**Louisiana’s Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program**

**Cohort 2 Application**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. Who may apply for a SRCL subgrant?**

Local education agencies (LEAs), including charters, are eligible to apply. LEAs must include preschool such as LA4, Early Head Start Center/Head Start Center, and/or a non-profit childcare. They must also partner with a non‐profit community-based organization or agency such as a library or health care provider that has a demonstrated record of effectiveness in improving the early literacy development of children, birth through kindergarten entry, and in providing professional development in early literacy.

**2. What are the requirements to receive a subgrant?**

Applicants must select a feeder system that is likely to serve the same disadvantaged children as they progress through their education. Each age span (birth‐PreK and elementary, middle and high schools) must be included.

Each cluster may include up to two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school, or a similar configuration that represents all grade levels. Unique situations, to ensure the feeder system represents all grade levels, will be considered. The feeder system must also include a non‐profit school‐based PreK program and services for parents and caregivers of children, beginning at birth.

Applicants are also required to leverage SRCL funds with other Federal and State funds, and demonstrate greater responsibility for securing funds to sustain the projecteach year with

fewer SRCL funds.

**3. What is the definition of disadvantaged youth?**

Disadvantaged youth are children and students who are: living in poverty, homeless, or in foster care; limited‐English proficient, new immigrants, or migrant; challenged by disabilities; pregnant or teenage parents; performing far below grade level; at risk of not graduating with a diploma on time or have left school before receiving a high school diploma; or have been incarcerated.

**4. Are there any requirements about how subgrants should be distributed across age specific bands?**

Yes. LEAs must ensure that *at least*:

* 15 percent of the subgrant funds are used to serve children birth through age 5.
* 40 percent of the funds are used to serve students in kindergarten through grade 5.
* 20 percent of the funds are used to serve students in grades 6‐8.
* 20 percent of the funds are used to serve students in grades 9-12.

**5. How may LEAs use subgrant funds?**

LEAs may use subgrant funds to build systems around the following focus areas:

* School Leader and Teacher Learning Targets
* Assessment and Curriculum
* School and Teacher Collaboration
* Compass Observation and Feedback

Funds must also support activities that fully align with Louisiana’s Comprehensive Literacy Plan (LACLiP). Allowable expenses may include services of an endorsed professional development provider; family literacy programs; partial salaries for reading interventionists and literacy specialists (75% in Years 1-2 and 65% in Year 3); screening and progress monitoring assessments; and instruction and intervention materials, including technology, aligned with the Common Core standards.

To build local and regional capacity, subgrantees are encouraged to include non‐feeder schools in SRCL professional development organized for feeder schools, when appropriate.

**6. How many subgrants will be awarded?**

LDOE estimates that it will award 11 subgrants in Cohort 2.

**7. What is the anticipated length of an award?**

LDOE will award subgrants on a competitive basis for a project period of up to 42 months for Cohort 2, pending continual Congressional approval, availability of funds, and the recipient’s demonstrated progress in implementing the objectives in its approved application.

**8. What is the amount of the award?**

LDOE estimates that the amount of the award will be $250,000.00 for the first five months and between $1,000,000.00 to $2,000,000.00 in subsequent years, depending on the number of students served and other factors.

**9. Will subgrantees be expected to expand the program to include more children?**

Yes. After the first full year of implementation, subgrantees will be expected to add at least one feeder school, or when there are no additional feeder schools, a disadvantaged population (e.g., incarcerated youth). No additional subgrant funds will be allocated for this expansion. Subgrantees are expected to leverage available resources to sustain and scale a model that can be replicated statewide.

**10. May LEAs apply for more than one subgrant?**

LEAs are encouraged to apply for one subgrant for a feeder system with the greatest need.

**11. Who should be involved in the development of the subgrant application?**

Applicants should involve a variety of stakeholders in the development of the application, including teachers, principals, parents and caregivers, early child care providers, the superintendent, content area supervisors, teacher educators, school board members, and community members.

**12. When is the application due?**

Applications for Cohort 2 will be due April 16, 2013. More information about submission procedures will be provided in March.

**13. What will the application address?**

The application will include components such as the need for the project, project goals, project design, project management, and project budget.

**14. Must applicants submit an “Intent to Apply” letter or e‐mail?**

LDOE strongly encourages each potential applicant to send an “Intent to Apply” e-mail to jill.slack@la.gov, with a copy to the LEA superintendent and the network leader, if applicable.

In the e-mail subject line, type the name of the LEA followed by “SRCL Intent to Apply.” For example, Subject: Magnolia Parish: SRCL Intent to Apply.

Having this information allows LDOE to secure an appropriate number of reviewers. Applicants that do not provide this notification may still apply for funding.

**15. Who will review and score the applications?**

Applications will be reviewed and scored by a panel of literacy experts external to Louisiana who have vast experience in development and implementation of literacy programs for children, birth-grade 12.

**16. How can an organization or agency show non-profit status?**

An organization or agency can show non-profit status by any of the following means:

* Proof that the Internal Revenue Service currently recognizes the organization’s contributions are tax deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
* A statement from a State taxing body or the State attorney general certifying that:

 (a) The organization is a nonprofit organization operating within the State; and

 (b) No part of its net earnings may lawfully benefit any private shareholder or individual;

* A certified copy of the organization’s certificate of incorporation or similar document if it clearly establishes the nonprofit status of the organization or agency; or
* Any means described above if it applies to a State or national parent organization, together with a statement by the State or parent organization that the organization is a local nonprofit affiliate.

**17. How much of the funding distribution set aside for birth to preschool (i.e., 15%) must be used for non-profits organizations and agencies providing professional services?**

LDOE does not dictate how to spend each funding distribution.

**18. Should the professional development offered by non-profit early childhood organizations and agencies be designed for parents or staff?**

Professional development should be based on your identified needs.