



District of Columbia  
Office of the State Superintendent of Education

# Grant Opportunities for Child Development Facilities

*Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23)*

Updated December 2022

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) Division of Early Learning (DEL) supports the early care and education community through grant programs that offer financial assistance and business and planning supports to child development facilities to preserve and increase the supply and quality of child care to meet the needs of District of Columbia children and families and to cultivate a high-quality child care workforce. OSSE administers these programs through intermediaries that provide direct support to child care providers. Information on current, upcoming and past grant opportunities, including eligibility requirements and application deadlines, is below.

## FY23 Grant Opportunities

OSSE has partnered with the [Low Income Investment Fund](#) (LIIF) to administer three multi-year grant programs supporting the District's child care sector during the coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery: the Access to Quality Child Care Grant, Back-to-Work Child Care Grant and DC Child Care Stabilization Targeted Grant. Facilities may only participate in one of these grant programs. To determine if a facility is eligible and which grant program is most appropriate for the facility to participate in, the facility must complete and submit the [general intake form](#) hosted by LIIF.

### Access to Quality Child Care Grant

The [Access to Quality Child Care Grant](#) is a \$10 million program that provides support to current and future child development facility operators to expand, open and improve new and existing child development facilities. LIIF will administer sub-grants to eligible child development facilities. Several sub-grant types are available for this grant program.

#### *Eligible Applicants*

Child development facilities that are licensed by OSSE and serving families may apply to open a new facility or expand their current location. Organizations or individuals who do not currently operate a facility licensed by OSSE but are interested in opening a facility in the District of Columbia may also apply.

#### *Application Details*

Interested applicants for the Access to Quality Child Care Grant must first complete and submit an intake form sharing information about their program and expansion or new facility development plans. [The intake form can be found here on LIIF's website.](#)

LIIF will review intake forms to determine what type of sub-grant a child development facility or organization/individual may be eligible to participate in and invite those that meet "readiness" criteria to complete the grant application. More information on the application process can be found in the [grant guidelines](#).

In addition to financial support, LIIF will support child development programs to build business capacity and provide technical assistance in creating high-quality, developmentally appropriate learning environments for infants and toddlers. LIIF will provide technical assistance to any child development facility in the District with questions about expanding, renovating or establishing a new child development facility.

### *Contact*

For questions about the Access to Quality Child Care Grant, please email [childcareDC@liifund.org](mailto:childcareDC@liifund.org).

## Back-to-Work Child Care Grant

The Back-to-Work Child Care grant will provide additional financial assistance to preserve the supply of child development facilities in neighborhoods most impacted by COVID-19 through the District's pandemic recovery. It will provide funding to facilities in COVID-impacted neighborhoods that have sustained financial losses during the pandemic to allow them to remain in operation, return to full capacity/enrollment, make open spaces available for families returning to work and limit tuition increases for families. LIIF will also provide business support and technical assistance to participating child care providers to help them increase enrollment, develop business and sustainability plans to ensure their facility's ability to continue serving families following the end of the grant period, and make changes to their program or operations needed to improve financial sustainability or program quality.

### *Application Details*

This program is expected to launch in early 2023. Interested programs may fill out LIIF's [general intake form](#) to provide information that LIIF will use to pre-assess eligibility for all grant opportunities. Eligible child development facilities will be notified when this grant program opens.

### *Contact*

For questions about the Back-to-Work Child Care Grant, please email [childcareDC@liifund.org](mailto:childcareDC@liifund.org).

## DC Child Care Stabilization Targeted Grant

In 2022, OSSE launched the [DC Child Care Stabilization Grant](#) to provide financial relief to child development facilities for unexpected business costs associated with the pandemic and help stabilize their operations and preserve the supply of child care for children and families. OSSE partnered with LIIF, the Washington Area Community Investment Fund (Wacif), Hurley & Associates and the United Planning Organization (UPO) to disburse funds to eligible child development facilities and began disbursing funds in early 2022. In FY23, LIIF will support OSSE to disburse additional DC Child Care Stabilization Grant funds through a separate process to child development facilities that have additional needs that were not covered by their initial awards, and who are not receiving financial assistance through the Access to Quality Child Care Grant or Back-to-Work Child Care Grant.

### *Application Details*

This program has not launched yet. Interested programs may fill out LIIF's [general intake form](#) to provide information that LIIF will use to pre-assess eligibility for all grant opportunities. Eligible child development facilities will be notified when the grant program opens.

### *Contact*

For questions about the DC Child Care Stabilization Targeted Grants, please email [childcareDC@liifund.org](mailto:childcareDC@liifund.org).

## Past Grant Opportunities

### DC Child Care Stabilization Grant

As part of the [American Rescue Plan \(ARP\) Act](#) of 2021, the District of Columbia received approximately \$38 million in child care stabilization funds to support the child care sector through the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and recovery. The [DC Child Care Stabilization Grant](#) provided financial relief to nearly all licensed child development facilities in the District for unexpected business costs associated with the pandemic and helped to stabilize their operations and preserve the supply of child care for children and families.

To disburse DC Child Care Stabilization grant funds, OSSE partnered Wacif, LIIF, Hurley & Associates and the UPO. These organizations acted as grantees of the DC Child Care Stabilization grant and disbursed grant funds to eligible child development facilities (“subgrantees”). Grant funds were disbursed on a formula basis and helped to ensure child development facilities in the District continued to provide services to children and families through and beyond recovery from the public health emergency.

### DC Road to Recovery Fund and DC Child Care Provider Relief Fund I & II Grant Programs

In 2021, OSSE administered the DC Road to Recovery Fund and two rounds of the DC Child Care Provider Relief Fund to provide support to child development facilities experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. These grants provided emergency operating funding relief to child development facilities to ensure a supply of child care for families during the public health emergency and through the recovery period.

OSSE partnered with LIIF to administer the DC Child Care Provider Relief Fund totaling \$5.8 million. The grant was available to child development facilities in the District licensed as of Jan. 1, 2021.

OSSE and the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) partnered with Wacif to administer the DC Child Care Provider Relief Fund I & II on behalf of the District. Through the fund, nearly \$14 million was awarded to licensed child development facilities in the District.

## Grants for Early Education Workforce

For information on scholarships and financial assistance available to early childhood educators, including the [DC Leading Educators toward Advanced Degrees \(DC LEAD\)](#) grant program, please contact the DEL’s [Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) Help Desk](#) at [ECEhelpdesk@dc.gov](mailto:ECEhelpdesk@dc.gov) or (202) 478-5903.