



Frequently Asked Questions Sixpence Grants 2013

1. Will money be available after this biennium?

Sixpence funding was created as a public-private endowment which means that both the public and private dollars are invested and the earnings from those investments are put into the Cash Fund for grants to school districts. The additional funding, currently earmarked in LB 495 and the state budget, will be deposited directly into the Cash Fund rather than going through the investment process. Because the state budget is for two years, we are limited to two years of funding. Efforts will be made to ensure the funding continues in subsequent state budgets. Grant funding is on a one year cycle, and programs who meet the quality indicators will be eligible for continuation funds subject to availability.

2. Can schools that have Early Steps to School Success Program use that model and increase the number of children being served?

Yes. The Early Steps to School Success Program Model can be used as long as all Sixpence Quality Indicators are met.

3. If a school district sends a letter of intent but decides not to apply, is that ok?

Yes. The letter of intent does not commit the school district to applying.

4. Is the Letter of Intent required to apply?

No. School districts may apply without submitting a letter of intent.

5. If a child is currently receiving early childhood education funds from the child care subsidy, can we receive Sixpence funds to bring up the quality?

Yes. The childcare subsidy can be used by Sixpence programs as part of your local match. Simply by virtue of meeting the Sixpence standards, a program will be raising their quality of care through higher staff qualifications, small class sizes, and more individualized attention for children. Sixpence does not discourage braiding of funding sources.

6. Does the Sixpence grant fall outside of the school lid? Is preschool exempt?

Yes, any spending on early childhood, including Sixpence, does not count against a school's spending limit.

7. Is it possible for a school district to partner with another school district to form a consortium?

Yes. A school district can partner with another district as long as they meet the quality standards and include at least one community partner (i.e.: Early Head Start, private child care provider).

8. Does the Sixpence Board of Trustees have a "Cost per child" number they recommend?

No. The Board of Trustees understands that communities have unique circumstances and partnerships that will dictate the number of children that can be served with the dollar amount requested. Quality Indicator Attachment A: Serving Groups of Children gives guidelines for center staff to child ratios and group size. Quality Indicator Attachment B: Family Engagement gives guidelines for home visitor caseload.

9. Can a current Sixpence Grantee combine their current continuation request and a new proposal into one request?

No. Sixpence Board of Trustees will be approving continuation funding on May 15, 2013 and new funding on June 10, 2013.