



District of Columbia
Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Grant Opportunities for Child Development Facilities

November 2021

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.

Current 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](#) provides 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.

To disburse DC Child Care Stabilization grant funds, OSSE has partnered with the Washington Area Community Investment Fund (Wacif), the Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF), Hurley & Associates and the United Planning Organization (UPO). These organizations will act as grantees of the DC Child Care Stabilization grant and will disburse grant funds to eligible child development facilities (“subgrantees”). Grant funds will be disbursed on a formula basis and will help to ensure child development facilities in the District can continue to provide services to children and families through and beyond recovery from the public health emergency.

Eligible Applicants

To receive grant funds, providers must meet [federal](#) and local eligibility criteria. Child development facilities are eligible for a grant if they currently have an active license and: a) were licensed as of March 11, 2021 OR b) were licensed after March 11, 2021 and meet all District requirements to receive Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funding, including having a subsidy contract with OSSE and participating in Capital Quality, the District’s quality rating and improvement systems.

Application Details

Child development facilities that are eligible for the grant received an email notice from OSSE in October 2021. This notification was sent to each facility’s person of record in the Division of Early Learning Licensing Tool (DELLT) and included information on the grantee that will administer the facility’s subgrant and how to apply to receive grant funds. Child development centers that participate in the Quality Improvement Network (QIN) will receive funding through UPO; child development centers and homes that participate in the Shared Services Business Alliance (SSBA) will receive funding through Hurley & Associates; and all other providers will receive funding through Wacif.

Eligible child development facilities will receive a welcome and onboarding email directly from Wacif, Hurley & Associates or UPO to initiate the grant process. Grantees will operate their own intake form

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processes and timelines, meaning providers may receive their welcome and onboarding email at different times dependent upon the schedule established by the grantee administering their award.

If you believe your child development facility is eligible to participate in the DC Child Care Stabilization grant and do not receive a notice from OSSE or your designated grantee by Nov. 22, 2021, please email OSSE.DELCommunications@dc.gov.

Child development facilities that have additional needs that are not covered by their initial awards may apply for additional funding that will be administered by LIIF through a separate process. The initial intake application shared by your designated grantee will include an opportunity to indicate whether your facility requires additional funding in order to remain in operation. Expressed needs for additional funding will be shared with OSSE and LIIF for review. Child development facilities that meet the criteria to receive additional funding will receive a notification from OSSE with next steps on the process for receiving additional funds through LIIF.

Contact

For more information on the DC Child Care Stabilization grant, visit osse.dc.gov/page/dc-child-care-stabilization-grant or email OSSE.DELCommunications@dc.gov.

Upcoming Opportunities

Access to Quality Child Care Grant

The \$10 million [Access to Quality Child Care](#) grant aims to increase the supply of child care services for infants and toddlers in the District of Columbia by 2023. Grant funds will be used to expand, open new or improve existing child development facilities in order to improve the supply and quality of child care services in DC. Child development facilities interested in applying for Access to Quality funds will submit applications to the intermediary selected by OSSE to administer the program. More information on the Access to Quality Child Care grant will be shared in early 2022.

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 during the District's recovery. It will provide funding to under-enrolled facilities in COVID-impacted neighborhoods to allow them to remain in operation, make open spaces available for families as they return to work, and limit tuition increases in participating facilities. Child development facilities interested in applying for Back-to-Work Child Care funds will submit applications to the intermediary selected by OSSE to administer the program. More information on the Back-to-Work Child Care grant will be shared in spring 2022.

Past Grant Opportunities

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 educators, including the [CDA Training Scholarship and Promotion grant](#) and the [Early Childhood Educator Workforce Development Program](#) please contact the DEL's [Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) Help Desk](#) at ECEhelpdesk@dc.gov or (202) 478-5903.