



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Access to Quality Child Care Grant

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## 1. What is the Access to Quality Child Care Grant?

The Access to Quality Child Care Grant aims to increase the quality and supply of child care services for infants and toddlers, which may include establishing new or expanding child development facilities serving infants and toddlers. Specifically, this grant seeks to increase the District's supply of quality infant and toddler child care by September 2023, through the provision of sub-grants and technical assistance. The Access to Quality Child Care Grant is funded by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE). The Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) has been selected to administer the grant program.

The following sub-grants are available:

- **New Center Development** – for establishing new child development centers (both existing and new child care providers).
- **Expansion Grants for Child Development Centers** – for expanding existing child development centers.
- **New Child Development Home** – for establishing new child development homes.
- **Expansion Grants for Child Development Homes** – for expanding existing child development homes.

## 2. Who can apply for the Access to Quality Child Care Grant?

Funding is available to eligible early care and education providers or to current or future providers that plan to open a new child development facility or expand an existing child development facility in the District of Columbia.

## 3. I am interested in applying for the Access to Quality Child Care Grant. What do I need to do to apply?

Interested applicants should visit [lifeceresponse.org/washington-dc-2022](https://lifeceresponse.org/washington-dc-2022) for more information on the Access to Quality Child Care Grant and to access the [grant guidelines](#) and [intake form](#).

If you decide you are interested in participating in the Access to Quality Child Care Grant program, you will need to submit an [intake form](#), using the Submittable platform. To complete the intake form you must have an account with Submittable. If you do not have a Submittable account already, you will be prompted to create an account when you click on a link to the intake form. Creating a Submittable account is free. The email address you use to create your account will be the email address LIIF uses to correspond with you throughout the application process. **Please create your Submittable account using an email address you check frequently.**

After you complete and submit your intake form, LIIF will review it. Following LIIF's review, you will be contacted to arrange time to discuss your project and next steps.

#### 4. What is the process for applying for the Access to Quality Child Care Grant?

Please see the [Access to Quality Child Care Grant Application Process](#).

Please note, LIIF is currently administering three multi-year grant programs on behalf of OSSE: the Access to Quality Child Care Grant, the DC Child Care Stabilization Targeted Grant and the Back-to-Work Child Care Grant. Facilities may only participate in one of these grant programs. If you are not sure which grant program is most appropriate for your facility, please contact LIIF at [childcareDC@liifund.org](mailto:childcareDC@liifund.org) for support.

#### 5. What makes a project considered “ready”?

To be considered project ready, a project must have:

1. A site identified and have site control
2. A written business plan
3. Project and program budgets

For more information, see section 1.3.1 Application Process in Detail of the [Access to Quality Child Care Grant guidelines](#).

#### 6. How much funding can a child development center receive?

The following sub-grants are available to open or expand a child development center:

- **New Center Development Sub-Grants** between **\$100,000** and **\$300,000** are available to eligible child care providers (both new and existing) to establish new child development centers.

Sub-grants up to **\$500,000** may be available depending on the number of new infant/toddler slots created, priority status of the project and availability of funding. Awards will not exceed **\$12,000** per infant/toddler slot created.

##### Examples of eligible expenses:

- Planning and pre-development costs including feasibility studies, business plan development, permits, architectural services and related costs;
  - Site acquisition;
  - Facility and site construction or renovation costs (including outdoor play spaces);
  - Consultant(s) to assist with the physical development and/or licensing of the facility (e.g., project manager);
  - Physical renovations to increase the facility’s licensed capacity to serve infants and toddlers;
  - Renovations, equipment and furnishings required to expand licensed capacity to infants and toddlers; and
  - Any additional uses identified by LIIF staff in conjunction with agreement from OSSE.
- **Center Expansion Sub-Grants** of up to **\$200,000** are available to eligible child care providers to expand existing centers (approximately **\$8,000** per infant/toddler slot created).

Examples of eligible expenses:

- Physical renovations to increase the facility's licensed capacity to serve infants and toddlers;
- Fixtures, furnishings and equipment required to expand licensed capacity to infants and toddlers;
- Playground/outdoor upgrades (e.g., fixed equipment, shade, surfacing, fencing/hazard enclosure, gates, landscaping, irrigation, garden/green upgrades);
- Security equipment such as cameras, buzzers, gates and fences;
- Kitchen renovations and commercial equipment upgrades;
- Improvements that increase the accessibility of the program to children, parents, guardians or staff;
- Government agency citation compliance; and
- Any additional uses identified by LIIF staff in conjunction with agreement from OSSE.

## 7. How much funding can a child development home receive?

The following sub-grants are available to open or expand a child development home:

- **New Child Development Home Sub-Grants** are, in most cases, available to child care providers to establish new child development homes for up to **\$6,000** per infant/toddler slot created.

Examples of eligible expenses:

- Physical construction renovations to increase the child development home's licensed capacity to serve infants and toddlers to include construction of a fire code-compliant second exit, or code-compliant conversion of existing unused space into program space;
- Improvements to existing licensed homes to ensure they comply with the fire and life safety requirements of Appendix M of the DC Building Code (LIIF can provide this document, upon request);
- Renovations, sprinkler systems, outdoor play area improvements, equipment, furnishings and materials required to expand licensed capacity to infants and toddlers; and
- Any additional uses identified by LIIF with agreement from OSSE.

- **Child Development Home Sub-Grants** are, in most cases, available to existing child development homes to expand for up to \$6,000 per infant/toddler slot created.

Examples of eligible expenses:

- Physical construction or renovations to increase the child development home's licensed capacity to serve infants and toddlers to include construction of a fire code-compliant second exit, or code-compliant conversion of existing unused space into program space;
- Improvements to existing licensed homes to ensure they comply with the fire and life safety requirements of Appendix M of the DC Building Code (LIIF can provide this document, upon request);

- Renovations, sprinkler systems, outdoor play area improvements, equipment, furnishings and materials required to expand licensed capacity to infants and toddlers; and
- Any additional uses identified by LIIF with agreement from OSSE.

#### 8. What happens if LIIF determines that my project is not “ready”?

If the project is not ready, LIIF will provide technical assistance as the prospective applicant moves toward readiness. Prospective applicants who meet readiness requirements will advance to the site visit with LIIF, Department of Buildings (DOB) and OSSE, and if the project remains viable and ready, will be sent an application link to complete and submit. Please note, the application will remain open until June 1, 2023 or until funds are fully allocated, whichever occurs first. Prospective applicants who do not reach readiness before the program closes will be notified and may continue to receive technical assistance from LIIF.

#### 9. What happens if LIIF determines that my project is “ready”?

If the project is ready, LIIF will coordinate a site visit with the DOB and OSSE. After the site visit is completed, and if the project remains viable and ready, LIIF will send you an application link. The application must be completed and submitted to LIIF, including all required attachments. The application will remain open until June 1, 2023 or until funds are fully allocated, whichever occurs first. After an application is submitted, the applicant will receive a confirmation email from Submittable as well as an email from LIIF confirming receipt of the application. LIIF will review all applications within four to six weeks of submission. If you are awarded a sub-grant, you must sign a sub-grant agreement and fulfill the terms of that agreement.

For questions not addressed in the FAQ, please email [childcaredc@liifund.org](mailto:childcaredc@liifund.org).