



# Advancing Inclusion and Supporting Early Childhood Special Education in Community-based Settings Project 2023 FAQ

## General Questions

What is the outcome of this project?

*We want to establish 3 Community Inclusion Teams to dive into planning around providing services to children in community based early childhood education settings.*

Are you looking for regional Community Inclusion Teams?

*Yes, we are looking for community inclusion teams that are based in your community. Some may be focused on a town or city while others may be in a county or region.*

What does the term Itinerant refer to?

*Itinerant services are defined in the Advancing Preschool Inclusion report.*

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/IL-Inclusion-Report.pdf>

Can you share the presentation?

*The powerpoint will be available on our website with the recording.*

Where is the application located?

*Link to application: <https://www.eclre.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/CIT-ApplicationForm-May2023.pdf>*

## Requirements of partner commitments and eligibility questions

Was the Letter of Intent a requirement, can we still submit a proposal for the June 2nd deadline if we did not submit a Letter of Intent?

*Yes, that was a courtesy, not a requirement, to submit a Letter of Intent*

Is it a requirement for school districts to work with an external non-profit to co-submit a proposal, or can school districts apply on their own?

*There must be a commitment from both Community Based Organization serving children in the community and a school district to apply.*

Does the Community Based program have to already be established?

*The Community Based Organization needs to be an established program so they can partner with the LEAs in the community.*

Could the stipend go to an educational cooperative or an ROE?

*Yes. If a special education cooperative or a Regional Office of Education applies, we would require a commitment from each school district involved. The IDEA funding comes first to the LEAs and they may in turn purchase services from a cooperative, but the LEA is ultimately responsible for the children that reside in their district.*

Can an ROE be considered a Community Based Organization?

*While ROEs are not considered CBOs, they can function in this instance as a partner to a school district and would still require the signature/agreement from at least one district (preferably all districts feeding into that location).*

### **Timeline questions:**

What is the application deadline?

*Applications must be emailed to Ann Kremer at [ann.kremer@eclre.org](mailto:ann.kremer@eclre.org) by June 2 at 5:00 pm.*

What is the timeframe for applicants to complete this project?

*The funding runs through 12/31/2023.*

What if the community determines logistics for providing services in the community but then determines there is not enough funding to implement?

*The purpose of the current project is to plan for implementation, with a desired goal of implementation in Fall 2024, outside the timeframe of the current project. The intent is to use this time as planning time to talk through and establish as much agreement as we can and use the Advisory Body to advance the policy issues as needed.*

### **Funding Questions:**

What are some ways the stipend may be used?

*The stipend can be used to fund the time of the CIT coordinator, to provide subs for the CIT members so they can attend meetings and trainings, costs of meeting space, etc. It is not meant to provide direct support to children or increase the number of spots in a program.*

What is the stipend amount?

*There is a total of \$75,000, or \$25,000 each for three communities.*

## Agreement with Early CHOICES questions:

Will there be a format for compiling deliverables and outcomes?

*Early CHOICES will work with each CIT on the deliverables and how we expect those to be completed and reported.*

## Helpful Links

[Early CHOICES project webpage](#)

[Advancing Inclusion in Preschool Report](#)

[Direct link to application](#)

[ECTA Community Indicators of High Quality Inclusion](#)

[Preschool Inclusion Toolbox](#)

[What Makes Inclusion Work](#)

[Inclusion Brochure](#): available in English, Spanish, Urdu, Polish, French and Arabic.

[CIT Overview](#)

[All about CIT](#)

[Rubric for Application](#)

[Early CHOICES](#)

[Preschool Inclusion Resource List](#)

If you want more information about inclusion, and easily re-shareable content about supports for families, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn @earlychoicesorg.

This project was made possible by grant number 90TP0122. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.