

**Topical Heading**  
Reading

**Program Title**

# Early Reading First

**CFDA # (or ED #)**  
84.359A; 84.359B

**Administering Office**  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)

**Who May Apply (by category)**  
Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), Local Education Agencies (LEAs), Nonprofit Organizations, Other Organizations and/or Agencies, State Education Agencies (SEAs)

**Who May Apply (specifically)**  
LEAs eligible for a Reading First (see # 84.357, also under topical heading "Reading") subgrant and public or private organizations or agencies located in a community served by an eligible LEA may apply.

**Current Competitions**  
FY 2008 application deadlines: Pre-application: April 7, 2008; full application deadline (for invited applicants only): June 10, 2008 (competition reopened).

**Type of Assistance (by category)**  
Discretionary/Competitive Grants

**Appropriations**

Fiscal Year 2006	\$103,118,400
Fiscal Year 2007	\$117,666,280
Fiscal Year 2008	\$112,548,812

**Fiscal Year 2008 Awards Information**  
*Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.*

Number of New Awards Anticipated: 23–68  
Average New Award: \$3,000,000  
Range of New Awards: \$1,500,000–\$4,500,000

Note: FY 2008 projects will be funded for three years.

**Legislative Citation**  
*Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended, Title I, Part B, Subpart 2*

**Program Regulations**  
*EDGAR; 34 CFR 74, 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99*

**Program Description**  
The program supports the development of early childhood centers of excellence that focus on all areas of development, especially on the early language, cognitive, and pre-reading skills that prepare children for continued school success and that serve particularly children from low-income families.

**Types of Projects**  
Grants are designed to help early childhood centers improve their programs, by creating centers of excellence that provide preschool-age children with language and cognitive skills, and an early reading foundation. Funds must be used to:

- Enhance children's language, cognitive, and early reading skills through professional development for teachers;
- Provide early language and reading development and instructional materials as developed from scientifically based reading research;
- Provide preschool-age children with cognitive learning opportunities in high-quality language and literature-rich environments;

- Use screening assessments to effectively identify preschool children who may be at risk for reading failure; and
- Improve existing early childhood programs by integrating scientifically based reading research into all aspects of the program (including instructional materials, teaching strategies, curricula, parent engagement, and professional development).

**Education Level (by category)**

Early Childhood, Pre-K

**Subject Index**

Disadvantaged, Early Childhood Education, Early Reading, Prereading Experience, Reading

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**Links to Related Web Sites**

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/earlyreading/index.html>