NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK (NOEEN)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

10.15.2025

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MEMBER	ENTITY REPRESENTED
Stacey Barquet	Early Care & Education Parent/Caregiver
Tomorow Fondal	Louisiana Department of Health Early Steps System Point of Entry
Thelma French	Early Care & Education Community (At Large)
Dr. Fateama Fulmore	NOLA Public Schools (NOLA-PS)
Dr. Shayla Guidry Hilaire	Child Find
Amy Hook-Poirier	Orleans Parish Ready Start Network
Asya Howlette	City of New Orleans Mayor's Office
Sheraé Hunter	New Orleans City Council
Jonika Julian-Harris	Orleans Parish Lead Agency
VACANT	Head Start
Tonia Loria	Orleans Parish Child Care Resource & Referral Agency
Kate Mehok	Cecil J. Picard LA 4 Early Childhood Program (LA 4)
Joy Mitchell	Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
Angelique Morris Francois	CCAP B-3
Yolanda Motley	Early Head Start
Emmy O'Dwyer	Early Care & Education Community (At Large)
Amanda Peek	Early Care & Education Parent/Caregiver
Benita Plaisance	Nonpublic School Early Childhood Development Program (NSECD)
Melanie Richardson	Family Child Care Providers
Jen Roberts	NOEEN Nonprofit Corporation Board of Directors
Monique B. Rouege	Early Childhood Education Fund (ECEF)
Rochelle Wilcox	City Seats

NOEEN'S MISSION

To ensure an excellent start for every child in New Orleans by strengthening early childhood education and providing families access to high-quality early learning programs that help them realize their dreams for their children.

III. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion is to adopt the draft minutes from the:

- *September 17, 2025 NOEEN Steering Committee Meeting*

- Discussion
- Public Comment
- Vote

IV. COMMUNITY NETWORK UPDATES + CONSIDERATIONS

COMMUNITY NETWORK LEAD AGENCY (CNLA) UPDATES

September 17, 2025 to Present - available in meeting memo

COORDINATED ENROLLMENT UPDATES

September 17, 2025 to Present

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2025-2026 UPDATES

25-26 ENROLLMENT UPDATE AS OF OCTOBER 10, 2025

Funding Source	Total Filled	Seats Offered	Total Allocation	Percentage of Seats Filled	Infants		1 Year Olds		2 Year Olds		3 Year Olds		4 Year Olds	
					Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Unfilled Seats	Total Seats	Unfilled Seats
CS	999	1	1000	99%	101	0	222	0	323	0	354	0		
ECEF	796	6	819	97%	98	2	172	4	219	0	330	11		
EHS	638	3	642	99%	77	0	230	1	335	0				
HS	912	3	934	98%							488	4	445	14
LA4	1,258	2	1,276	99%									1,276	16
NSECD	371	1	374	99%							81	2	293	2
Total Seats	4,974	15	5,045	99%	276	2	625	5	877	0	1,253	17	2,014	32
					99% Filled		*99% Filled*		*100% Filled*		*98% Filled*		*98% Filled*	

NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

2025-2026 Timeline

Sept 2025

Open Enrollment Fall Edition

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

Sept 1: *Begin Avela discussion*

Sept 4: *LA4 audit*

Sept 15: *EC School Exploration prep begins*

Sept 15: *Review LA4 open seats for decisions*

Oct 2025

26-27 Application Prep

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

Oct 15: *Review EC priorities*

Avela changes finalized

Oct 15: *EC School Exploration meetings begin*

Nov 2025

Main Round Prep

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

Media Campaign begins

Nov 5, 12 & 19: *EC Mighty Minutes for Families of Tiny Tots*

EC Mighty Minutes for Providers of Tiny Tots

Dec 2025

Main Round Prep

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

Staff refresher training

Dec 3: *EC Mighty Minutes for Families of Tiny Tots*

EC Mighty Minutes for Providers of Tiny Tots

Jan 2026

Main Round Launch

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

Jan 5: *Main Round Application Opens*

Verifications begin

Jan 9: *In person verifications begin*

EC Mighty Minutes for Providers of Tiny Tots

Jan 31: *EC School Exploration Fair*

NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

2025-2026 Timeline

Feb 2026
Main Round Closes

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

Feb 20: *Main round app closes for new applications*

Feb 23 - Feb 27: *Document Submission Period for incomplete applications 5pm*

Document review period begins

Mar 2026
Main Round Match Prep

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

Mar 6: *Document Review period ends 5pm*
Main Round Application closed

Mar 9-10: *Incomplete Family Messages (Getting Ready for Open Enrollment)*

By Mar 13: *Priorities sent to providers*

Office Hours will be held

Mar 20: *Priorities due from providers*

Mar 27: *Preliminary Waitlist Feedback due*

Apr 2026
Main Round Results Released

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

BESE Allocations

Week of April 27 *- Match results released* ***(EHS, HS, LA4, NSECD)***

May 2026
Open Enrollment Prep

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

May 4: *Deactivation Requests begin for declined seats*

May 22: *Registration Deadline*

Deactivation Requests begin families who missed registration deadline

May 30: *2025-2026 Open Enrollment Ends*

2025-2026 *application closes*

June 2026
Open Enrollment

Ongoing 25-26 verifications placements

June 1: *Open Enrollment begins (Early Head Start, Head Start, LA4, NSECD)*

TBD: Open Enrollment begins (City Seats, ECEF)

