

**281—16.6(82GA, HF877) Application process.****16.6(1) Request for applications.**

*a.* The department shall announce the commencement of the application period through public notice on the department's Web site and the department's regular monthly electronic publication.

*b.* Applications for preschool program funding shall be available on the department's Web site and otherwise distributed by the department upon request.

*c.* All applications shall be submitted to the department in accordance with instructions accompanying the applications.

**16.6(2) Application process.**

*a.* Applications that do not contain the specified information or that are not received by the specified date shall not be considered.

*b.* The department shall have the final discretion to award funds.

**16.6(3) Notification of applicants.** The department shall notify all applicants within 45 days following the due date for receipt of applications whether their requests shall be funded. The department shall provide to each successful applicant a contract to be signed by an official with authority to bind the applicant and to be returned to the department prior to the distribution of any funds under this program.