



General Questions

1. We have received email about Capital Grants for ECEC, and I would like to make sure, is this just for nonprofit organizations?

If we are privately owned, for profit daycare centers we can't apply?

We are planning to build a new facility, our old is the old building and classes do not have windows, so I was hoping we can apply for this grant.

By statute, eligible entities only include public school districts and not-for-profit entities. 105 ILCS 230/5-300. Therefore, privately owned, for profit daycare centers are not eligible under this grant program.

2. Would a community college with a day care center be eligible to apply? Are playground projects allowed?

Whether a community college with a daycare center would be eligible depends on how the daycare is structured and organized. Pursuant to 105 ILCS 230/5-300, the Capital Development Board ("CDB") (in consultation with the Illinois State Board of Education) is authorized to make grants available to public school districts and not-for-profit entities for early childhood construction projects. Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families. A broad range of eligible providers may apply for these grants, including, but not limited to:

- Public School Districts
- Preschool for All programs
- Licensed private nonprofit childcare centers [If an early childhood center is operated by a child care center subject to the licensure requirement of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), then that childcare center must hold the appropriate licensure in accordance with rules promulgated by DCFS [see 89 Ill. Adm. Code 403 (Licensing standards for Group Homes), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 405 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Agencies), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 406 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Homes), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 407 (Licensing Standards For Day Care Centers) and 89 Ill. Adm. Code 408 (Licensing Standards for Group Day Care Homes).]
- Licensed-exempt private nonprofit childcare centers

Licensed family childcare residences are ineligible for these grants but are encouraged to apply for other programs. Grants will not be awarded to childcare providers operating within a private residence.

If the daycare is organized as a non-profit, it will likely be an eligible recipient.

A project may include, as part of the overall capital project, equipping the facility. The purchase of other equipment, such as a playground equipment, is also allowed provided that the equipment has a significant useful life and complies with the requirements of [71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.100](#). Grants shall be issued to increase early childhood services to children from marginalized communities and populations aged 0 to 5 years old who exceed the number of enrollment slots designated for their age groups at Early Childhood Centers in the area served by those centers.

Please refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity for this grant program for additional information.

3. Can a school district or non-profit organization apply for multiple centers or various campuses if it is done on one application?

As specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, “each entity may only submit one application per funding round and each application must be for a single location.”

4. The business is currently operating as a for-profit business. If they were to switch their business model to a not-for-profit would they be eligible for the grant or do they need experience operating as a non for profit in the area of early childhood to be eligible for the grant? Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

As specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, “eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families.” There is no specific length of time the non-profit must have been providing early childhood services, but it does have to have some history.

5. My organization is hoping to construct a childcare center in Quincy, Illinois. We see the Early Childhood Construction - Rebuild Illinois grant and are trying to determine whether we qualify. We are a non-profit healthcare organization that supports the health and well-being of the individuals and communities we serve, foster community development initiatives, and provide resources for programs and partnerships. We have a strong need for affordable childcare in our community and would like to develop a childcare center to meet those needs. The NOFO notes that these are the eligibility requirements but it is not limited to these entities. Do we qualify?

We are not:

- Public School Districts
- Preschool for All programs
- Licensed private nonprofit childcare centers [If an early childhood center is operated by a child care center subject to the licensure requirement of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), then that childcare center must hold the appropriate licensure in accordance with rules promulgated by DCFS [see 89 Ill. Adm. Code 403 (Licensing standards for Group Homes), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 405 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Agencies), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 406 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Homes), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 407 (Licensing Standards For Day Care Centers) and 89 Ill. Adm. Code 408 (Licensing Standards for Group Day Care Homes).]
- Licensed-exempt private nonprofit childcare centers

The list of eligible entities is not exhaustive; however, to be eligible, an entity must be a public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families. Provided your organization meets those requirements, it is eligible to apply for an early childhood construction grant.

6. I'm working with a School District on a potential Early Childhood Construction grant. We were curious if noting that the district already operates a Prevention Initiative program for children ages birth through three in a home site model and noting that those individuals would be served by the newly renovated facility would make the district's application more or less competitive.

Information on what criteria will be scored when awarding the Early Childhood Construction grants may be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program, which is available [here](#) on CDB's website. Also, CDB has created a detailed [Application Guide](#) that may be used when completing the Early Childhood Construction Grant Application. The guide may be helpful in determining what information should be included in the grant application.

7. Our District has an Early Learning and Development Center that serves children ages 3-5 years. The Early Childhood Preschool for All Program (Pre-K) includes Bilingual and Blended programs, and we also have the Early Childhood Special Education Program (EC). The Pre-K programs offer half day classes five days a week and the EC programs offer half day classes four days a week both programs provide a balanced educational experience. Are we eligible to apply for this grant with the Early Learning and Development Center program structure described above?