June 3,10, 17 &24: *Summer In-person verifications*

Wednesdays in July

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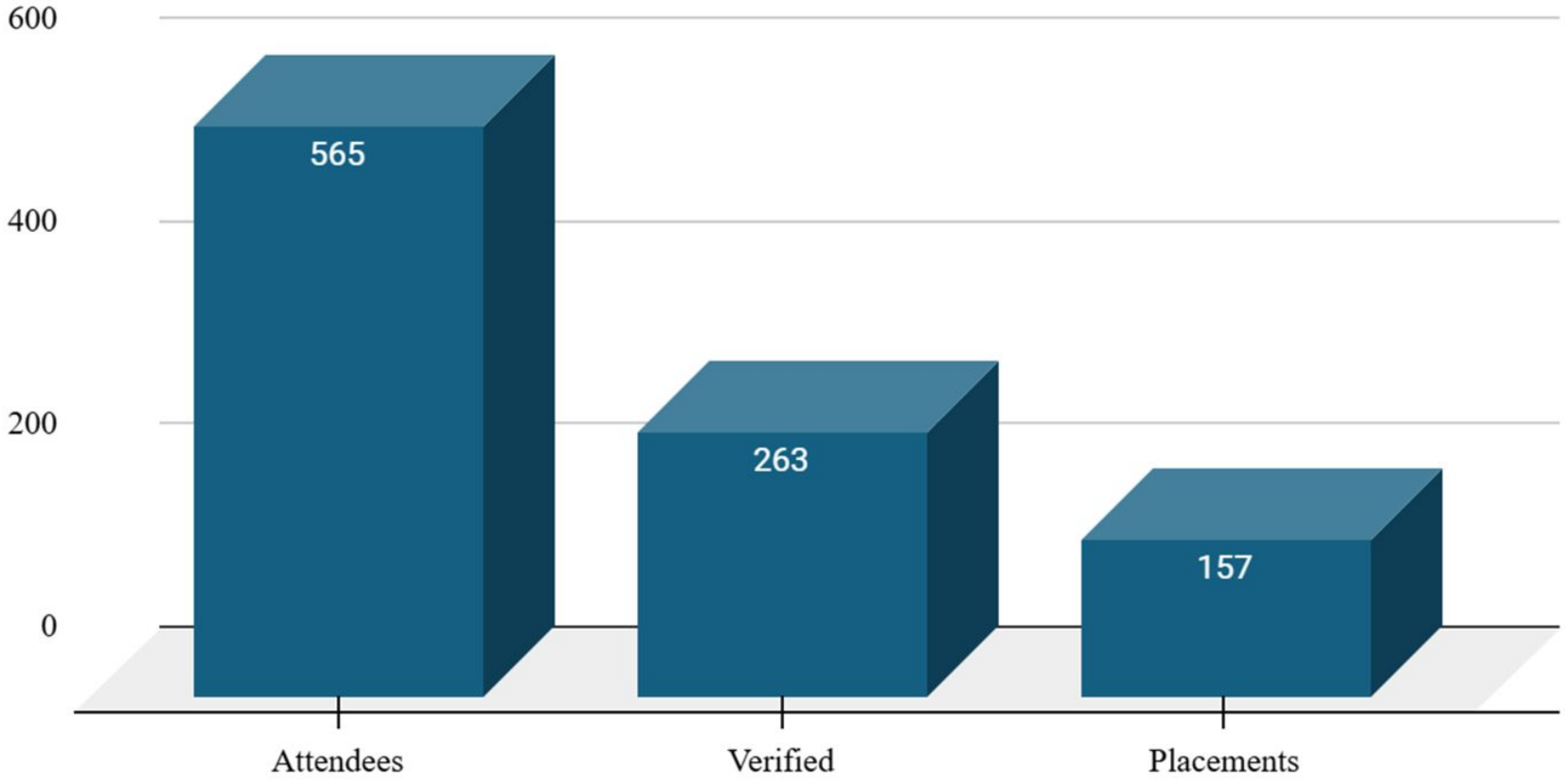
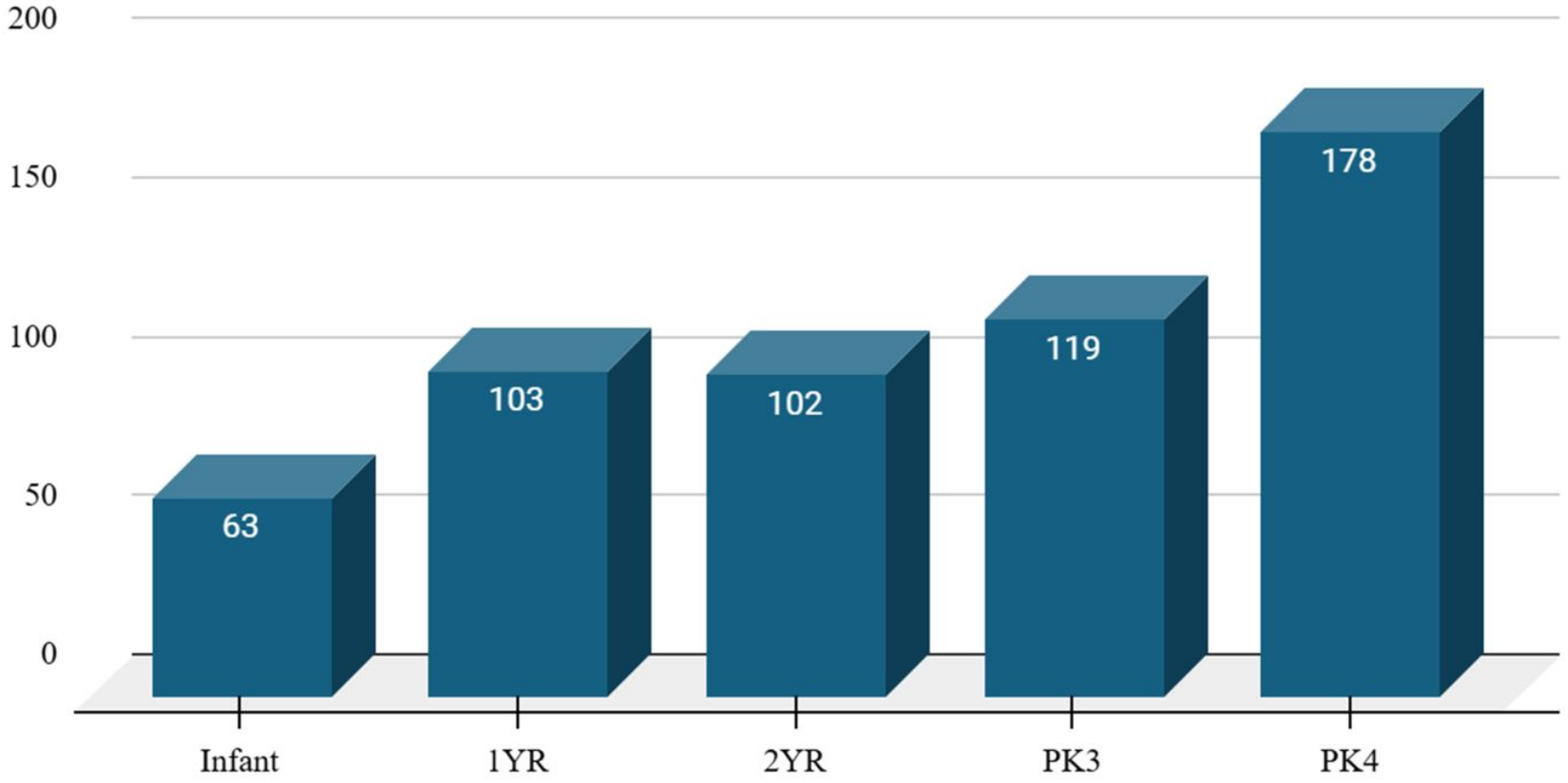
2025-2026 Summer/Fall Events

