Mixed Delivery Grant (MDG) and Preschool Delivery Grant (PDG-B5)  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)  
Updated - March 16, 2020

Application Questions

- **Where can I find the LOI application and helpful resources?**
  - The MDG/PDG LOI application and additional resources such as reports, webinars, and guidebooks can be found on VECF’s [Opportunities Ahead webpage](#).

- **What are upcoming deadlines that I should be aware of?**
  - **Important update:** Due to disruptions caused by COVID-19, VECF has extended deadlines to dates listed below.
    - March 31, 2020 – LOIs due by 5pm EST
    - April 1 – April 10, 2020 – LOI Evaluation Process
    - April 13, 2020 – Notification of Invitation to Apply
    - April 13, 2020 - Applications Released
    - May 29, 2020 - Applications due by 5pm
    - Mid June - PDG and MD grants announced
    - July 1, 2020 - Grant funding begins
  - **Please note:** Because dates relevant to the LOI can’t be changed at this point in our online system at this point, dates included within the LOI form, including the original due date of March 20, 2020, are no longer accurate. Please visit our website and follow us on social media to stay abreast of any other deadline updates.

- **Can I submit one LOI for both PDG and MDG or should I submit separate LOIs for each opportunity?**
  - Only one LOI per service area will be considered. Communities may choose to submit their LOI for PDG only, MDG only, or for both. [Click here](#) to begin the LOI application

- **Who can I consult locally about these opportunities prior to submitting an LOI?**
  - VECF expects that successful applicants for these funding opportunities will represent strong collaborations of organizations at the community level and encourages interested communities to develop a coordinated vision for their community and work collaboratively to apply. Prospective applicants who are interested in submitting an LOI for PDG and/or MDG should work with key decision makers from stakeholders such as school divisions, Head Start programs, local Departments of Social Services, associations of ECCE providers, United Way agencies, philanthropy, and others to develop community-informed responses to the request for LOIs.
• **Can current PDG and MDG grantees apply for new funding?**
  - Yes, current PDG grantees are eligible to apply for MDG funds. Current Mixed Delivery grantees are eligible to apply for MDG and PDG funds.

### Funding Questions

#### What is the funding range? How can we know how much funding our community might be eligible to apply for? – *answer updated March 16*

| PDG | Funding ranges will be determined for PDG based on the number of publicly funded classrooms within your specified region. The [funding schedule](#) posted on VECF’s Opportunities Ahead webpage show “up-to” amounts for new PDG grantees in 2020-2021 based on participation of all publicly-funded classrooms in a geographic area. Note that these are estimates based on the number of sites that receive public funding. |
| MDG | Per legislative and budget decisions as of March 10, MDG will be funded at $5 million each year of the biennium, with expectation for MDG grantees to (collectively) serve a minimum of 500 at risk three- and four-year-olds each year. MDG funding ranges will be determined based on the number of additional three- and four-year-olds who will be served in the grantee community/region. |
  - As a tentative example for how the funding model may work: Communities may be awarded funds based on an amount (e.g., up to $9500) per child served. Of the grantee award, a set-aside amount (e.g., up to $75,000 for every 50 children served) can be used to support the grantee’s coordination of services. An amount (e.g., no less than $8000) per child/slot must be paid to the family day home or community-based center provider to provide high-quality ECCE services. |

#### Is there a local match requirement for either PDG or MDG opportunities?

| PDG/MDG | There is no local match requirement for either PDG or MDG. However, we expect that communities and program sites will need to leverage/integrate other funding streams (such as child care subsidy, Head Start, VPI, Title I, CACFP, sliding scale parent payments, scholarships, qualified in-kind, etc.) to help pay for the full cost of high quality ECCE under the MD grant. Leveraged funds added to the MDG funding per slot must sum to at least $10,000 per child. |
What are allowable costs under PDG and MDG?

**PDG**
For PDG, the primary focus is dedicated funds for coordination and infrastructure to increase access and improve quality in publicly-funded infant, toddler, and preschool classrooms. You can find detail for allowable costs within the PDG Guidebook budget guidance section.

**MDG**
For MDG, the primary focus is increased access to high-quality preschool for eligible three- and four-year-olds. Allowable costs include payments to family day home and community-based ECCE sites to support cost of tuition, curriculum, materials, etc. related to delivery of preschool services for the specified children, and limited funds for the community’s coordination of MDG activities.

If there is an opportunity to rent space, would there be an option to do that utilizing funds from PDG or MDG?

**PDG**
PDG funds cannot be used to rent space.

**MDG**
MDG funds can be used to rent classroom space if it is determined to be the best use of funds to support access to high-quality ECCE to eligible three-and-four-year-olds.

Can the funding for either grant be used to support teachers obtaining requirements for teacher licensure?

**PDG/MDG**
Costs related to teacher licensure are not allowable with PDG or MDG funds. VECF encourages communities to leverage resources that support professional development; scholarship funding to support early childhood educators is available through the [VDSS Child Care Provider Scholarship Program](#) and [Project Pathfinders](#). For specific questions about your particular situation, advisors are available for each program.

Can I use PDG funds to expand slots? How about for before- and after-care?