After being notified of a grant funding, how long can you wait to spend the grant funding? What is the deadline to start spending grant funds and to finish spending grant funds? Does this time start from the award date or is the date when the recipient receives grant funding?

Are requested grant amounts modified? Is it possible to be approved for a grant amount less than the grant amount requested in our application?

Can you please explain how you determine if grant funds have been legally obligated? The fourth bullet point under Other Information on your application website states that: "State of Illinois Capital Development Board Any grant funds not legally obligated within two years shall be returned to CDB within 45 days."

Any public school district or non-profit early childhood provider is eligible to apply for an Early Childhood Construction Grant, the goal of which is to increase early childhood services to children from marginalized communities and populations aged 0 to 5 years old who exceed the number of enrollment slots designated for their age groups at Early Childhood Centers in the area served by those centers.

The total grant term is five years. The construction or renovation project, along with all required grant paperwork, must be completed during that five-year period. Additionally, all construction contracts for the project must be bid and awarded within two years of execution of the grant agreement. Costs incurred prior to execution of the grant agreement are generally not allowable, but design fees incurred for the project prior to award may be used as part of the successful applicant's match.

Generally, the grant amount requested in the application is the amount awarded. However, in the event that eligible expenditures total less than the amount awarded, the funds distributed under the grant will be reduced to equal the total amount of eligible expenditures. Additionally, in the event that the grantee does not provide the entire match amount, grant funds will be reduced to ensure that the statutorily required match percentage is met by the grantee.

To legally obligate grant funds, construction contracts for the project must be bid and awarded within two years of execution of the grant agreement. The grantee's payments to contractors pursuant to those contracts may continue throughout the life of the grant, as may be necessary.

8. There is a limit of 1000 characters on some questions yet not on others. Would it make a difference if information is provided in a bullet point format versus sentence format?

What does the 'p' stand for located in the bottom left hand corner of the response boxes? Is this something we need to be concerned about?

Page 4 of 8; Previous Grants, would the restoration grants be included in this section?

Character limits help to guide applicants in determining how much information may be appropriate to provide. Formatting functions are unavailable when character limits are provided, and therefore, some questions that lend themselves to lists or bullet points may not have character limits. Please review CDB's [Application Guide](#) for additional information on completing the application.

That is part of the Amplifund application and is not something with which you need to be concerned.

You may include any grant that you have successfully administered within the past five years. Please see the [Application Guide](#) for additional information and examples of what should be included.

9. The entity applying must be eligible, correct? We are going to be partnering with an already existing childcare. They would have to be the ones to apply, correct? Or could we, as the construction/renovation would be on our property?

Yes, the entity applying must be eligible. Additionally, as stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, eligible projects include the acquisition, construction, expansion, or renovation of an early childhood center that is owned or will be owned by the grant recipient. The grant recipient may not be a lessee, and they must operate the facility upon completion of the project. (see [71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.140](#) and [71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.120](#)).

10. I am emailing you to inquire about the Early Childhood Construction Grant. I am looking to start a non-profit childcare center and I wanted to know how I navigate through this process. There are certain documents requested that I can't provide as a start-up. Is there an upcoming webinar on this process where I can find answers. Any information you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance for your time given.

Please note that, as specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, “eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families.” If you are not established as a nonprofit at the time of application, you would not be considered eligible.

11. I am reaching out to see if private schools that are not-for-profit are able to apply for the Early Childhood Construction Grant? We are a Pre-K – 8th grade Catholic elementary school, being part of the Springfield Diocese? The information says that not-for-profits can apply for this grant, and I wanted to make sure that we would be included in this grant opportunity.

Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families. Any not-for-profit entity with experience providing the listed services to the target population is eligible. Please note that grant funds may not be used for sectarian instruction, religious worship or a school or department of divinity. [71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.140\(b\)\(6\)](#).

12. We are currently in the planning stages of building a new community center and early childhood combination facility. We are a growing rural community and desperately need a licensed early childhood facility in our community. We received notice a few months ago that we were chosen for a PARC grant through IDNR for the community center portion of the facility, but none of the PARC grant funds can be used for the early childhood wing of this building. We are seeking other funding sources for the early childhood facility portion of this building. We already went out to bid on this project, and due to the explosion in pricing of construction materials, the building came in \$1.5M over budget, and we are trying to figure out how we can proceed.

My main question is will we qualify as a non-profit operator? We will own the early childhood facility, but will be leasing the space to an existing licensed early childhood provider.

Also, since this facility has already been designed and bid out, but construction has not begun, is it too late in the game to apply for this grant opportunity?

