

Fiscal Year 2025 School Improvement Grants Frequently Asked Questions

This document contains commonly asked questions and answers that will help Title I Non-Competitive Supplemental School Improvement (TI NC SSI) grantees and Expanding Opportunities for Each Child Non-Competitive (EOEC NC) grantees plan, implement, manage, and monitor grant funded activities.

General School Improvement Grant Questions:

- 1. Question:** When are the funds received?

Answer: Both Title I Non-Competitive Supplemental School Improvement (TI NC SSI) and Expanding Opportunities for Each Child Non-Competitive (EOEC NC) grants were allocated to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) on June 11, 2024. LEAs can begin submitting Project Cash Requests (PCRs) for grant expense reimbursements after the grant application has been approved by The Office of School and District Improvement (OSDI).
- 2. Question:** Where are the applications?

Answer: The FY25 School Improvement Grant applications are in the CCIP under Entitlement Funds and within the School Improvement and Supports Grant Application.
- 3. Question:** If an LEA is applying for funding that applies to several categories, does the LEA just use one application? For example, the LEA is trying to improve parent/family involvement, as well as graduation/career pathways. Can these areas all be part of one application?

Answer: Both the EOEC NC and TI NC SSI grant applications allow LEAs the flexibility to select more than one grant focus area. The focus areas must align with the LEA or building One Plan.
- 4. Question:** In the application, what does this mean? - "Describe how the LEA will align other Federal, State, and local resources to carry out the activities supported with these funds (supplement, not supplant)."

Answer: As per the grant application requirements under ESSA, LEAs are required to provide a description of how the LEA will carry out its responsibilities under section 1111(d) (School Support and Improvement Activities) for schools receiving funds under this section, including how the educational agency will align Federal, state and local resources to carryout activities supported under these funds.

LEAs should also consider how their “Supplement, Not Supplant” methodology applies to this application question.

5. **Question:** Why is the LEA required to copy and paste into the application the SMART goals, adult and student implementation measures, and evidence-based strategies, when they are already part of the One Plan?

Answer: There is no requirement to cut and paste a SMART Goal from the One Plan. Instead, both the EOEC NC and TI NC SSI grant applications ask grantees to provide the Goal title and Strategy title from the LEA or School One plan that this funding is tied to:

Example: LEA One Plan - Goal #1, Strategy #2.

6. **Question:** If an LEA only has 1 ATSI building and all funds are being allocated to that building, does the LEA still need to upload a building budget because it will match the budget grid already entered?

Answer: The additional budget grid is only required for an LEA that has multiple buildings receiving grant funds. If grantees only have one identified building receiving grant funds, then grantees do NOT need to submit an additional budget grid.

7. **Question:** Why would an LEA not see the School Improvement and Support Grants Application link in the CCIP application under the Consolidated application?

Answer: Your LEA is most likely not eligible for FY25 EOEC NC and TI NC SSI Grant funding. Only buildings with Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) identifications were allocated funding in FY25. The EOEC NC grant has some flexibility for where LEAs can allocate funding. Please see the EOEC NC guidance for prioritization criteria and [requirements](#).

8. **Question:** Did Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) identified buildings receive grant funding this year?

Answer: No, buildings identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) identification are no longer eligible to receive TI NC SSI grant and EOEC NC grant funds. Only CSI and ATSI buildings are eligible.

9. **Question:** What if my CSI identified building exits the status during the fiscal year?

Answer: If a CSI identified building exits the status during FY25, the building will keep the grants funds and can continue implementing their grant activities. Unless reidentified, this building will not receive additional school improvement grant funding in FY26.

10. **Question:** Is there carryover for these grants and what is the period of availability?

Answer: There is no carryover of FY25 TI NC SSI and EOEC NC funds into FY26. The period of availability is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. All funds must

be obligated by June 30, 2025, and liquidated through September 30, 2025, unless a summer extension is requested and approved. A summer extension will be offered to grantees in the Spring of 2025. If a summer extension request is approved, grantees can then obligate and liquidate funds through September 30, 2025.

11. **Question:** Is it likely that ATSI and CSI buildings will receive TI NC SSI and EOEC NC funds in FY26?

Answer: At this time, it is likely that buildings identified as CSI or ATSI as of January 2025 will receive TI NC SSI and EOEC NC grant funds in FY26.

12. **Question:** Is food an allowable expense on professional development trips?

