

ND CLIMBS Grant Program Funding Opportunity 2024-2029

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI), Office of Academic Support, invites you to submit a **N**orth **D**akota **C**omprehensive **L**iteracy Improvement through **M**easured **B**uilding **S**ystems (ND CLIMBS) Grant proposal for the following public school building levels:

- Elementary
- Secondary (Middle School, High School, or Combined Middle and High School)

Opportunities for Birth through Age Five level grants will be issued approximately January 2025.

Updates about program requirements and more detailed information can be found at the following link:
<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/education-programs/literacy/nd-climbs>.

Program Summary

The ND CLIMBS project aims to establish and sustain collaborative conditions for delivering high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction across North Dakota, focusing on four key goals:

1. Establish systems to sustain collaborative conditions for the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction.
2. Equip administrative building instructional leaders (ABIL) to create and sustain collaborative conditions for educators to deliver high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction.
3. Support educators in delivering high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction to students.
4. Provide high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction to all students to achieve literacy skills proficiency.

The objectives include:

- Support school teams in planning and managing effective literacy systems to achieve student proficiency.
- Offer professional learning opportunities for administrative leaders to improve ELA leadership practices.
- Offer high-quality professional development aligned with the Science of Reading for educators to enhance instructional practices.
- Contract with external vendors to support educators in delivering high-quality instruction.

The project addresses the four competitive priorities of the CLSD program:

- Priority 1- enhancing teacher education and student placement tools among institutions
- Priority 2 - addressing pandemic-related educational setbacks, particularly for underserved students
- Priority 3 - promoting educational equity and access to resources across all education levels
- Priority 4 - building educator capacity through professional development and supporting students through key educational transitions. The project also meets the invitational priority by designing projects that support effective transition practices for students moving through early educational stages.

Application Information

The following documents and resources can be found on the [ND CLIMBS](#) webpage.

Application Platform

Applicants will complete an online Jot Forms application which will be released on November 18, 2024. This form can be found on the above website.

Application Webinar

A webinar regarding the online application process will be presented on November 19, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This webinar will be recorded and available on the [ND CLIMBS](#) webpage.

[Link to attend webinar.](#)

Online Guidance

Documents related to the application, including a Q&A resource, will be available on the ND CLIMBS website linked above.

Questions and objections may be submitted to dpiliteracy@nd.gov. The deadline for objections is December 20, 2024.

Application Review and Selection

Each application will undergo an independent review process to determine the relevance and quality of the information provided and the ability of the applicant to implement the program elements. The application has a possible score of 100 points. Those scoring the highest will be considered for an award, with 15% of all subgrantee funds going to Early Childhood programming, (the Birth to Age 5 funds will be issued in a forthcoming Funding Opportunity anticipated to be announced in January 2025), 40% to elementary schools, and 40% to secondary schools including middle and high schools.

The [ND CLIMBS Scoring Rubric](#) provides detailed information about the application scoring considerations.

Application Schedule

The following is the estimated application schedule that will be followed.

Funding Opportunity Announced	November 18, 2024
Application Webinar	November 19, 2024 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Central Time Link to Join Meeting
Deadline for Questions and Objections	December 20, 2024
Applications Due	January 15, 2025 @ 11:59:59 p.m. Central Time
Independent Review and Validation of Scores	January 17, 2025 – February 17, 2025
Approval and Notice of Selection	February 25, 2025

Application Specifications

Any North Dakota Local Education Agency (LEA) may apply. Applications will be completed at the school building level. If more than one building in a district is interested in the grant, one application per building, specific to that building, must be submitted. Applicants who serve a high percentage of disadvantaged children will receive priority points. The [ND CLIMBS School Needs Rank List 2024](#) indicates priority points available for each school building.

Applicants will be required to make the following assurances:

- Prioritize disadvantaged children.
- Supplement, not supplant funding.
- Conduct a local needs assessment for the application process
- Cooperate and comply with state and national literacy evaluations, including responding appropriately to performance feedback and engaging in a continuous improvement process.
- The business manager will engage in grant process training and updates.
- Contract with Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) for new or continuing services.
- Administer North Dakota Academic Progression of Learning & Understanding of Students (ND A+) interim assessments.
- Ensure a 75% or greater completion of educator biannual survey(s)
- Maintain administrative instructional leaders' (principal's) engagement in the network improvement community.
- Maintain educator participation in the networked improvement model.
- Establish and submit a complete professional development plan.
- Develop and demonstrate implementation of a Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC) by the start of school 2026-2027. Ensure the elimination of all resources and practices contrary to the Science of Reading.
- Develop and demonstrate implementation of an assessment and intervention pathway plan.
- Develop and demonstrate implementation of a family engagement plan.
- Develop and demonstrate implementation of a transition plan.
- Submit annual review and reapplication documentation.
- Allocate reasonable funds for personnel, consulting contracts, supplies, professional development, travel, etc., according to the needs and goals outlined in the program narrative, and account for all grant requirements.

Contact Information

The primary point of contact for this application process is Brenda Ehrmantraut, Assistant Director, Office of Academic Support. Please cc: Taylor Olsen, Project Coordinator, in correspondence.

Project Director: Brenda Ehrmantraut

Phone: 701-328-1809

Email: blehrmantraut@nd.gov

Project Coordinator: Taylor Olsen

Phone: 701-328-2629

Email: tlolsen@nd.gov

Submission Information and Deadline for Receipt of Applications

Application and attachments must be submitted online by January 15, 2025, at 11:59:59 p.m. Central Time. Failure to apply before the deadline may cause the application to be rejected.

Deadline for Questions and Objections

Applicants must carefully review this Funding Opportunity and all other ND CLIMBS grant program materials for defects, and questionable or objectionable material. All questions must be in writing and directed to the primary point of contact, [Brenda Ehrmantraut](#). The department must receive these written requests by December 20, 2024, to allow the issuance of any necessary amendments.

If the question may be answered by directing it to a specific section of the Application, then we may answer the question over the telephone. Other questions may be more complex and require a written amendment. The point of contact will make this determination. Oral communication is considered unofficial and non-binding by the department.

Amendments

If an amendment to this Funding Opportunity is issued, it will be posted on the [ND CLIMBS](#) webpage.