To be eligible, an applicant must be a public school district or a not-for-profit with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families. Additionally, a successful applicant must own the early childhood facility and must operate the facility as an early childhood center upon completion of the project. Leasing the space is not allowed. Please review the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for additional

information on these restrictions. As for the timing question, only construction work performed after execution of the grant agreement would be eligible. Although there is no requirement that the contract be bid after the grant award date, the grantee must incorporate many of the requirements in the grant into its design and construction contracts, and it may be difficult for the grantee to do that if the contracts are already awarded. The grantee, for instance, is responsible to ensure that its contractors are meeting goals under the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/0.01 et seq.) and the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act. (30 ILCS 559/Art. 20). Additionally, compliance with the Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/0.01 et seq.) and Project Labor Agreements Act (30 ILCS 571/25), as well as other legal requirements including procurement standards found in the Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. 200), are all required as part of the award.

13. We are interested in applying for construction grants through the IL CDB. We have a couple questions below:

Can we apply for more than one project under one application?

- Or do you require one application per project?
- May we submit more than one application if each location has its own FEIN?

Can we improve a leased/rented space? It looks like this is an ineligible expense, but two of the facilities we currently operate early childhood services from are leased.

If we are funded for the first round, are we eligible for the second round of funding?

As specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, “each entity may only submit one application per funding round and each application must be for a single location.” Additionally, improvements to leased space are prohibited; the grantee must own the property. Finally, although an unsuccessful applicant may reapply for subsequent funding rounds, successful applicants may not.

14. I have a daycare client with some questions regarding this grant. What is the definition of underserved area?

CDB’s administrative rules related to this grant program define “underserved children” to mean “children from marginalized communities and populations aged 0 to 5 years old who exceed the number of enrollment slots designated for their age groups at Early Childhood Centers in the area served by those centers.” [71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.100](#). For purposes of this funding opportunity, need within communities will be evaluated using the school district tier under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code for the area where the proposed project is located and using data from Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map related to the number of children living at 185% poverty or below and the number of children in the area versus the number of available early childcare slots for ages 0-5 (Head Start, licensed and licensed-exempt child care centers, licensed family child care centers, etc.), with an emphasis on children 0-36 months. Data from the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map is available on their [website](#).

15. As a private non-profit, we appear to be eligible, however, I want to confirm before proceeding. Our program is expanding so we have construction plans for the building and playground

Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families. Any not-for-profit, such as a 501(c)(3) entity, with experience providing the listed services to the target population is eligible. Please note that grant funds may not be used for sectarian instruction, religious worship or a school or department of divinity. [71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.140\(b\)\(6\)](#).

16. Does the grant allow for space to be rented or does this need to be provided free of charge? Either is fine, but in our original planning a group would be leasing the space from the school.

What is the ability of the school to expand the additional space to include a private/not for profit Birth to 3 program on the same site? or would this need to be completely separate from the school district space?

Any space constructed or renovated with grant or match funds must be used by the grantee to provide early childhood services. The leasing of space is not allowed.

Again, any space constructed or renovated with grant or match funds must be used by the grantee to provide early childhood services. Therefore, if a separate non-profit would be operating the 0-3 program, the school district could not apply for that. Additionally, the grantee must own the property upon which the new or improved space is located, and therefore a non-profit would not be an eligible grantee for a project located on the school's property.

17. If a Head Start program were to use any of the expanded space attached to the school, they would have to own the property and write their own grant?

That is correct. The restrictions for this particular grant opportunity, including the restrictions on the use of bond funds, prohibit any lease arrangements and require the grantee to both own the property and operate the early childhood program upon completion of the construction project.

18. Over the past 6 months, I have been working with our architects to design a multi use community center. Can I add child care classes onto the building (which is the property I own) but only submit a grant application for the child care portion of the building? Or would I need to do a phase 1 build (child care sections) then do a phase 2 (which the remainder of the space?). We are excited to include an adult community day program in another portion of the building, etc.

The two spaces could be bid as a whole, however CDB would need paperwork confirming the amounts spent on the eligible portion of the project. Additionally, please note that some requirements in the grant, such as complying with the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act Apprenticeship Initiative goals (see 30 ILCS 559/20-20 to 20-25 and 14 Ill. Adm. Code 680), apply to a project as a whole, provided that a certain threshold of State funding has been met for the project. Therefore, it is possible that some requirements for the grant will apply to the non-eligible portion of the project as well if it is bid as a single project.

Multiple phases would work well though and may make it easier for all parties to determine which expenses are eligible.

19. I have a specific question related to the payment mechanism for the awarded grant; is the grant award to be reimbursed as evidence of expenditures is submitted or is the grant award released all at once?

Grant funds will be disbursed as agreed to in the grant agreement and are generally paid at a set percentage of the grant amount distributed at specific milestone, including grant award, bid award, construction being 50% complete, and substantial completion of the project. Milestones may differ depending on the specific project. Please note that the payments may be prorated based on the actual value of contracts awarded so as not to exceed CDB's share of payments for eligible expenditures.

20. I have two questions about the ECCG grant:

May we submit two separate proposals for two different early childhood centers? One project would be a renovation and one would be acquisition or construction.

