



# Expansion Grants

## GRANTEE ABSTRACT

# Maryland

### Overview

Maryland’s plan intends to expand and improve the quality of prekindergarten for 3,811 four-year olds from families with household incomes at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG). During its first two years of the grant, Maryland will seek an expansion for 2,811 four-year olds from families with 200% of poverty. In Year 3 and 4 of the grant, Maryland will appropriate State funds to enable the access to high quality prekindergarten for an additional 1,000 four-year olds from families with incomes above 200% and below 300% of poverty.

This strategy is aligned with current State policy which expanded prekindergarten in school year 2014-15 for four-year olds to families with incomes at or below 300% of poverty for a new grant-funded prekindergarten expansion. Maryland’s expansion as codified in the Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014, included a grant program for prekindergarten operated by local boards of education, and –for the first time- community-based programs such as child care, Head Start, and nursery schools, by incorporated prekindergarten into their daily schedules. It is viewed as the first step toward a gradual expansion toward universal access to prekindergarten for all four-year olds. This Federally funded plan is a major building block of Maryland’s efforts to expand prekindergarten across the State. The majority of policymakers agree that such an expansion improves learning opportunities for young children and

#### Lead Agency

Maryland Department of Education

#### Year 1 Federal Award Amount

\$15,000,000

#### Plan Period

January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018

**Preschool Development Grants** will support states to build, develop, and expand voluntary, high-quality preschool programs for children from low- and moderate-income families. There are two types of grants.

**Development Grants:** For states that currently serve less than 10 percent of four-year-olds and have not received a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTT-ELC) grant

**Expansion Grants:** For states that currently serve 10 percent or more of four-year-olds or have received an RTT-ELC grant

enhances the school readiness skills on entering kindergarteners as measured by the State’s Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. It also remains a critical keystone in Maryland’s education reform efforts, namely the reduction of the achievement gaps.

#### High-Need Communities to be served under Maryland’s Plan

<b>Allegany County</b>	<b>Montgomery County</b>
<b>Anne Arundel County</b>	<b>Prince George’s Co.</b>
<b>Baltimore City</b>	<b>Somerset County</b>
<b>Carroll County</b>	<b>St. Mary’s County</b>
<b>Charles County</b>	<b>Wicomico County</b>
<b>Frederick County</b>	