Answer: Food is not an allowable expense for federally funded grants. This includes food reimbursement for teachers or staff participating in professional development activities.

Title I Non-Competitive Supplemental School Improvement Grant Questions:

1. **Question:** Are governance/administrative expenses for the grant an allowable activity for Title I NC SSI grant?

Answer: These can be an allowable activity for grant funds. The governance or administrative expenses must be for activities related to administering the grant at the grant-funded buildings, time and effort logs may need to be kept, and any documentation may be needed as required by federal, state or local law.

2. **Question:** Will the TI NC SSI grant continue to be able to fund refreshments or food expenses for family community events under the restrictive circumstances allowable under Title I part A?

Answer: If food must be part of the family and community engagement activity, it must be reasonable and necessary.

Expanding Opportunities for Each Child Non-Competitive Grant Questions:

1. **Question:** What are the prioritization criteria for funding buildings under the EOEC NC grant?

Answer: The LEA may distribute the EOEC NC grant funds to individual school buildings using the funding prioritization criteria below:

1. First, distribute funds to schools identified as CSI.
2. Then, distribute funds to pay costs for low-achieving students in ATSI buildings.

3. Next, distribute funds to pay costs for low-achieving students in TSI buildings.
4. Finally, distribute funds to pay costs for other low-achieving students in other buildings within the LEA.

NOTE: The LEA must include an explanation in the EOEC NC application if funds are not allocated to a CSI, ATSI, or TSI identified building.

2. **Question:** How would a school use the EOEC funds to create a work study program where there is a partnership with an employer to provide On-the-Job-Training (OJT) for students?

Answer:

LEAs have the flexibility with EOEC NC grant funds to create or expand work study programs that are aligned with the LEA or building One Plans by collaborating with school or business partners. Depending on the approach, the EOEC NC funds can be used to pay for costs associated with the program, like coursework, staff PD, transportation, and/or equipment. The EOEC NC grant funds cannot be used to pay for food, refreshments or wages.

Please see page 10 of the [FY25 EOEC NC Grant Guidance](#) (Appendix – Grant Focus Areas Focus Area - Career Pathways Development and Expansion).

3. **Question:** Clarification is needed for the partner question on the EOEC application. If an LEA is using any vendors to support the schools, does that count as “partner support”? For example, if the LEA is using the College Board to provide professional development to teachers offering new Pre-AP classes, would that be a nonpublic entity?

Answer: In this case, the College Board would **not** be considered “nonpublic entity” in terms of a partnership because it appears that services have been (or will be) purchased from this business.

This application question is asking which organizations the LEA is partnering with to implement grant programming. These partnerships should have an agreement that is typically documented in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Please contact the eoecgrant@education.ohio.gov to further discuss questions about partnerships.

See [FY25 EOEC Grant Guidance](#) beginning on page 10 in the Appendix A – Grant Focus Areas.

4. **Question:** Can EOEC NC funds be used for Career Technical Education (CTE)?

Answer: The EOEC NC grant can be used to establish or expand the systems necessary to provide one or more career pathways to students, including CTE. These activities may include funding contract instructors, paying for professional development or training, and/or purchasing equipment and

materials. The EOEC NC grant funds cannot be used to sustain programs already in place in a school or district.

See [FY25 EOEC Grant Guidance](#) beginning on page 10 in the Appendix A – Grant Focus Areas.

Fiscal and Grants Management Questions:

1. **Question:** Is there flexibility on the July 1st due date for the first part of application?

Answer: There is no strict due date for an application. July 1 is the recommended date and is suggested so LEAs can begin to encumber and obligate funds starting July 1.

For example, if an LEA has an SAD of July 20, then the LEA can only submit PCRs for reimbursement on grant expenses from July 20 onwards.

For more information, please see the [Grants Manual](#) from the Office of Grants Administration.

2. **Question:** How long does it take to get an SAD once the applications are submitted?

Answer: The SAD is established when the application reaches Authorized Representative Approved.

For more information, please see the [Grants Manual](#) from the Office of Grants Administration.

3. **Question:** What is the latest date an LEA can submit their initial application? Is it just first-come first-served?

Answer: It is best practice to submit the application by July 1 to ensure PCRs can be submitted for reimbursement for grant activities back to this date. Without an SAD and an approved application, grantees cannot submit expenses against the grant and cannot carry out grant funded activities.