

Utah's School Readiness Initiative is designed to improve the quality of preschool (BHQ Grant) programs and expand access in quality programs (ESA grant) for eligible students. The Initiative consists of three components and is governed by the School Readiness Team:

The School Readiness Initiative Grants

Becoming High-Quality (BHQ) Grant

This grant supports existing preschool programs to increase elements of high-quality programming. Grantees must serve at least 25% eligible students. The application for this grant is typically released at the beginning of the year. To be considered, applicants must demonstrate some elements of high quality. The grant is awarded per classroom. The expectation is for providers to increase the quality of their program and transition to the Expanded Student Access grant.

Expanded Student Access (ESA) Grant

This grant funds seats in existing high quality preschool programs for eligible students. Grantees must be meeting all elements of high quality listed in code and obtain an Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS-3) score of 3.67 overall and at least a 4 in language and a 4 in interactions. The purpose of the grant is to serve additional students in a high quality setting in preparation for kindergarten. The grant reimburses at a cost per child which is determined by the program's historical costs.

Results-Based Contract Grant

In 2014, Salt Lake County launched a Social Impact Bond (Pay for Success/ Results Based Grant) 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 Information: <https://jobs.utah.gov/occ/provider/schoolready.html>
- School Readiness and other DWS, OCC grant postings: <https://jobs.utah.gov/department/rfg/childcare.html>
- Utah State Board of Education Preschool Resources: <https://schools.utah.gov/curr/preschool>
- Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scales 3rd Ed. (ECERS-3) : <https://www.ersi.info/ecers3.html>

MORE INFO

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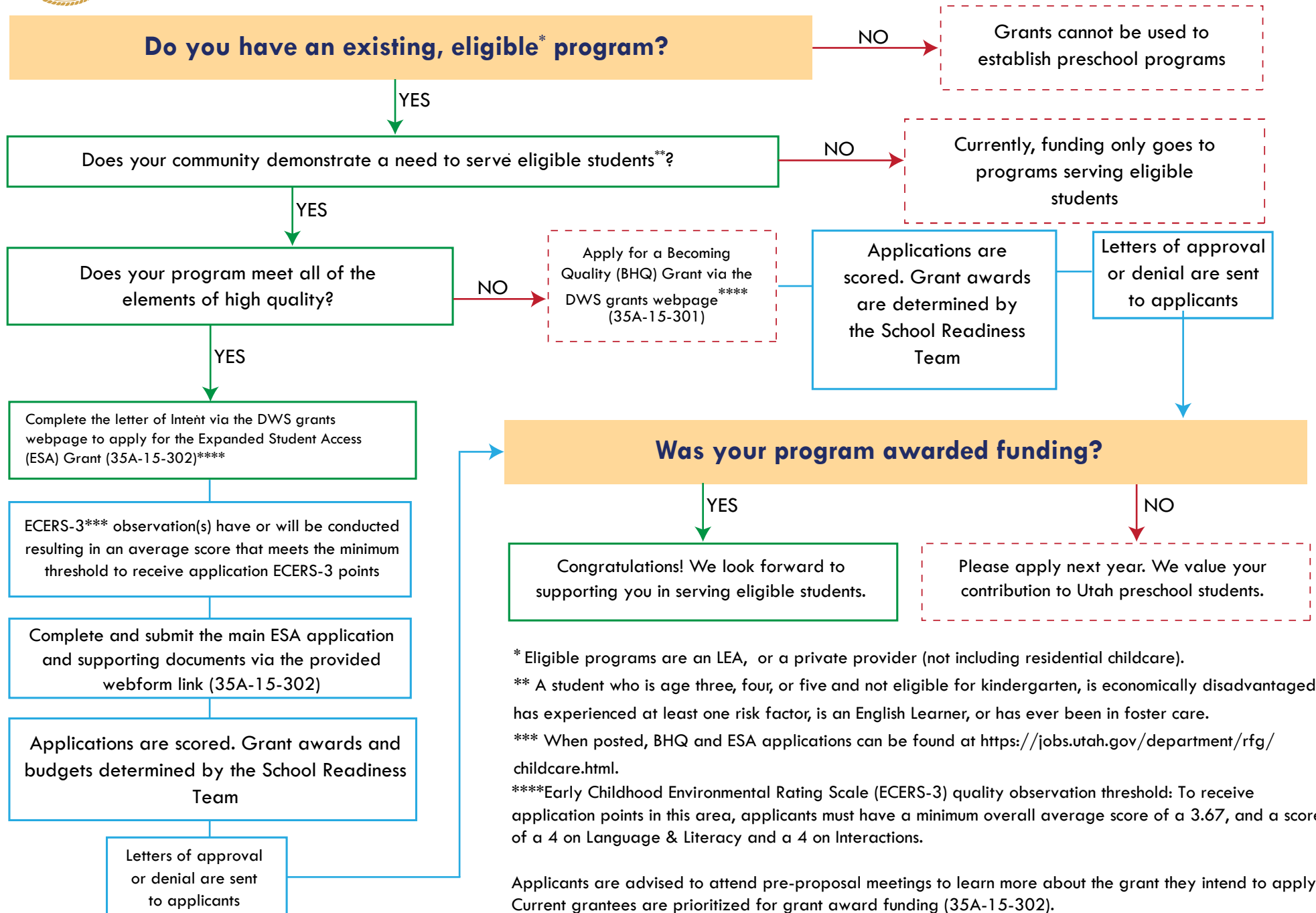
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Selecting the Right School Readiness Preschool Grant for your Program

The BHQ & ESA application process (applying and receiving a letter of award or denial) will take approximately 4 months.



* Eligible programs are 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, has experienced at least one risk factor, is an English Learner, or has ever been in foster care.

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

**** Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS-3) quality observation threshold: To receive application points in this area, 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.

Applicants are advised to attend pre-proposal meetings to learn more about the grant they intend to apply. Current grantees are prioritized for grant award funding (35A-15-302).