Cumulative Total: Summer & Fall Friday In-Person Verification Events



Cumulative Total by Age– Summer & Fall Friday In-Person Verification Events



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Upcoming Events

2nd Annual Early Childhood School Exploration Fair

NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EVERY CHILD. EVERY SCHOOL. EVERY DAY.

🌟 **Save The Date!** 🌟

🗓️ **Date:** Saturday, January 31, 2026

🕙 **Time:** 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

📍 **Location:** McDonogh 35 Senior High School Gymnasium
4000 Cadillac Street, New Orleans, LA 70122

✨ Come join us for a day of
connection, exploration, and collaboration! ✨

🎯 **Be Part of the Action!** Sign up to table beginning **October 20, 2025**! 🚀

NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS | EARLY LEARNING & CHILD CARE

WE WOULD LIKE TO HOST AN EARLY LEARNING VERIFICATION EVENT AT YOUR SITE!

Are you interested in providing essential support to families in your community? The NOLA-PS Early Learning & Childcare Team is looking to partner with local centers and schools to host Early Learning Verification events.

Host an In-person Event

INTERESTED?

Contact us today by sending an email to hkelly@nolapublicschools.com (with the subject line (“Host Verification Event”) to learn more and schedule an event at your site.

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READY START NETWORK

READY START NETWORK (RSN) UPDATES

September 17, 2025 to Present

2026-2027 Coordinated Funding Request Process

The 2026-2027 Coordinated Funding Request (CFR) Notice of Intent (NOI) application window concluded on October 3, 2025 and NOI applicants received application results on October 13, 2025.

131 providers completed a Notice of Intent. Of those applications, there were:

- 89 Licensed Type III Child Care Centers
  - Inclusive of 38 sites self-reporting as “new” sites
- 34 Public Schools
- 7 Non-public Schools

2026-2027 Coordinated Funding Request Process

Licensed Type III Child Care programs that met the requirements of the 2026-2027 Coordinated Funding Request (CFR) Notice of Intent (NOI) will move onto the second part of the process, the 2026-2027 CFR Seat Application*.

131 providers completed a Notice of Intent. Of those applications, there were:

- 99% of Licensed Type III Child Care Centers moved onto the Seat Application

The 2026-2027 CFR Seat Application is due on October 31, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Questions about the CFR Process can be directed to cfr@noeen.org.

**NSECD and LA4 applicants were only required to complete the NOI and are not required to completed the Seat Application.*

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NOEEN Child Care Materials Disbursement Event

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) implemented a Developmental Milestones Initiative, which was designed to empower Community Network Lead Agencies (CNLAs), to enhance child care site quality.

