

COMMUNITY BASED

Child Care Grant

FAQ

What does GOED & DSS stand for?

Governor's Office of Economic Development & Department of Social Services.

What is the deadline for the Child Care Grant Application?

October 27, 2023.

I have a detailed child care plan already created. Can I submit that and apply for the implementation grant only?

Yes, you can submit a completed and detailed plan and apply for an implementation grant.

When will the funds be available?

GOED's goal is to distribute the planning grant awards by mid-November. The implementation grants will follow, after detailed child care plans have been created and submitted.

If selected, how do I access the grant money?

The organization that is the lead representative for the community will receive the award amount. That organization will be responsible for payments for approved items. See attached Overview-Approved Items for Implementation.

Will more grants be available later?

This is a one-time grant opportunity provided to communities from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Our community does not have an Economic Development Organization (EDO).

While an EDO is our preference to be the applicant, an EDO is not required to be able to apply for the grant. See the examples on the program Overview page under the Eligible Applicants section.

How do I know I am eligible?

See Award Criteria on the Overview page.

When is the informational webinar?

Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 10:00 AM CST via [Zoom](#). The link can be found [here](#).

How do I register to become a licensed daycare provider?

Contact Department of Social Services (DSS). <https://dss.sd.gov/childcare/licensing/>

Why do we need multiple partners?

To show that multiple entities are in support of the project and are involved.

Who is my local lead applicant?

For information on a potential local lead applicant, please contact your areas GOED Partner Relations Rep.

Can an individual providing in-home daycare apply for funding?

DSS has already had opportunities for individual daycares to apply for funding. The goal with these funds is to think community wide when it comes to child care. Evaluating the systems in place and thinking creatively while including multiple partners is encouraged.

If I have previously been awarded funding through DSS, am I eligible to apply for this grant?

These funds are not intended to backfill gaps from previous projects. If you need financial assistance with your daycare project, contact your areas GOED Partner Relations Rep.

Can funding be used for new construction or expansion of existing buildings?

No. Federal ARPA rules do not allow this.

Can funding be used for remodel?

That would depend on what the remodel would include. Ex: HVAC, fire sprinklers, new ADA compliant features would qualify. However remodeling an entire building/wiring to retro fit for a daycare would not qualify.

Can entities that are not yet state licensed or registered qualify for planning grants?

Yes, entities that are not licensed or registered can apply for planning grants.

Who is eligible to receive implementation grants?

Entities must either be licensed or registered with DSS or in the process of becoming licensed or registered to qualify.

How do I know if my proposed project is eligible or would be funded?

The program intent is to develop innovative strategies and detailed plans for addressing child care challenges geared toward increasing state-licensed child care capacity while also involving more than one entity in the community. Projects must address all of the these things. Preference will be given according to the Award Criteria in the Overview document.

What is the timeline?

Planning Grant Deadline: October 27, 2023

GOED Announces Planning Grant Awardees: November 10, 2023

Implementation Grant Deadline: We will announce deadline soon.

GOED Announces Implementation Grant Awardees: We will announce award date soon.

Fund Expenditure Deadline: September 30, 2024

Can Planning Grant funds be used for staff time who are working on the project that are not considered "consultants"?

No. Community Based Child Care Grant Planning funds may not be used for staff who already are being paid by a city, county or economic development organization.

Where Can I find a list of currently licensed or registered providers in South Dakota?

You can search on the DSS website here <https://apps.sd.gov/ss45provinform/search.aspx> for a list of all registered providers by city, county or zip code.

How significant are the financial reporting requirements for these federal funds?

The Economic Development Organization or Lead Organizer will need to report how they expend/use the funds using a template that GOED will provide at the time of award.

Is \$500,000 the max per project to be shared by all collaborators?

Yes, each Planning grant awardee would be eligible for up to an additional \$500,000. This is based on setting aside \$2.0MM for Implementation, which would allow for at least 4 grants to be awarded. This will be dependent on the quality of the plans created and the amount awarded to each community. This amount may be adjusted based on the number of applications received.

Are HVAC systems for expansion plans allowed?

HVAC upgrades that have been identified as needs within a community based child care plan are eligible for funding in the implementation phase.

Would be able to pay for rent for first 6 months?

Yes. It can also be used for the following but not limited to wages and benefits for staff, health, dental and vision insurance, scholarships, bonuses, professional development hazard or premium pay for provider or employees.

Will this cover new and supportive education and programming or upskilling.

Yes, if that is presented in your plan or implementation process.

How does this funding help support existing early care providers reach their full capacity? We have empty classrooms. We have all the established facility and program design structure. We have established curriculum and decades of expertise. The challenge is attracting and retaining workers to maximize our capacity and afford fixed overhead costs. Adding more providers does not create additional workers. There could be further undermining of current providers.

If you already have a plan in place or this is your community's challenge. Ask yourself how you would solve this problem, create and submit an Implementation plan to tackle it. The grant will cover wages, benefits, and mortgage payments for first 6 months. You may also use it for marketing workforce or upskilling of an employee.

May we apply for Implementation only?

Yes, If you have a community plan in place already, you can apply for the Implementation portion only. We would still like you to include your original plan, but please state that you are only applying for the Implementation grant only.

Am I understanding correctly that the Planning grants are intended for Economic Development Authorities to apply, but the Implementation grants are limited to Licensed Childcare Providers?

No, we would prefer the Economic Development Organizations (EDO) to lead the community-wide effort, but is not required, especially if your community does not have an EDO. It can be another non-profit, or local govt. To benefit, the individual child care providers must be one of the entities involved in the process of creating the Planning phase and Implementation phase, as well as demonstrate which resources each entity is providing to ensure shared expectations. (See Overview/ Eligible Applicants)

Funds will be distributed up front as opposed to a spend and reimburse situation?

Yes, the Economic Development Organization, or lead organization will receive the funds up front. They will also be responsible to work with DSS in the reporting processes.

Is it first-come first serve?

No, we will review each application after the October 27, 2023, deadline and determine which best fit the purpose and criteria of the grant. We hope to announce the awardees as soon as possible, after the deadline, with all funds awarded by December 31, 2023.

Can implementation grants be used for construction or major renovation?

No. Implementation grants cannot be used for brick and mortar. However, they can be used in preparation for construction (i.e., consulting, engineering, environmental studies, architectural cost, testing, etc...)

As defined by 45 CFR 98.2, a major renovation means: (1) structural changes to the foundation, roof, floor, exterior or load-bearing walls of a facility, or the extension of a facility to increase its floor area; or (2) extensive alteration of a facility such as to significantly change its function and purpose, even if such renovation does not include any structural change.

I have more questions who do I contact?

GOED Partner Representatives.

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