, including through the provision of technical assistance and support, training opportunities, and programmatic monitoring, as well as other similar strategies and activities.

**Subaward:** An award of financial assistance provided by a pass-through entity (in this case the Nevada Department of Education) to a subrecipient entity for the subrecipient to carry out the terms of the originating award and as agreed upon via state or federal assurances.

**Nevada Department of Education**

Notice of Funding Opportunity

*Early Childhood Literacy & Readiness Programs Grant*



**Subrecipient:** A non-federal entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out the terms of the originating award; the term does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of the program.

**UEI Number:** The Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number replaced the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number effective April 2022 and is required for all subrecipient entities, pursuant to 2 CFR 200. The UEI is assigned via [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov).

**Vendor Number:** A state of Nevada vendor number is assigned by the [State Controller's Office](#) when an organization submits a vendor registration form, which process is required for all payees of the state. Registration as a vendor is required prior to and enables payment by a state agency to an external organization, including subrecipient entities. Changes or updates to any information submitted through the vendor registration process, including changes to bank account information, must be provided to the Controller's Office in order to ensure receipt of payments.