

COMMUNITY BASED

# Child Care

## IMPLEMENTATION PHASE GRANT PROGRAM

### OVERVIEW

#### PURPOSE

1. **IMPLEMENTATION:** Provide funding for communities to implement innovative, strategic, and detailed plans that address child care challenges in their communities.

APPLICATIONS OPEN: *February 15, 2024*, at 8:00 AM CST

DEADLINE: *February 29, 2024*, at 5:00 PM CST

#### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The emphasis for this grant program is to provide funds for community-based childcare solutions. Community-based shall be defined as there being more than one entity, each serving an essential role(s) in a partnering arrangement. The community-based solution is then collectively involved in either some or all the planning and implementation phases of the project. Entities that collaborate to form a community-based solution may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Local Economic Development Organizations (preferred applicant)
2. Community Coalitions/Collaboratives/Groups
3. Public/Private Partnerships
4. Local Governments
5. Businesses
6. School Districts
7. Non-profit Organizations
8. For Profit Organizations
9. Existing Child Care Providers

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Preferred applicant would be the local Economic Development Organization (EDO) that is leading a community-wide effort to improve childcare; however, it is not required. The EDO could apply on behalf of the community, including multiple entities involved in creating childcare solutions. In which case, an agreement between the partnering entities to demonstrate which resource(s) the entity is providing and to ensure shared expectations is strongly encouraged. An applicant, either the EDO or the community-based provider, could apply for one or both funding opportunities listed in the Purpose section.

## AWARD CRITERIA

Preferences will be given to proposals that:

1. Seek to find solutions to the childcare workforce challenges.
2. Impact communities identified as childcare deserts (those with limited or no options for high-quality childcare).
3. Seek to increase the accessibility to high-quality childcare for infants and toddlers.
4. Support an employer-sponsored program or childcare partnership, to expand the number of childcare slots (availability) in a community and/or accessibility (the times when childcare might be available).
5. Seek to improve the childcare landscape in their local community by addressing an 'outside of the norm' challenge.

Any childcare facilities that are erected as new offerings in a community, expanded, or otherwise impacted through this community-based grant must be state-licensed childcare facilities, or working towards and committed to licensure.

## AVAILABLE FUNDS

A total of \$1.87 MM is available for the IMPLEMENTATION portion.

Applicants that were awarded a planning grant would automatically be considered for an implementation grant contingent on the quality of the plans they produce in the planning phase. Each grant awardee would be eligible for up to an additional \$500,000 (maximum award may be greater dependent on the number of applicants) to implement the plan they developed. Other communities who have already created and developed a community plan but have not been awarded funding from the planning phase are also eligible to apply for the implementation phase. The amount awarded will be based on the needs identified in the plans.

## EXAMPLE OF APPROVED IMPLEMENTATION EXPENSES

1. HEALTH & SAFETY: items to meet licensing requirements (pre-operational requests)
2. EQUIPMENT & SUPPLY PURCHASES: related to starting a childcare program (pre-operational requests)
3. PAYROLL & BENEFITS EXPENSES: including owner salary, childcare director, staff salary /benefits
4. FACILITY EXPENSES: including rent or mortgage, partial mortgage (FDC), utilities, garbage removal
5. TRAINING/UPSKILLING: Tuition, Certifications
6. PRE-CONSTRUCTION/ENGINEERING & DESIGN: Environmental Assessment, etc...
7. OTHER EXPENSES: advertising and membership dues, insurance

FUNDING EXCLUSIONS: purchase of land or building, major construction or renovations  
expendable supplies (diapers, wipes, crayons), office equipment and supplies.

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## WEBINAR

An informational webinar will be held *Thursday, February 1 at 02:00 PM Central Time via Zoom*.  
A question and answer session will be available at this time.

## EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS

All funds must be expended by *September 30, 2024*.

## AWARDS

The goal is to announce awards in the first couple weeks in March. The lead organization will be notified of next steps at the time of announcement.

## CONTACTS

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