Through this opportunity, NOEEN, with the support of the Agenda for Children Child Care Resource and Referral Agency, ordered and distributed over **4,250** classroom toys, manipulatives, and learning materials, for children birth through five-years of age, to publicly funded Type III Child Care and Academically Approved Family Child Care Centers in the Orleans Early Childhood Community Network.

These early learning materials, combined with developmentally appropriate pedagogy, will support children's cognitive, physical, social emotional, and language and literacy development further improving the quality of care and education in the sites within the network.

NOEEN | NEW ORLEANS EARLY EDUCATION NETWORK

City of New Orleans 2026 Budget Hearing

The City Council of New Orleans held the 2026 City of New Orleans Budget Hearing on October 14, 2025.

As part of this meeting, Dr. Fateama Fulmore, Asya Howlette, and Jen Roberts presented information on the Early Childhood Millage Implementation.

The presentation can be found on the City Council's website in the October 14 Meeting Agenda.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE + WORKING GROUP REPORTS

EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

September 17, 2025 to Present

NOEEN Steering Committee Bylaw Review

The Executive Subcommittee will conduct the annual NOEEN Steering Committee Bylaw review between October and November 2025.

Information from this review and proposed changes will be shared with the NOEEN Steering Committee during the November and December Steering Committee Meetings.

Questions about the review can be emailed to info@noeen.org.

FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

September 17, 2025 to Present

Facilities Working Group

The Facilities Working Group met on September 22 to discuss program updates from NORA on the Facilities Grant Program. These changes were made for the following reasons:

- Incorporate lessons learned from the first year of the grant program
- Respond to the uncertain public funding landscape
- Streamline the application process, especially for improvement projects that do not add seats
- Establish funding priorities for this grant round

ECE Program

Wednesday, October 15th, 2025

Agenda

- Review Program Updates
  - Overview
  - Grant Types and Tiers
  - Funding Priorities
  - Process Updates
- Readiness Assessment
- ECE Program Timeline
- Program Budget
  - Current Awards
  - Projected Awards
- Applicant Engagement

The ECE Program has been open for a year, we're making program adjustments based on:

Feedback from Business Development and Architectural & Engineering Technical Assistance Providers

Feedback from providers via PAR Research, AFC, and NORA Staff

Updates in the publicly funded seat landscape

Responding to the need to prioritize by project type based on the high volume of interest that the program has received

Program Updates

Creating separate grant types by project type (Facility Improvement & Expansion)

Streamlining the grant process for Facility Improvement Grants

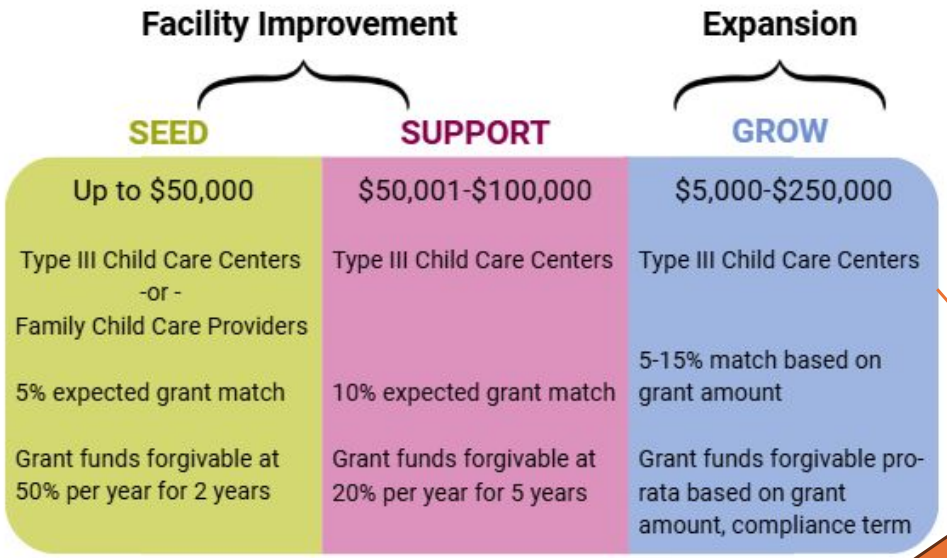
Creating clear application steps and timeframes by grant type