What is the timeline for securing the required match?

As specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, “each entity may only submit one application per funding round and each application must be for a single location.”

The source and amount of funds proposed by an applicant to meet a matching requirement must be identified in the application. Matching may be in the form of allowable costs incurred by the recipient or a contractor under the grant. CDB may allow third party in-kind contributions included in the application budget as a source to meet the matching requirement provided they are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise meet the requirements for the grant. Third party in-kind contributions may be in the form of real property, equipment, supplies and other expendable property and the value of goods and services directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to the project. In-kind contributions need to be identified in the application and supplied in the timeframe required for the project. The time frame for securing any cash match is at grant execution.

21. The NOFO states that there will be a second round of funding at a later date. If we receive a grant in this round of funding, would we be eligible to apply for a different project in the next round of funding?

Although an unsuccessful applicant may reapply for subsequent funding rounds, successful applicants may not.

22. We own and operate nine early education and care sites within the city. Can we submit one Early Childhood Grant application requesting funds for renovations at multiple sites?

As specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, “each entity may only submit one application per funding round and each application must be for a single location.”

23. I have the following questions regarding the early childhood construction grant:

1. Can a nonprofit organization apply if they are newly incorporated? For example, a startup nonprofit organization.
2. Can a nonprofit organization apply if they do not have a licensed-exempt status but plan to apply for a DCFS license-exemption?
3. What is the applicant's match for schools in tier 1?

Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction Grants include any public school district or private not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to young children and their families. A not-for-profit, such as a 501(c)(3) entity, with experience providing the listed services to the target population is eligible.

If an Early Childhood Center is operated in or by a child care center subject to the licensure requirement of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), then that child care center must hold the appropriate licensure in accordance with DCFS rules (see 89 Ill. Adm. Code 403 (Licensing Standards for Group Homes), 405 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Agencies), 406 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Homes), 407 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers) and 408 (Licensing Standards for Group Day Care Homes)). In the case of a license-exempt center, that status must have been determined prior to the submission of an application.

As outlined in the NOFO, a public school district assigned to Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code or any other eligible applicant in an area encompassed by that district must provide local matching funds in an amount equal to 3% of the grant awarded.

24. I acquired a 4500 sq. foot site for an extension of my existing daycare center. I have everything in place and may be a little ahead of the grant? I am trying to gauge if the timing of my project hinders me from applying.

Only construction work performed after execution of the grant agreement would be eligible. Although there is no requirement that contracts be bid after the grant award date, the grantee must incorporate many of the requirements in the grant into its design and construction contracts, and it may be difficult for the grantee to do that if the contracts are already awarded. The grantee, for instance, is responsible for ensuring that its contractors are meeting goals under the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/0.01 et seq.) and the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act, (30 ILCS 559/Art. 20). Additionally, compliance with the Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/0.01 et seq.) and Project Labor Agreements Act (30 ILCS 571/25), as well as other legal requirements including procurement standards found in the Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. 200), are all required as part of the award.

25. I have two questions related to this funding opportunity:

1. Is there a state program code for this grant?
2. Will the reporting for this grant be submitted through IWAS or another system?

I appreciate your guidance.

Thank you for your questions.

1. The CSFA code for this program is 511-00-2113. That is the State program code.
2. IWAS is an internal system at ISBE. CDB does not have access to ISBE reporting databases. All of CDB's required reports will be submitted via Amplifund.

26. We are planning on submitting a grant for a facility to expand our Pre-K Facility. I see that applications are accepted until October. Is there any advantage of applying early or all applications scored competitively once the period is over like most grants?

All applications will be reviewed and scored once the application period closes.

27. I have a question about this grant opportunity as we work with childcare providers. Is this only for not for profit entities and school districts? Or Childcare centers registered as corporations and LLC's can apply?

Can providers who want to start a center apply as well? We do have a number of clients who operate a home center and would like to move to a center.

Pursuant to statute 105 ILCS 230/5-300, the Capital Development Board is authorized to make grants available to public school districts and not-for-profit entities for early childhood construction projects. For profit corporations and LLCs are not eligible.

Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families. Providers who want to open a new center would need to be eligible non-profits at the time of application.

28. I wanted a quick clarification please regarding the **Question Submission Information** for this grant – I see that 5pm 8/15/22 is the close date; is the understanding that no further questions may be asked regarding the application for this project after 8/15 or is there another process post 8/15?

An FAQ will be published following the close of the question submission period. While questions will be answered after this date, questioners will be directed to the FAQ first.

29. My understanding of the grant timeline is that once the submittal date has passed, it will take up to 90 days for projects to be approved. Any construction that happens before a project is approved will not be eligible for the grant. When can construction start after the grant has been approved?

If a project is submitted but already started construction, can any part qualify for this grant (i.e. the unbuilt portion of work)?