**PDG**
PDG funds cannot be used to expand slots. Funding also cannot be used for before and after care.

**MDG**
MDG Funds can be used to help pay for slots or tuition, but cannot be the only source. In order to fully support the costs of high-quality ECCE, applicants will develop a plan to identify and leverage other funds available to their community and/or ECCE sites to pay for high-quality preschool education such as VPI, Head Start, Title I, child care subsidy, Child and Adult Care Food Program, sliding scale parent tuition, private scholarships, etc. MDG funds can be used in combination with other funds such as Head Start, child care subsidy, Title I and VPI to provide full working-day and year-round ECCE services.
Can PDG funds be used to add classroom based tutoring services to pre-K

| PDG | PDG funds are not intended for classroom based tutoring services. |

Can I buy a bus or van to help with transportation using funding for MDG?

| MDG | MDG funds can be used to help address transportation barriers for eligible children, but cannot be used to purchase a bus or van. |

For communities creating a new Mixed Delivery site, can MDG funds be used for start-up costs, and if so, what uses are permitted?

| MDG | Start-up costs are permitted and must come from the total grant award provided to the grantee. Start-up costs must be closely tied to identified needs and barriers in the community that are preventing eligible children from gaining access to high-quality ECCE. Allowable start-up costs include purchase of curriculum that meets VPI guidelines and classroom supplies and materials that support implementation of a curriculum. Funds cannot be used to pay for construction or for vans or buses. |

Could the Mixed Delivery funding be used for professional development of teachers for three- and four-year-olds?

| MDG | Yes, investment in professional development of teachers in MDG classrooms is a viable cost as part of the per child assumed rate, particularly activities that support high-quality interactions between teachers and children and the implementation of a curriculum that meets VPI guidelines. We encourage communities to first identify and leverage other resources that support professional development as described above. |

Program Questions

Who enters data into the PDG LinkB5 data portal? Is that the role of the PDG coordinator?

| PDG | There are many users of the LinkB5 data system. See the LinkB5 information flyer for more information. |
Can PDG funds be used to purchase child care management software such as Child Care Plus?

**PDG**
Yes, as it pertains to strengthening data and information access that supports larger coordinated enrollment efforts, software may be considered an allowable expenditure.

When you mention 10 communities for PDG, is this 10 new communities or 10 total-new and pilot?

**PDG**
In addition to the current 10 communities already participating in PDG (cohort 1), it is anticipated that approximately 10 new communities will be engaged (cohort 2).

What are teacher responsibilities within the PDG?

**PDG**
Teachers in PDG-participating sites will take part in a foundational training session to better understand and learn about the CLASS® tool.

In the fall, each classroom within a PDG-participating site will be observed by a local observer in the CLASS® tool that is specific to the age-level of the classroom. The teachers will receive feedback in a feedback session designed to support and promote professional development. Teachers will also be invited into the LinkBS data system to input basic information about themselves and their classroom. Throughout the year, the teachers will engage in the professional development opportunities to help strengthen teacher-child interactions within the classroom.

In the spring, they will be observed again by a local observer, who will again provide feedback in a feedback session, and draw out some comparison information and data to help set goals for the future. Additionally, through involvement in the PDG, teachers will be asked to complete feedback surveys regarding the teaching profession and help facilitate distribution of a family survey to families in their classrooms.

MDG - Your LOI announcement says that we need to serve unserved three- and four-year-olds. What does “unserved” mean?

**MDG**
MDG requires grantees to plan to serve eligible children who are unserved in regulated ECCE settings including family child care, private preschool, child care centers, Head Start or school-based Title I or VPI classrooms. Funding provided to serve additional at risk 3s and 4s is not intended to supplant other funding for these services.
**Community Partnerships**

Do you see an opportunity for the Mixed Delivery and PDG communities across the state to work together to provide technical assistance to communities VECF sees as a priority that currently are not able to participate in Mixed Delivery or PDG?

**PDG/MDG**

Utilizing the past experience of communities that have engaged in Mixed Delivery and PDG work will be critical to the success of on-boarding new communities. There will be opportunities to share learnings and feedback facilitated by the state in the future.

Do you have any recommendations on what potential partners (ECE providers) can do right now to potentially participate?

**PDG/MDG**

Building and strengthening community partnerships and convening discussions with partner organizations and stakeholder groups lays the groundwork to begin to participate in the opportunities that are presented currently and ahead.

The LOI states that up to 8 key partners can be listed as local partners. Is the coalition list of community partners for PDG or MDG funding?

**PDG/MDG**

It is important to identify your list of community partners engaged on the LOI form if you are considering either or both MDG/PDG opportunities.

Who are the current PDG or Mixed Delivery grantees? May we receive a list of both?

**PDG/MDG**

Current partners for both PDG and Mixed Delivery are listed on the VECF website. [Click here](#) to find the current Mixed Delivery grantees. [Click here](#) to view a list of PDG B-5 2019 pilot communities.
How do you identify private providers to approach about becoming a Mixed Delivery site?

| PDG/MDG | Communities may identify private ECCE providers through working with community partners such as child care resource and referral agencies, local Departments of Social Services, local associations of early childhood providers, Smart Beginnings initiatives, Virginia Quality, or online resources such as those provided by the Virginia Department of Social Services of licensed providers and those who are eligible to receive child care subsidy. |