



ON THE HORIZON

Staying Current on the EL Program Funding Landscape

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Important Reminders from OELAS

Our ON THE HORIZON publication is designed to keep LEAs informed and on track for all things funding related. We have some important reminders below regarding the upcoming FY 2023 grant cycle. OELAS is committed to communicating regularly with LEAs to help ensure your funding success.

FY 2023 Applications – Due Dates and Deadlines

May 1, 2022 – All Title III LEP and Title III Consortium Funding Applications should be submitted by this date

May 2, 2022 – All SEI Budget – Comprehensive Funding Applications should be submitted by this date

NOTE: SEI Budget Applications not received by close of business May 2nd will not be eligible for review or a funding award.

July 1, 2022 – Target approval date of all FY 2023 Original Applications

Why is it important to meet these deadlines? Meeting these deadlines helps ensure LEA will have access and availability to their funds when a project period opens. Applications not initially submitted on or before July 1st will not receive substantial approval at the time the FY 2023 project begins on July 1, 2022.

What is the difference between substantial approval and SEA Director Approval? *Substantial approval* means there is a submitted funding application with a reasonable attempt at a budget and that there is a General Statement of Assurances (GSA) in “SEA General Statement of Assurance Accepted” status. This is affirmation that an LEA intends to accept monies from a particular funding source and agrees to abide by all assurances in the GSA. *SEA Director Approval*, on the other hand, is confirmation that the grant program area has provided final director approval to the funding application submitted, and via this director approval the LEA understands that grant expenditures must meet all applicable rules and requirements of the funding source. SEA Director Approval status also enables the LEA to submit GME Reimbursement Requests during the applicable project period.

What is the earliest date for substantial approval? The grant’s project start date is the earliest substantial approval date. For instance, July 1st is the project start date for many federal and state grants and thus July 1st would be the earliest substantial approval date. Applications submitted in a substantially approvable state *prior* to a grant’s project start date will receive the project start date as the substantial approval date.

What if my funding application isn’t substantially approved by the grant’s project start date? It is important to remember that substantial approval is the **obligation date** tied to the date your funding application is submitted in a substantially approvable state. This means that once your grant project receives SEA Director approval, you may submit Reimbursement Requests in GME. Expenditures can then be reimbursed from the date the funding application was substantially approved. A substantial approval date of August 15th, for example, would prevent an LEA from being reimbursed for any expenditures which happened between July 1st and up to the August 15th substantial approval date.

Can my LEA just submit a request for pre-award costs to allow for missing a timely substantial approval date? The ADE no longer has the authority to approve pre-award costs per the United States Department of Education.

TIP FOR SUCCESS: Maintaining regular communication with all grant staff at your LEA is critical for ensuring application submission dates and deadlines are met. Substantial approval has a tremendous impact on LEA spending and reimbursement, and substantial approval dates are verified when reimbursements are requested from ADE.