If an addition is built to an existing school that will primarily be for PreK purposes, will the entire addition be eligible for funding or only the part of the project that is specifically a PreK function?

CDB hopes to complete the scoring component within 90 days. Thereafter, the grants will be awarded. Although CDB hopes to complete the award process as quickly as possible, it is not known how long it will take. Any construction work performed prior to grant execution is not eligible for reimbursement under this grant program. A grantee may use any amounts paid to their architect prior to the execution of the grant agreement as part of the grantee's required local match.

Yes, any construction work that has not been performed at grant execution would likely be eligible provided it is part of the approved project scope.

All eligible expenses must be part of the approved scope and must address the needs of children ages 0-5 years old. Only expenses made for that purpose would be an allowable use of grant funds. Therefore, only the PreK portion would be eligible.

If a building has 50% PreK function and 50% other, can we bid and construct the project as a whole, and just break out the PreK portion for the grant?

For a building that has just started construction, how is it determined what to apply towards the grant? Would we project out how much work would be left to complete in January, or would we apply for the full project amount and have the grant amount adjusted at the time of award?

If a building meets all the grant criteria, but is already under construction, will that count against an award for the project? We wouldn't want to take the time to go through the grant process if an award was unlikely.

It could be bid as a whole, however CDB would need paperwork confirming the amounts spent on the eligible portion of the project. Additionally, please note that some requirements in the grant, such as complying with the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act Apprenticeship Initiative goals (see 30 ILCS 559/20-20 to 20-25 and 14 Ill. Adm. Code 680), apply to a project as a whole, provided that a certain threshold of State funding has been met for the project. Therefore, it is possible that some requirements for the grant will apply to the non-eligible portion of the project as well if it is bid as a single project. Only construction work performed after execution of the grant agreement would be eligible. Applicants should request a grant amount that reasonably reflects the allowable expenses they believe they will need for the eligible project. The amount requested in the application by a successful applicant is generally the amount awarded in the grant agreement. However, in the event that eligible expenditures total less than the amount awarded, the funds distributed under the grant will be reduced to equal the total amount of eligible expenditures. On the other hand, the grant amount will not be increased in the event that eligible expenses exceed the total grant award plus required match.

Please note that the grantee must incorporate many of the requirements in the grant into its design and construction contracts, and it may be difficult for the grantee to do that if the contracts are already awarded. The grantee, for instance, is responsible to ensure that its contractors are meeting goals under the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and

Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/0.01 *et seq.*) and the Illinois Works Jobs Program Act. (30 ILCS 559/Art. 20). Additionally, compliance with the Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/0.01 *et seq.*) and Project Labor Agreements Act (30 ILCS 571/25), as well as other legal requirements including procurement standards found in the Uniform Guidance (2 C.F.R. 200), are all required as part of the award.

Information on what criteria will be scored when awarding the Early Childhood Construction grants may be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the grant program, which is available [here](#) on CDB's website. Also, CDB has created a detailed [Application Guide](#) that may be used when completing the Early Childhood Construction Grant Application, which you may also find helpful.

Are there specific spec sections/front end language etc. that are available to include so we meet the rules of this grant specifically?

The requirements list a project labor agreement with CDB. Is there a sample version of this I can provide for the bidders? How do the BEP goals work for a project that is already under construction? If we don't currently meet the goals, can we make an effort to find contractors that would help us meet the goals or are we unable to make changes to do so?

No, CDB does not provide front end language for grant projects since it does not hold any contracts or manage the construction.

Attached please find the PLA manual from CDB's [Reference Library](#). The manual contains a sample PLA for CDB projects and for CDB grants.

Any construction work that is already performed would not be an eligible expenditure under the grant. After notice of award and before grant execution, BEP goals are set as a percentage of grant funds awarded. This would only include eligible expenses and therefore the goals would only be for work that has not yet been performed. The grantee would then need to submit a form outlining how it intends to meet the goals (Form 00 41 05). Goal compliance is monitored by CDB through subcontractor/supplier certifications (Form 665) and lien waivers. In the event that the grantee is unable to meet the BEP goals for the project, it may submit documentation showing its good faith efforts in meeting the goals to CDB for review.

What are the MBE/FBE goals for this grant?

MBE/FBE goals are specific to each project. They will be determined once each recipient project has been selected.

30. My question has to do with the section of the application that asks whether the business is a school or school district, non-profit, or neither. If the Daycare Center is for-profit, would the option be to choose school or school district?

The primary eligibility factors by statute 105 ILCS 230/5-300, are that the applying entity is either a School District or a non-profit Early Childhood provider.

