First Class Grants 101

2015-16 Grant Applications

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Types of Grants

Public School
HeadStart
Childcare

Excellence, up to $45,000
Tiered, up to $92,700

New Classroom
Grants

Plus and Intervention, up to $120,000
Development, up to $150,000

Types of Grants

Public School

Head Start

Childcare

New Classroom Grants

- *Plus*
- *Intervention*
- *Development*

Grant Amounts

Excellence

- Up to $45,000
- Intended to supplement existing classroom

  Examples: Pay degreed teacher OSR required pay, enhance high quality early learning environment etc.
- Public School, Head Start and Childcare programs may all apply for Excellence grants
- Programs receiving the Excellence Grants are allowed (but not required) to charge tuition

Grant Amounts

Tiered

Free/Reduced Percentage	Grant Amount Per Classroom
<50% free/reduced	$80,100.00
51%-60% free/reduced	$82,800.00
61%-75% free/reduced	$85,500.00
76-90% free/reduced	$88,200.00
91-100% free/reduced	$92,700.00

Grant Amounts

Plus and Intervention

- Up to $120,000
- Intended to fully equip classroom and pay for one year of operations
- Requires 25% match
- For one year only

Development

- Up to $150,000
- Intended to fully equip classroom and outside learning environment and pay for one year of operations
- Requires 25% match
- For one year only

New Classroom Grants

- New process this year for the large grants
- Three types of New Classroom Grants (up to $120,000 - $150,000)
  - *Plus*
  - *Intervention*
  - *Development*
- Each organization interested in applying for a New Classroom Grants (up to $120,000-$150,000) must first complete a Letter of Inquiry (LOI)
- Only those organizations with an approved LOI may proceed with the full application process
- Organizations will be notified by DCA the type of New Classroom grant for which they qualify upon approval of LOI
- New Classroom Grants are specifically for growing access to additional children, not to supplement serving an existing group of children

Public School Grants

- Granted to Local Education Agencies for implementation of a First Class Pre-K Classroom.
- May be used to supplement an existing classroom OR
- May be used to establish a new classroom
- May not be used to supplant (replace) funds going into existing Pre-K
- LEA's may apply for **Tiered** amount or **Excellence** amount

Childcare Grants

- Granted to private childcare, community organizations, faith based programs, college or university centers, military childcare, non-profit childcare etc.
- May be used to supplement an existing classroom OR
- May be used to establish a new classroom
- Organizations may apply for **Tiered** amount or **Excellence** amount

Head Start Grants

- Granted to Head Start grantees
- Funds are intended to supplement an existing classroom
  - *Teacher pay*
  - *Learning environment*
  - *Etc.*
- Head Start Programs may apply for the **Excellence** amount

Application Process All Online

Step 1: Registration

Step 1 ½: Letter of Inquiry (New Classroom Grant only)

Step 2: Application

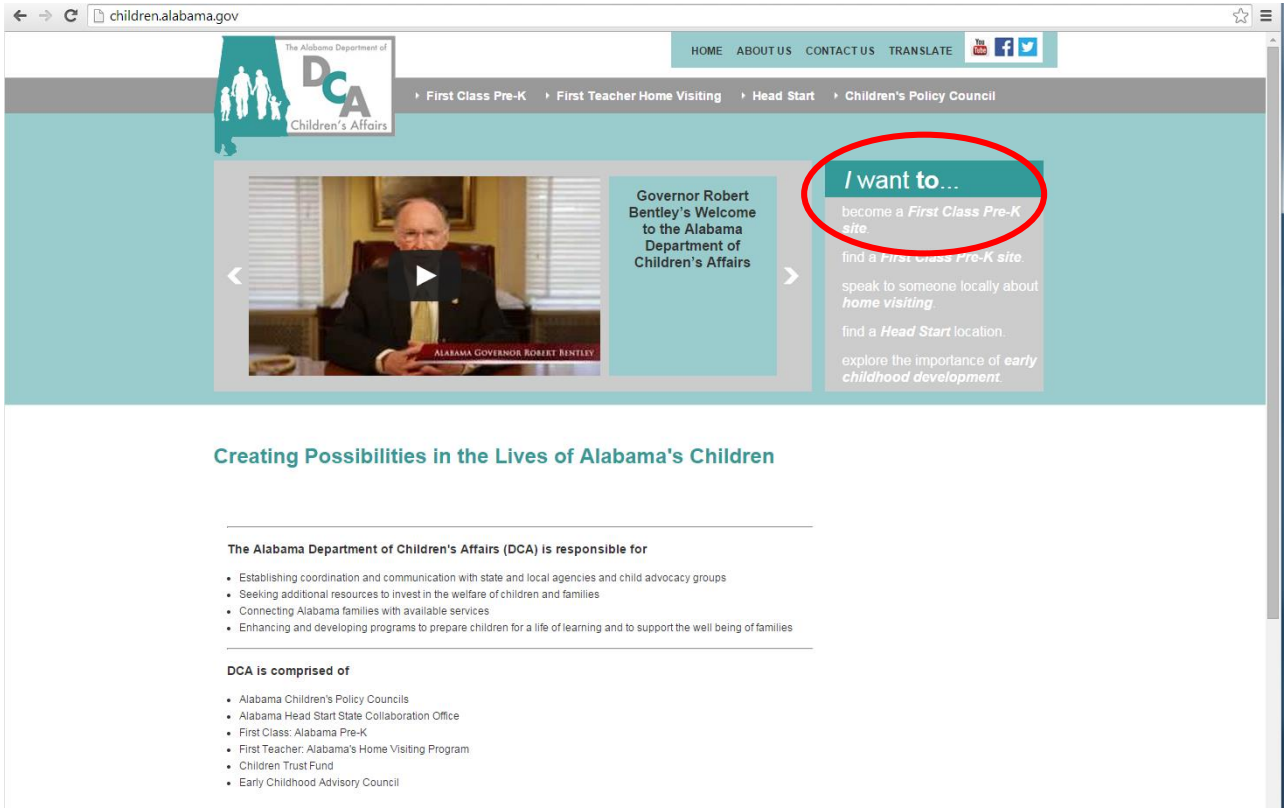
Step 3: Proof application

Step 4: Submit application

Step 5: HOPE

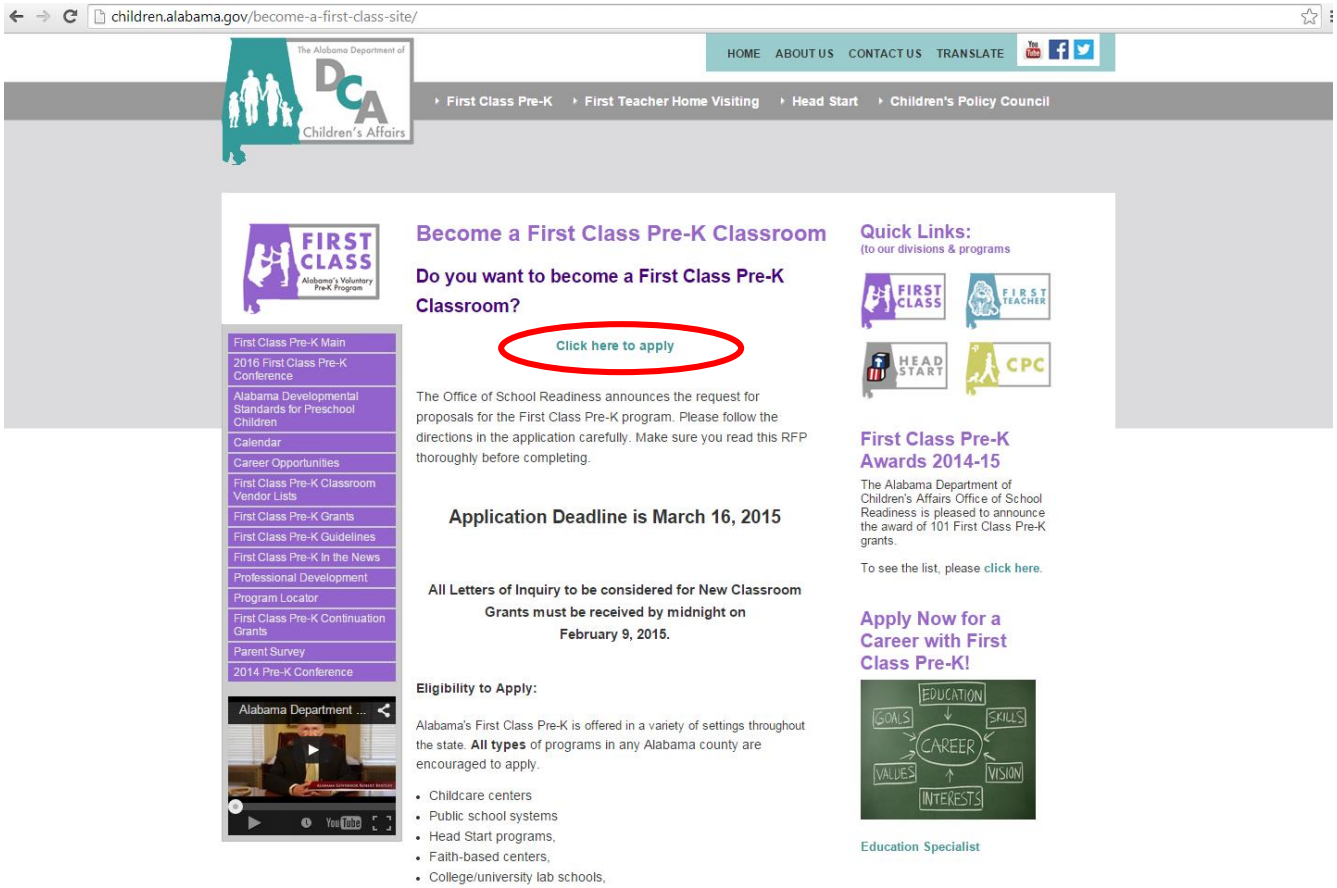
Step 1: Registration

To access the registration page, visit www.children.alabama.gov and click on the link "I want to…become a ***First Class Pre-K site***"



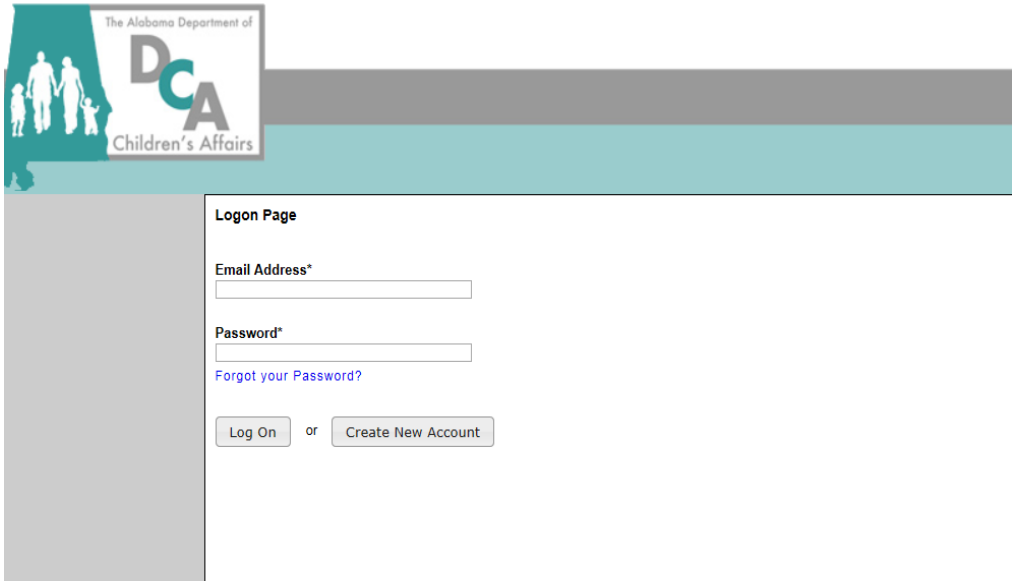
Step 1: Registration

On the next page, follow the “Click here to apply” link.



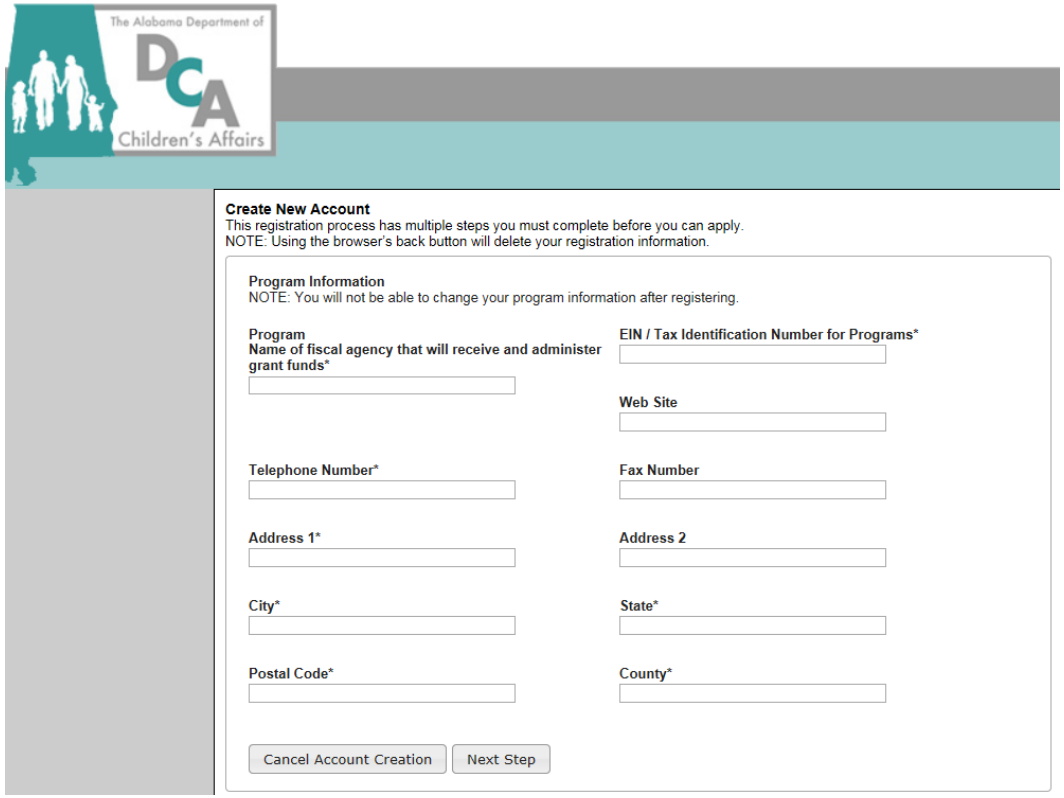
Step 1: Registration

Click on Create New Account to begin the registration process. If you have registered in the past, you do not need to create a new account.



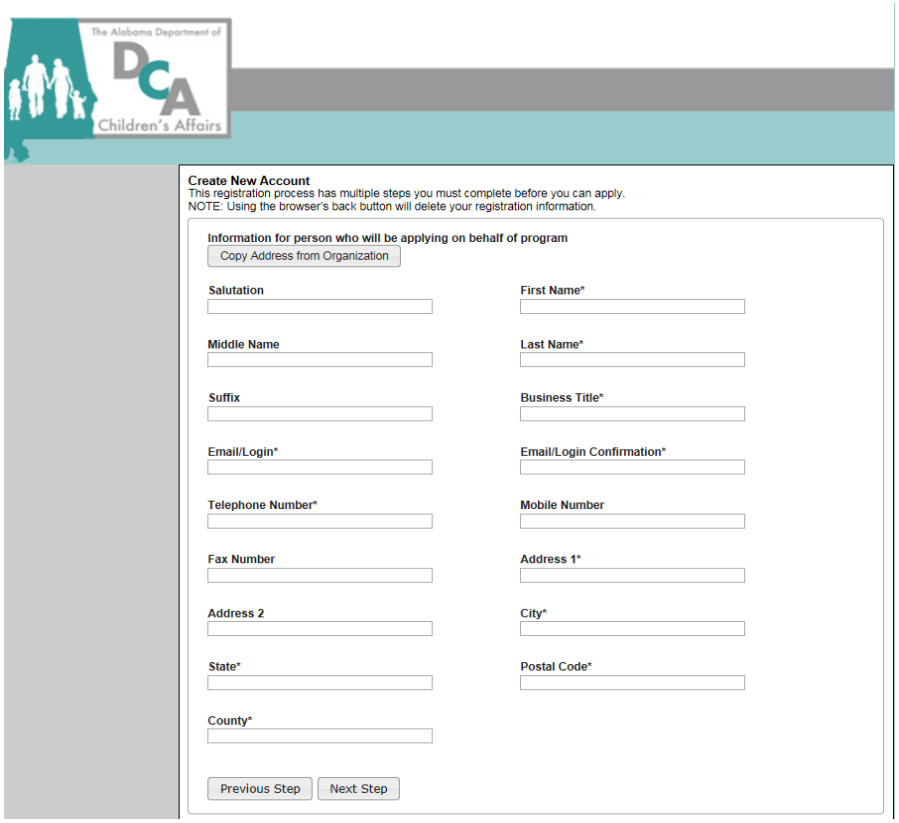
Step 1: Registration

Enter the name and details of the fiscal agency that will receive and administer grant funds.



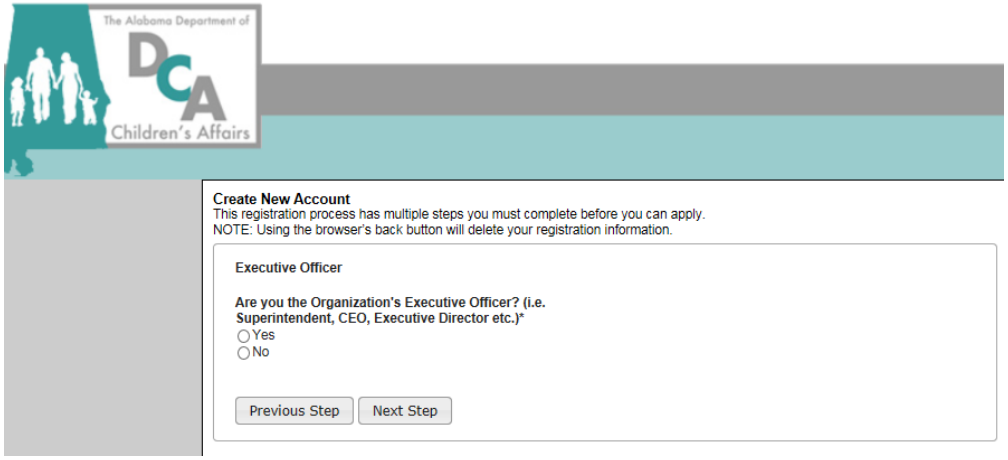
Step 1: Registration

Enter contact information for the person who will be applying on behalf of the program. This person will use their email address and password set during step 6 to log in each time.



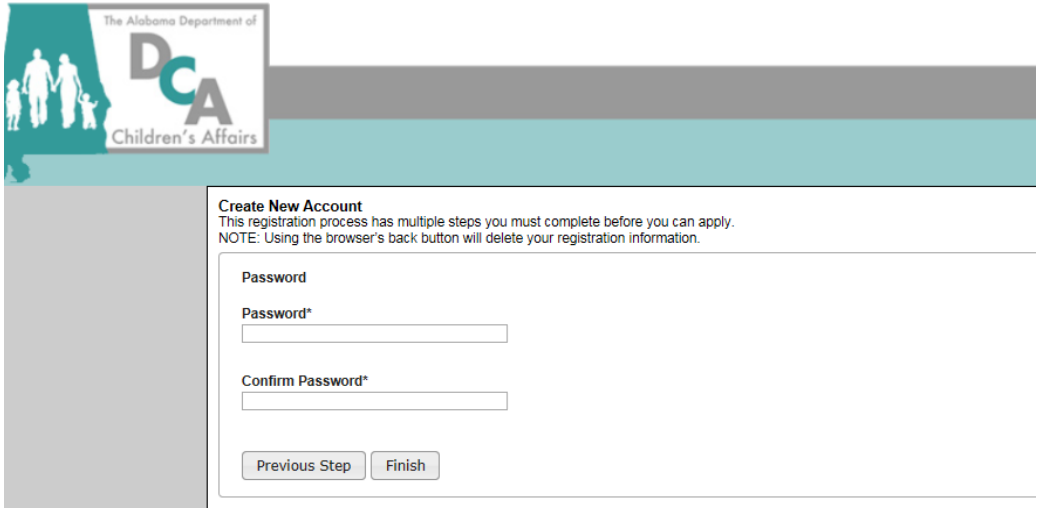
Step 1: Registration

If the person entered in step 3 is also the Executive Officer, select Yes and proceed to the password page. If the person entered in step 3 is not the Executive Officer, select No and proceed to enter the details for that person.



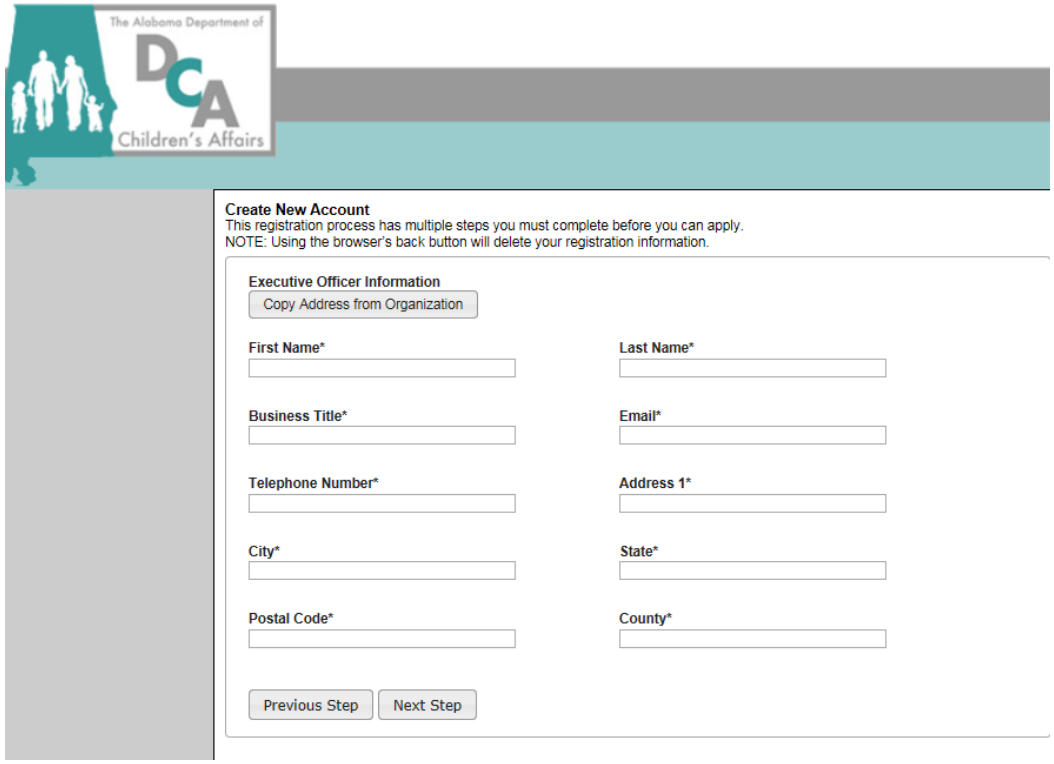
Step 1: Registration

If you selected Yes in step 4, this is the 5th and **final** step of the registration process. Please set and confirm your password.



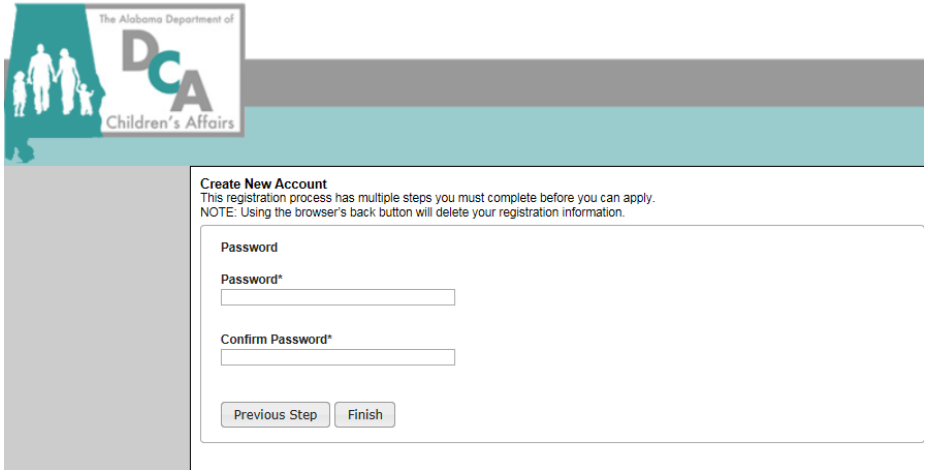
Step 1: Registration

OR if you selected No in step 4, you will need to complete this step of the registration process by entering the Executive Officer Information



Step 1: Registration

For those that selected No in step 4, this the final step. Proceed to set and confirm your password.



Once you have successfully completed the registration process you will be taken to the Application page. Congratulations!

Step 1 ½: Letter of Inquiry

New Classroom Grant Application

Eligibility to Apply:
All types of programs are encouraged to apply for this grant to establish a new classroom for 4-year-olds who currently do not have access to Pre-K. Those programs include, but are not limited to the following:

- Childcare centers
- Public schools
- Head Start programs
- Faith-based centers
- College and University programs and lab schools
- Private schools
- Community organizations
- Military childcare centers
- Other providers of preschool.

Application Process:
All potential applicants for a New Classroom Grant (Plus, Intervention, Development) must first submit a Letter of Inquiry. Letters of Inquiry for the establishment of new classrooms are due no later than **February 9, 2015**. The New Classroom Grants include Plus, Intervention and Development grants and are up to $120,000 or $150,000, depending on the criteria met. Only organizations with approved Letters of Inquiry will be allowed to apply for the New Classroom Grants (Plus, Intervention, and Development).

The New Classroom Grants are designed to establish a brand new classroom serving children who currently do not have access to Pre-K. New Classroom Grants are awarded for **1 year** and will go through a re-application process for a lower grant amount for subsequent years. The initial application will require a sustainability plan for the classroom.

All organizations, including those with an LOI not approved, may apply for the following types of grants: Childcare, Public School, and Head Start. The grant amounts and requirements are specified within the application. Organizations may apply for the Childcare, Public School, and Head Start grants **without an LOI**. **Only the New Classroom Grants require an approved LOI.**

Clicking this link will take you to the Letter of Inquiry (LOI).

Step 2: Application

The Alabama Department of DCA Children's Affairs

requests
Dashboard
Apply
tools
Fax to File

Application Page

Instructions
The Alabama Department of Children's Affairs announces the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the First Class Pre-K program. Please follow the directions in the application carefully. Please read this RFP thoroughly before completing.

Diverse Delivery:
Alabama's First Class Pre-K is offered in a variety of settings throughout the state. All types of programs in all Alabama counties are encouraged to apply. The Department of Children's Affairs encourages and supports a diverse delivery system.

Childcare centers
Public schools
Head Start programs
Faith-based centers
College and University programs and lab schools
Private schools
Community organizations
Military childcare centers
Other providers of preschool

Requirements:
The First Class Pre-K program is nationally recognized for high quality. To understand the required expectations of a First Class Pre-K classroom, please refer to the Office of School Readiness 2014-15 Guidelines and the Alabama Developmental Standards for Preschool Children. These documents may be found at www.children.alabama.gov.

Application Process:
All applications are to be submitted online using the grant management system.

A Letter of Inquiry (LOI) is NOT required to apply for Childcare, Public School, and Head Start Grants. **Only the New Classroom Grants require an approved LOI**.

The Childcare, Public School and Head Start Grants may be used to establish a new classroom, however, the grant amounts are not as great as the amounts funded through the New Classroom Grants application. If a Childcare, Public School or Head Start organization has another source of funds to help with the establishment of the new classroom, the organization is encouraged to use the appropriate Childcare, Public School, or Head Start Grant application to establish new classrooms.

Registration:
Prior to applying for a grant, each organization must first register through the online grant system. Click the registration link from the www.children.alabama.gov website to access registration and online grants.

Questions and Support:
Questions about the grant application and process may be emailed to prekgrantsupport@dca.alabama.gov or you may leave a message at (334) 353-2715.

Please note: The First Class Pre-K grant funds are not allowed to supplant (replace) federal or other funds allocated to 4 - year- old preschool or Pre-K programs.

Step 2: Application

Childcare Program Application

Childcare Program Application

Eligibility to Apply:

All childcare centers in all counties are encouraged to apply, including but not limited to

- Private childcare,
- Faith-based programs,
- College and university centers,
- Private schools,
- Community organizations,
- Military based childcare
- Others providers of early childhood education.

Step 2: Application

Public School Application

Public School Program Application

Eligibility to Apply:
All Local Education Agencies (LEA) throughout the state are encouraged to apply.

Step 2: Application

HeadStart First Class Application

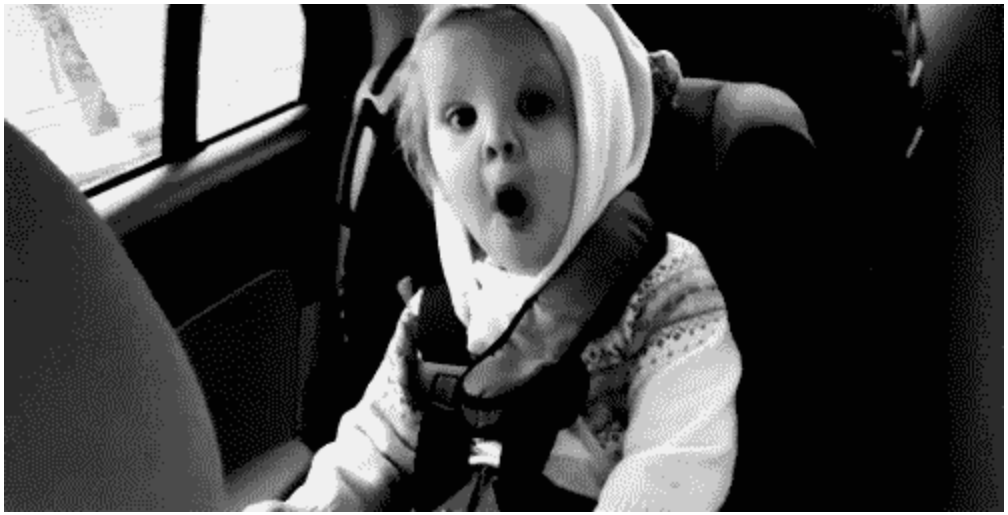
Head Start First Class Application

Eligibility to Apply:
All Head Start classrooms throughout the state are encouraged to apply for Excellence grants.

Step 3: Proof application

Be sure to save the application frequently!

Step 4: Submit application



Step 5: HOPE

co-executive producer
JENNIFER CELOTTA
MAKE GIFS AT GIFSOUP.COM

Tip

From the “Become a First Class Pre-K Classroom” page, you can access additional **Grant Material** including PDF versions of the applications for all Childcare, Head Start, and Public School Grants.

Grant Materials

All applications must be completed online using the **online grant application system**.

Below are PDF versions of the applications for each type of grant. Click on the title to view the question legend.

Childcare Grant Application
Head Start First Class Application
Public School Grant Application
New Classroom Grant Letter of Inquiry (LOI) - only necessary if applying for Plus, Intervention or Development grants up to $120,000 - $150,000
New Classroom Grant Application

Download recorded GoTo Meeting regarding the First Class Grants

Tip

The New Classroom Grant Letter of Inquiry (LOI) and the New Classroom Grant Application are also available. **Since the entire application process is online, it may be helpful to have these files.**

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