

Sec. 39. (1) An eligible applicant receiving funds under section 32d shall submit an application, in a form and manner prescribed by the department, by a date specified by the department in the immediately preceding state fiscal year. The application shall include a comprehensive needs assessment and a community collaboration plan that is endorsed by the local great start collaborative and is part of the community's great start strategic plan that includes, but is not limited to, great start readiness program and head start providers, and shall identify all of the following:

(a) The estimated total number of children in the community who meet the criteria of section 32d as determined by the Michigan Department of Education utilizing the most recent American Community Survey population data for all applicants.

(b) The estimated number of children in the community who meet the criteria of section 32d and are served exclusively by Head Start programs operating in the community.

(c) The number of children the applicant has capacity to serve who meet the criteria of section 32d including a verification of physical facility and staff capacity.

(d) The estimated number of children who meet the criteria of section 32d who will remain unserved after the applicant and Head Start have met their funded enrollments. The applicant shall maintain a waiting list of identified unserved eligible children who would be served when openings are available.

(2) After notification of funding allocations, an applicant receiving funds under section 32d shall also submit an implementation plan for approval, in a form and manner prescribed by the Department, by a date specified by the Department that details how the applicant complies with the program components established by the Department pursuant to section 32d.

(3) The original allocation to each eligible application under section 32d shall be determined by the Department and be equal to the number of children served in each program option in the preceding year and calculated in consideration of the funding level defined in section 32d.

(4) A percentage of children served for each ISD will be calculated by the total number of children served in the immediately preceding year divided by the total number of children within the ISD who meet the criteria of section 32d as determined by the Department utilizing the most recent American Community Survey population data. The resulting percentage of eligible children served shall be compared to a statewide target, as determined by the Department, to determine if the ISD is eligible for additional funds.

(5) If funds remain after the original allocation under subsection (3), the allocation under this subsection shall distribute said remaining funds to each eligible applicant under section 32d who served less than the target percentage of children in need as determined in subsection (4). Each eligible applicant's share of remaining funds shall be distributed according to the ISD's proportionate share of the remaining statewide children in need. When all applicants have been given the opportunity to reach the statewide target, the target may be reset, as determined by the Department, until greater equity of opportunity to serve eligible children across ISDs has been achieved.

(6) If, taking into account the total amount to be allocated to the applicant as calculated under this section, an applicant determines that it is able to serve additional eligible children in the great start readiness program above their funded allocation, it may do so and the applicant may be eligible for additional funds if any remain after disbursement under subsections (3) and (5). The funds shall be proportionately distributed among all ISDs that served additional eligible children. Funds disbursed under this section are not included in the calculation of funds allocated under subsection (3) in subsequent years.