Transitioning to a Grant Management Software

Require pre-work (Facilities Training Modules) prior to Architecture & Engineering services for more effective use of those TA resources

Creating funding priorities that expedite grant decision making and consider the whole ECE ecosystem

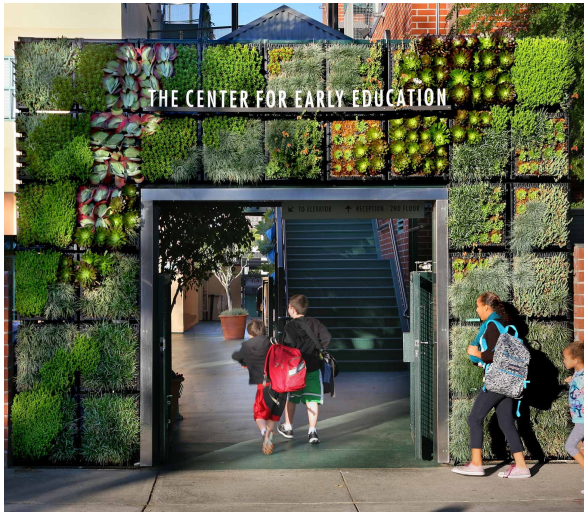
ECE Grant Tiers



Any Expansion Grants from the current funding rounds will be capped at $150,000

Funding Priorities

- Prioritizing Facility Improvement Projects for Currently Operating Type III Centers and Family Childcare Centers
- Funding for small to moderate Expansion projects



Facility Improvement Projects Updates

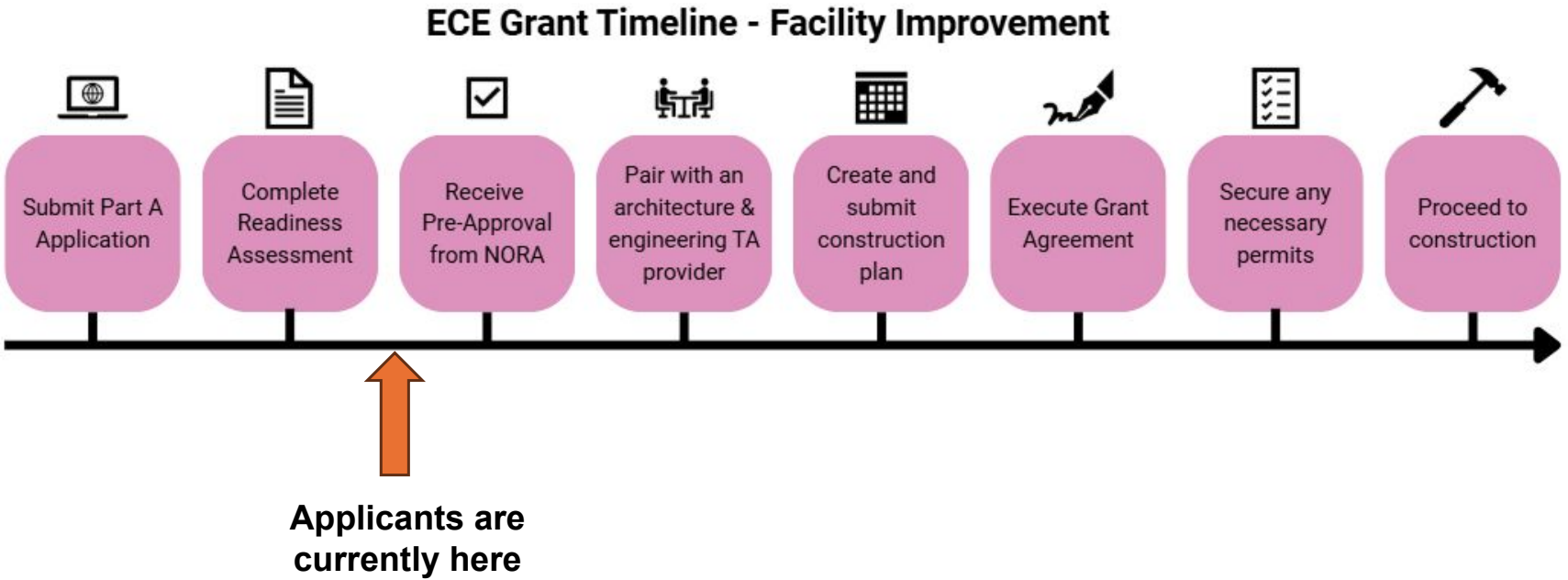
Required documents have been updated to remove:

Business Summary or Plan
Program Operating Budget
Profit & Loss Statement
Copy of License

Applicants will receive “Pre-Approval” for Grant Funds and will then build their scope of work and project budget based on that information

Construction Documents and Plan will be compiled with the support of a NORA-contracted Architect & Engineering firm

Process Updates



Expansion Projects Updates

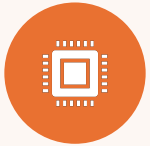
Operational documents and proof of business concept as the initial step for Expansion Project

Emphasis on market demand for expansion and operational plan for enrollment

Applicants will receive “Pre-Approval” for Grant Funds and will then build their scope of work and project budget based on that information

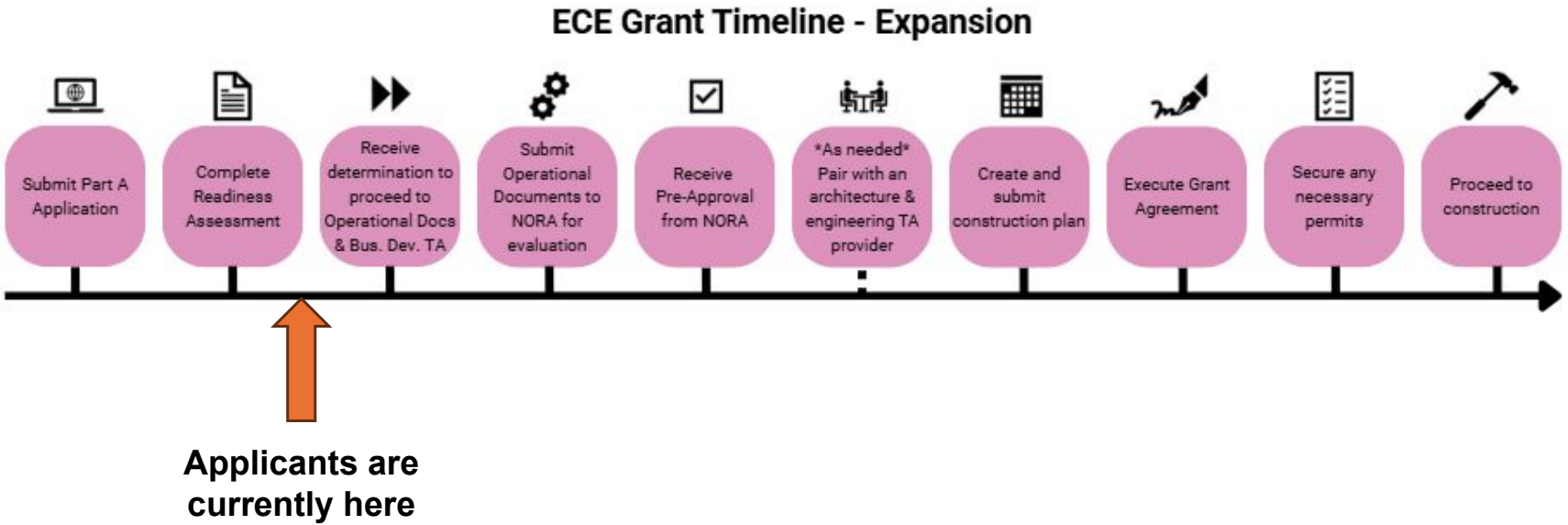
For current funding rounds, Expansion Grants are capped at $150,000

