



Utah's School Readiness Initiative is designed to improve the quality of preschool and expand access for students who are at risk. The Initiative consists of three components and is governed by the Utah School Readiness Board:

The School Readiness Initiative Grants

Becoming High-Quality Grant

This grant supports existing preschool programs to increase elements of high-quality programming. Applicants and grantees must serve at least **25%** of economically disadvantaged students and/or English learner students. The application for this grant will be released in the Spring. The expectation is for providers to increase the quality of their program and transition to the Expanded Student Access grant.

Expanded Student Access Grant

This grant funds seats for eligible students in high quality preschool programs and consists of a **two-step** application process. The applicant submits a short application and an ECERS-3 observation administered by a certified state program specialist. If a recent ECERS-3 score is not available, a program specialist will conduct unannounced observations. If the program meets the ECERS-3 minimum threshold score, they will be invited to apply for the second phase application. The first phase of the application is released in the Spring.

Results-Based Contract Grant

(Pay for Success Transaction, 2013)

In 2013, Salt Lake County launched a Social Impact Bond that would provide high impact and targeted curriculum to preschool-aged children from low-income communities. These services were intended to increase school readiness and academic performance and thereby reduce the need for special education at a later age. Currently this grant is **not** open for applications or new solicitation.

School Readiness Update Resources:

- School Readiness Public Notice Website: <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/publicbody/4681.html>
- School Readiness Information: <https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/provider/quality.html>
- School Readiness and other DWS, OCC grant postings: <https://jobs.utah.gov/department/rfg/childcare.html>
- Utah Core State Standards for Early Learning for Ages 3 to 5: <https://www.schools.utah.gov/curr/preschool?mid=1181&tid=1>

MORE INFO

DWS, Office of Child Care

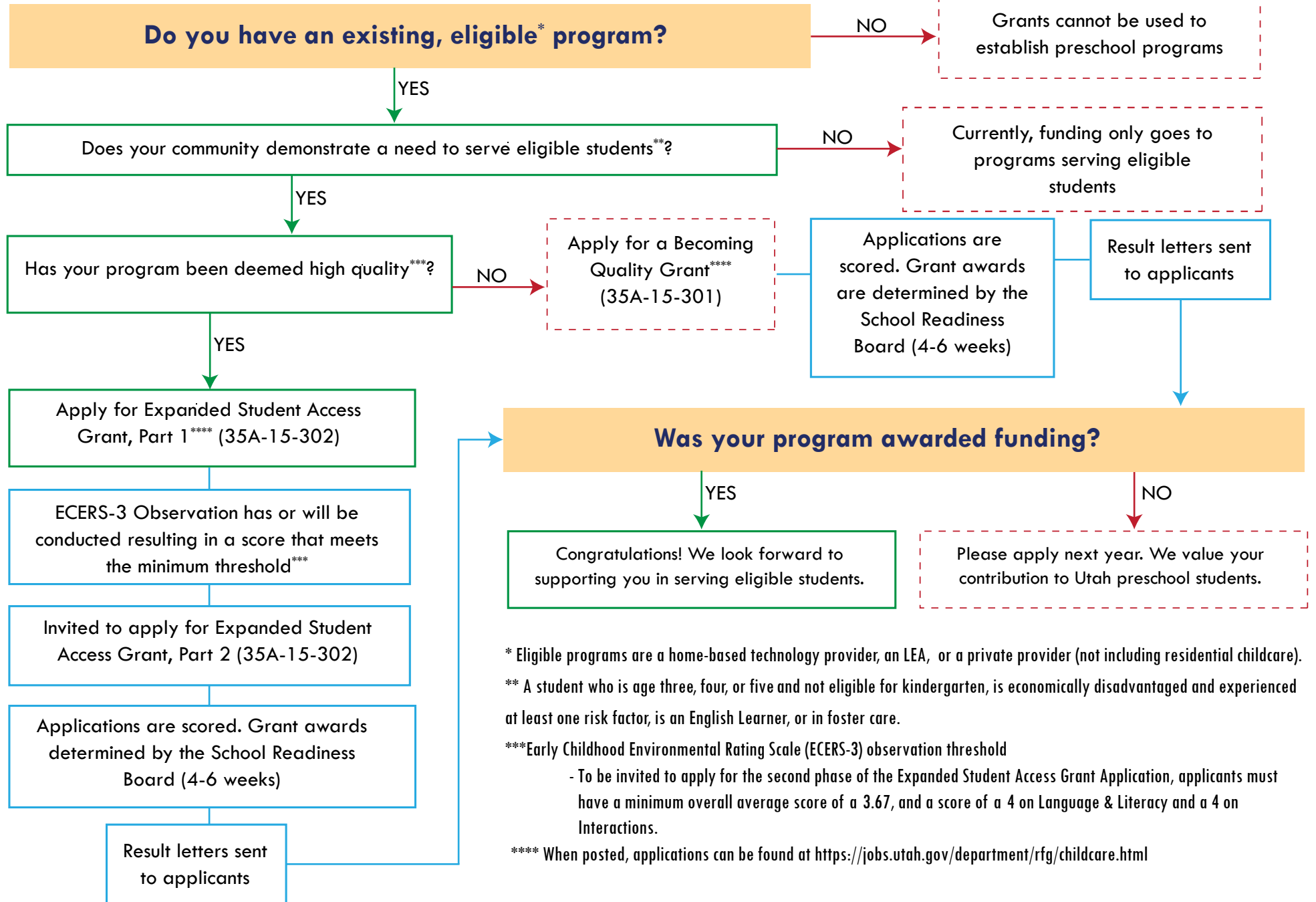
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* Eligible programs are a home-based technology provider, an LEA, or a private provider (not including residential childcare).

** A student who is age three, four, or five and not eligible for kindergarten, is economically disadvantaged and experienced at least one risk factor, is an English Learner, or in foster care.

***Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS-3) observation threshold
- To be invited to apply for the second phase of the Expanded Student Access Grant Application, applicants must have a minimum overall average score of a 3.67, and a score of a 4 on Language & Literacy and a 4 on Interactions.

**** When posted, applications can be found at <https://jobs.utah.gov/department/rfg/childcare.html>