



Bidders Conference Q&A

The following questions were posed at the August 15 Sixpence Bidders Conference in reference to the second round of 2013 Sixpence Grants.

If a school was unable to attend the Bidders Conference will they still be able to make an application to the RFP?

As long as one person from the partnership is in attendance, an application can still be submitted. A representative of the school district does not actually need to be present at the Bidders Conference, so long as at least one of the other partners participating with the school district attends.

Is the Powerpoint from today's Conference available on the Sixpence website? Yes, the Bidders Conference screen presentation is available at the Sixpence website in PDF format under the "Apply" tab. Or, enter this URL into your browser navigation: <http://www.singasongofsixpence.org/apply/>.

Will the program year for this RFP be the same as the current grants? That is, will it run from July 1 to June 30 like the others? Successful applicants for the second round (August RFP) of 2013 Sixpence grants will have their grant awards pro-rated by six months. They will submit a budget covering January through June, 2014, and thereafter conform to the conventional July through June Sixpence cycle.

How will this effect data evaluation? As of right now, evaluation is done in the Fall and in the Spring, which give us our year's data. This is something that we'll be working out with the evaluator. In the past, the general practice is to look at the baseline data for the first few months. Thereafter, we will get it back onto a full-year, Spring-Fall data cycle. We'll have a more definitive answer after we've consulted with the program evaluator.

On the topic of evaluation, the programs are part of Results Matter. Your initial checkpoint data would correspond to when your grant year started. So, for a grant that starts in March, the first checkpoint would probably be the late Spring. For grants that begin in January, we will consider which initial checkpoint to use following the Results Matter rules.

If funds are awarded, how likely is it that the partners would receive continuation funds? We currently have a two-year appropriation of state money following the biennial budget cycle. We have every reason to believe that these grants will be continued, essentially the way three-to-five preschool grants operate. Naturally, we can't predict exactly what the Legislature will do, but we do know that they are very interested in early childhood and have shown a willingness to keep funding intact for programs serving young children.

Can you identify some potential sources or limitations for matching funds? There are lots of potential sources for matching funds. Sixpence does not follow federal restrictions about matching only State-to-State or federal-to-federal funds. For example, match funds might come from any of the following sources: local district funds, Part C funds, SPED funds for grantees serving children with disabilities, federal Head Start funds, Title 1, child care subsidy and food program money. It's also worth noting that grantees can pro-rate the space used for the program to add to the match, as well as costs for utilities and administrative services that support the program. Naturally, private funding can also be used for the match if it is available.