For current funding rounds, prioritizing small and medium-sized expansions rather than large expansion projects or new centers



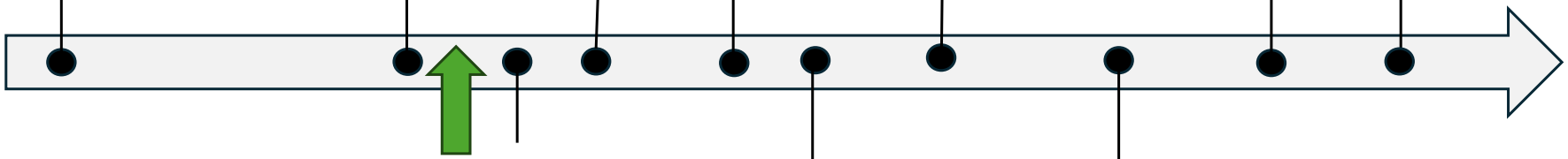
Architecture & Engineering services are available or Expansion projects on an as needed basis

Process Updates



Grant Type *(Grant Tiers)*	# of Grants Awarded	Est. Future Awards	Est. Total Grants	Funding Awarded	Remaining Funds	Total Budget	Additional Information
Facility Improvement *(Seed: $5,000 - $50,000 Support: $50,001 - $100,000)*	1	**18-20**	19-21	$100,000	**$1,370,500**	$1,470,500	*All new funding awards for Facility Improvements will be issued a "Pre-Approval" for either a Seed or Support award based on the Readiness Assessment.*
Expansion *(Grow: $5,000-$150,000)*	4	**5-8**	9-12	$1,000,000	**$900,000**	$1,900,000	*Future funding awards will be available up to a maximum of $150,000 per project.*
Total	**5**	**23-28**	**28-33**	**$1,100,000**	**$2,270,500**	**$3,370,500**	

ECE Program Timeline



Sept 22
Applicant Letters Sent Out & Readiness Assessment Opens

Oct 13
Readiness Assessment Deadline #1
(Closes for Facility Improvement Projects)

Oct 29 - Jan 1
Facility Improvement A&E Technical Assistance

Nov 10
Readiness Assessment Deadline #2
(Closes for Expansion Projects)

Nov 24 – Jan 30
Expansion Project Business Development Technical Assistance

Jan 1
All Facility Improvement Construction Plans Complete

Jan – April 26
All Expansion Construction Plans Complete

Oct 20
Deadline #1 Determinations Made
(For All Facility Improvement Projects)

Nov 17
Deadline #2 Determinations Released
(For All Expansion Projects)

Dec 15 – Jan 24
Evaluate Expansion Projects for Grant "Pre-Approval"

What is NORA evaluating in the Readiness Assessment?

For All Projects:

- Site Control
- Project Financial Readiness (Proof of Matching Funds)
- Demonstrated Operational Stability
- High Impact Construction Activities

For Expansion Projects Only:

- Market Demand (Waitlist Data)
- Project Scope and Scale
- Current Operating Budget

Applicant Engagement

Readiness Assessment Engagements

- Office Hours
- 1:1 Meetings
- Provider Drop-In Hours

Post-Determination Engagement

- Site Visits at each Facility
- 1:1 Meetings
- Bi-weekly Office Hours
- A&E Project Meetings
- Business Development and A&E Collaborative meetings for Expansion projects (if necessary)

Contact Info

Claire Thomas, NORA, Project Manager, ECE Program

Claire.Thomas@nola.gov

VII. OPEN FORUM

FUTURE MEETINGS

Steering Committee Meetings

10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- **November 12** @ NOLA-PS ***9am start**
- **December 10** @ TBD
- **January 21** @ NOLA-PS
- **March 18** @ TBD
- **April 15** @ TBD
- **May 13** @ TBD
- **June 10** @ TBD

Coordinated Enrollment Subcommittee Meetings

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

- **November 4** @ NOLA-PS
- **December 2** @ NOLA-PS
- **January 13** @ NOLA-PS
- **March 10** @ NOLA-PS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT