

**Frequently Asked Questions
Summer 2021 Countdown to Kindergarten Program**

- 1. I plan to implement the Countdown Program in Summer 2021, but I will not be applying for PDG funding for it. Do I still need to submit the CTK Budget Planning Worksheet by April 15?**

Yes. This requirement is just like in previous years when you were instructed to submit the CTK Numbers to Serve Form on April 15. The CTK Budget Planning Worksheet replaces the CTK Numbers to Serve Form.

- 2. What is the cost of the toolkits?**

\$99.56. This, and other important information, is located on the first tab of the CTK Budget Planning Worksheet, "Instructions."

- 3. Why aren't the costs of Countdown items (for example, teacher stipends, toolkits) listed on the Budget Planning Worksheet like they were other years?**

For Summer 2021, many decisions will be made at the local level – with the primary decision being whether the home visits will be face-to-face, virtual, or a combination. This has important implications for the CTK budget. For example, you might not need funding for mileage, but you will need to purchase another toolkit for each Countdown teacher. PDG funds and Fund 57 provide \$350/child. How those funds are dispersed among the categories (teacher stipend, travel, toolkits, other CTK expenses) might vary, based on partnership plans and needs.

- 4. My plans have changed since the Preliminary Partnership Survey for Countdown to Kindergarten. Am I obligated to serve that number of children?**

No. We recognize that plans might have changed since February, when you submitted the form. If you find that your plans have changed significantly, for example by 50 more or fewer children, please contact Janice Kilburn as soon as possible.

- 5. Besides the CTK Budget Planning Worksheet, what other documents do I need to submit for PDG-funded CTK for Summer 2021?**

None! The deadline to submit the CTK Budget Planning Worksheet is April 15. The following week, you will receive a PDG-funded CTK award letter. This letter reflects your commitment to deliver the program as outlined in the CTK Budget Planning Worksheet.

- 6. What are the eligibility requirements to qualify for PDG-funded CTK for Summer 2021?**

- a. Countdown teacher is child's soon-to-be kindergarten teacher AND
- b. Can justify PDG eligibility – not supplanting other funding sources
 - i. Same number of Summer 2019 PDG-funded CTK slots AND/OR
 - ii. CTK slots that will expand the Countdown program to new school districts, elementary schools, or teachers AND/OR
 - iii. Equivalent to loss in funding previously used for CTK AND/OR
 - iv. Will implement CTK with additional supports for children with disabilities and/or children in families in which English is a second language

7. For Countdown with Supports for Dual Language Learner families, what is the difference between a Bilingual Home Visitor, a Translator, and an Interpreter? Does it matter which I hire for this program?

Yes, the profession for this program matters. Bilingual Home Visitors are required for this program. They are trained/experienced home visitors that, in addition to communicating in the family's primary language, provide guidance and support for parents and their children. They have knowledge of local resources to connect families to needed services. Bilingual Home Visitors do more than provide accurate communication in families' primary languages – which is the role of Interpreters and Translators.