Per the NOFO, a broad range of eligible providers may apply for these grants, including, but not limited to:

- Public School Districts.
- Preschool for All programs.
- Licensed private nonprofit childcare centers. [If an early childhood center is operated by a child care center subject to the licensure requirement of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), then that childcare center must hold the appropriate licensure in accordance with rules promulgated by DCFS [see 89 Ill. Adm. Code 403 (Licensing standards for Group Homes), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 405 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Agencies), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 406 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Homes), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 407 (Licensing Standards For Day Care Centers) and 89 Ill. Adm. Code 408 (Licensing Standards for Group Day Care Homes).]
- Licensed-exempt private nonprofit childcare centers.

If your center does not fall under any of those categories, then you would select neither.

While for-profit providers may be part of the Preschool for All program, they are ineligible for this funding opportunity.

31. We are reinstating our college childcare lab & I own two plots of land. There hasn't been anything built yet & we planned to be license exempt the first year of operation. Does this disqualify our non-profit 501 c(3)?

If an Early Childhood Center is operated in or by a child care center subject to the licensure requirement of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), then that child care center must hold the appropriate licensure in accordance with DCFS rules (see 89 Ill. Adm. Code 403 (Licensing Standards for Group Homes), 405 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Agencies), 406 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Homes), 407 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers) and 408 (Licensing Standards for Group Day Care Homes)). In the case of a license-exempt center, that status must have been determined prior to the submission of an application.

32. Can the grant be used on ...

1. Purchase & Installation of an Elevator to provide ADA compliant access to 2nd floor of Daycare
2. Renovation, Conversion, an Safety Upgrades to existing Daycare rooms (PFA)
3. Renovation of expansion rooms (Aux Rm, Meeting Rm, IT Rm)
4. Kitchen Renovation
5. Renovation of entry vestibule and throughput hallways between entry and Daycare Center rooms
6. Flooring of space allocated for exterior by DCFS.
7. Is ExceleRate a mandatory requirement? Is so, can it be acquired later, after application submitted.

Examples of allowable projects include:

1. Constructing an addition onto an existing building.
2. New construction of a facility or renovations to an existing building in order to create a new early childhood center.
3. Acquisition of a facility.
4. Purchase or replacement of equipment that meets the definition in 71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.100.
5. Safety improvements.
6. Classroom conversions.

Per ExceleRate Illinois, "No application is needed for the Licensed Circle of Quality. All Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS) licensed childcare centers that hold a valid and current IDCFS issued license are recognized at this Circle of Quality."

33. I'm reading through the application guide, and I see the slides about required fund matching. However, I'm hoping you can clarify what our match responsibility would be? We are a nonprofit community based organization located in Chicago, 60608.

Local matching funds must be provided in an amount equal to the percentage of the grant as required under 105 ILCS 230/5-300. A public school district or other eligible applicant must provide local matching funds in the following manner:

1. A public school district assigned to Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code or any other eligible applicant in an area encompassed by that district must provide local matching funds in an amount equal to 3% of the grant awarded.

2. A public school district assigned to Tier 2 under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code or any other eligible applicant in an area encompassed by that district must provide local matching funds in an amount equal to 7.5% of the grant awarded.
3. A public school district assigned to Tier 3 under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code or any other eligible applicant in an area encompassed by that district must provide local matching funds in an amount equal to 8.75% of the grant awarded.
4. A public school district assigned to Tier 4 under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code or any other eligible applicant in an area encompassed by that district must provide local matching funds in an amount equal to 10% of the grant awarded.

Therefore, the amount of match that is required depends both on the grant amount awarded as well as the school district tier in which the project is located. A list of school districts, including the Tier for each district is available [here](#) on CDB's website.

We are not a public school, rather a non-profit community based organization daycare/preschool provider. Since we are geographically located within the City of Chicago, does that mean we fall under Tier 1 and must match our grant amount by 3%?

The statute states "A public school district ... **or any other eligible applicant in an area encompassed by that district...**" So, the school district your center is, or would be, located in determines the match percentage required.

34. I work at a daycare center, but I am not sure if we qualify for the grant. We get Action for Children families and some parents pay on their own.

Is your childcare center a licensed, non-profit center?

Licensed and for profit

Pursuant to 105 ILCS 230/5-300, Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families.

This grant opportunity is only open to public school districts and not-for-profit entities.

35. I was hoping you might be able to help me with a question. I am from a community college. We have an Early Childhood Care Facility here on campus and I was wondering if we were eligible for this grant. If not as a solo applicant, would be eligible to partner with one of the local K-12 school districts?

Partnership applications are not allowed; the applicant has to be the entity that owns and operates the center.

36. Is it permissible for a property owner to receive grants who is not licensed in Early Childhood programs, but can contract with a currently licensed ECE program?

If a Grantee loses their ECE program prior to the end of the 10 year term, are the return of funding requirements prorated?

Eligible projects for Early Childhood Construction grants include the acquisition, construction, expansion, or renovation of an early childhood center that is **owned or will be owned by the grant recipient**. If the property owner does not operate the early childhood center, then they would not be eligible.

If for any reason a grantee has to return grant funds, the repayment schedule would be decided on each individual basis.

37. Our architect advised that they are compiling estimates based on current industry pricing. Is there a calculation method to accommodate escalation for future year construction?

Your architect firm is actually best placed to answer that right now. They should have access to industry data and also details from other projects they are working on right now.

38. If land is donated, can that be used as financial funds towards our percentage match? Second, are we able to work with IFF to secure funding needed for the percentage match? Finally, are we obligated to have the land as "ready to purchase", or can we still be in the process of bidding and choosing from a few locations? I saw that local meant within Illinois and not our County. Am I correct in that assumption?

If land is being donated, it must be recently appraised, and the value included in the total project cost. We would need documentation of the donation, and of the deed/title in your entity's name.

If you choose to work with a 3rd party, that is a decision for your entity. However, any costs associated with working with a 3rd party are ineligible grant costs. They must be funded by your entity entirely.

Several elements of the application are determined by the location of your center. Items such as the school district it is encompassed by are extremely important. If you don't yet know the street address, you do at least need to know the school district.

39. If awarded, how is this grant paid out? For example, is it reimbursement as expenses are incurred or a series of lump sum payments of the total award?

Will the CDB be funding proposals in whole only or will some proposals be considered for partial funding as well?

In allowable equipment expenses for new construction, does this include all necessary purchases, transportation and installation expenses to equip the facility - including classroom and office furniture, technology (networking and computers), kitchen facilities, and outdoor play equipment?

Are any or all project delivery methods acceptable for this grant (e.g. traditional Design/Bid/Build; Construction Manager Agency (CMA); Construction Manager - At Risk (CMC); or Design/Build)?

In the project budget presented with the application, to denote construction contingency costs (up to 10%), should this be a separate line item?

We are currently working with legal counsel on a development agreement with two nearby organizations, are these legal fees acceptable as part of the Miscellaneous Expenses?

- One of our collaborating partners is a neighboring church. While our non-profit organization will own and operate the early learning center, this partnership is being established to share resources – i.e. parking. Any concerns with this type of collaboration under this grant agreement?

We operate our early care and learning program as well as wrap around services for individuals and families through two additional crisis assistance programs. These programs are currently housed on the same campus to make it easy for families to access these services. Would the office space for this additional program be acceptable to include in the grant proposal for new construction?

To accommodate the local needs for childcare, expanding birth to 5 slots (especially the 0-36 months age) is an important component to support area families. Many of our families have multiple children aged 0 to 12 years (school age). Are school age classrooms eligible to be included in the overall project/build/budget?

Grant payments are made according to agreed-upon construction milestones.

Partial funding will not be awarded.

Allowable equipment must be necessary to the project, and bondable. Freight costs charged by a vendor are allowable, but local gas receipts to, for example pick up items from a hardware store, are not.

The project delivery method is the decision of the grantee.

Construction contingency costs should be a line item under miscellaneous.

The legal fees do not directly relate to the construction project so they would not be allowable.

No costs are eligible for any items other than the early childhood construction project itself.

40. I am looking for information on scoring of the Early Childhood Construction grant. Is there a link or something you could send me?

All scoring information is in the Review Criteria section of the NOFO.

41. The application indicates that only one application per agency can be submitted. Are multiple projects at multiple sites allowed in the application? For instance, if an agency has more than one childcare center and wants to renovate/expand both centers, can both of those site construction details be included in one application?

Is a community needs assessment an allowable cost under the ECCG?

If awarded, how will the grant get paid out? One lump sum, 1/12 or annually?

As specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, "each entity may only submit one application per funding round and each application must be for a single location."

Allowable costs are costs directly related to the construction project. Any need assessment would need to be completed before a grant was awarded, and per the NOFO, "pre-award costs are generally not allowable...".

Grant payments will be made based on construction milestones agreed upon by the grantee and CDB.

42. I am the Early Childhood Director for a High School. I am working on the application process of the ECCG grant and I had a question for you. Our county is sort of in a weird situation where we have 4 feeder elementary schools that all feed into the high school, hence why I am a high school employee despite spending the majority of my time over seeing the Pre-K programs at the feeder schools.

My question is how would I need to list that data in the construction grant? We are looking to construct a facility that would be for birth to 3 for all four feeder schools, since those opportunities do not exist, but I am unsure about how to proceed.

The application is interested in the programs for 0-5 age groups, not school age children. You would apply based on where the facility is or would be located.

43. Form 4 of 8, previous grants: Briefly describe other grant programs that you have successfully administered within the past five years. Does this include non-construction grants, for example, the state's Preschool For All grant?

What is the estimated timeline for announcement of award and award of grant funds?

All other grants are included as previous grants.

From the NOFO, "Grant Award Notice: It is anticipated that successful applicants will receive a Notice of Award via email approximately 90 days after the application deadline. The Notice of Award is not an authorization to begin any

construction work for the grant project. After the merit-based appeal timeframe has ended, awardees will receive additional information from CDB that includes the next steps for finalizing the grant". Each grantee's timeline will depend on the specifics of their project. Some will require more time than others to execute the award.

44. How are marginalized communities defined?

What are ECE center "areas"?

We are an early childhood education center and so we are not restricted by geographic boundaries, unlike a school district. How do we demonstrate that we are meeting the need of a "priority" community? Do we have to define who our "priority" community is or can it be a particular population that we target?

When will the next ECCG NOFA be released for the remaining \$40m? It would be helpful to know for planning purposes if it will be released in FY23 or FY24.

CDB's administrative rules related to this grant program define "underserved children" to mean "children from marginalized communities and populations aged 0 to 5 years old who exceed the number of enrollment slots designated for their age groups at Early Childhood Centers in the area served by those centers." [71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.100](#). For purposes of this funding opportunity, need within communities will be evaluated using the school district tier under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code for the area where the proposed project is located and using data from Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map related to the number of children living at 185% poverty or below and the number of children in the area versus the number of available early childcare slots for ages 0-5 (Head Start, licensed and licensed-exempt child care centers, licensed family child care centers, etc.), with an emphasis on children 0-36 months. Data from the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map is available on their [website](#).

A center "area" would refer to the locations the children your center looks after come from or can reasonably be expected to be drawn from.

The release date for the remaining funding is unknown at this time.

45. Just for clarification, we have a contractor under contract and some work has started now. Provided our contract meets the legal requirements you mentioned above, could our project be eligible for the grant provided it is:

A. only for the expenses related to the pre-k portion of the project

B. only for billed work that is performed after the grant is awarded?

Also, could the grant cover soft costs related to the project (like furnishings) that are not under the scope of our main contractor?

Your application could only include the early childhood center future costs, nothing already paid for could be included in the budget. If your project was selected, CDB would need to go over the terms of any contracts in relation to items such as any BEP goals and Illinois Works requirements.

FF&E would be allowable, provided the items are bondable.

46. I am writing with an eligibility question for the Early Childhood Construction Grant. Our organization currently operates PreK at two of our campuses in Chicago. We have plans to expand the program to two additional sites in Chicago and Waukegan, but do not have seats at the two new sites yet. Are we eligible to apply for the construction grant to make capital improvements on the two facilities that do not yet operate PreK, but depending on operating funds, intend to in the future?

Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families.

*Additionally, all grantees shall operate an early childhood center at the facility purchased, constructed, or improved with grant funds **for a minimum of 10 years from completion of the project.** In the event that the grantee is unable to operate the facility for that period, the grantee must repay grant funds in accordance with 71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.190. As you state you don't currently have a Pre-K program at either site, you would need to be ready to begin offering programming upon completion of the grant project.*

Must the facilities being renovated have a DCFS license prior to the beginning of the project?

The specific location must have a license. The applicant must currently operate an early childhood center that holds the appropriate license in order to be eligible for a grant. The proposed project to be funded with the grant may include the construction of a new center. That new center would need to be licensed upon completion and must be operated by the applicant/grantee for a minimum of ten years.

We have two properties we are renovating with the intention of operating PreK by the end of the grant period. Can we apply for two grants, one for each site?

Per the NOFO, "Each entity may only submit one application per funding round and each application must be for a single location."

47. Contingency fund—The NOFO says that CDB **recommends** no more than 10% of the construction budget for contingency. Does recommend mean that we could budget higher, but it is not recommended? Will we be disqualified if our budget includes a contingency higher than 10 percent? We have been budgeting around 20 percent giving the increased cost of construction these days.

Would furniture for a new facility and technology (projectors, phones, computers, wiring) be considered eligible expenses for this CDB grant?

Would furniture for a new facility and technology (projectors, phones, computers, wiring) be considered eligible expenses for this CDB grant?

Will the Capital Development Board require a construction administration fee which is typically 3 percent of the total construction costs?

Regarding the review criteria, Quality, could you expound upon what project readiness means?

Is the online application system set up where more than one person from the organization can enter information for the application? In other words, can there be multiple users that work on one application? Or is it set up for one user per application?

If your entity's standard practice is to budget a higher contingency amount, that is fine. Please note than any unexpended contingency reserves would be deducted from the final balance paid to any recipient.

FF&E are allowable costs, provided that the items are bondable. Please see 71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.100 for additional information.

This is a grant program, not a CDB managed project.

Project Readiness refers to how soon construction could begin. How far along in the design process is the proposed project.

The application system is tied directly to the applicant's GATA registration. Anyone wanting to work on the application must be given access by the primary access holder in the GATA system. Please see the following for additional information

[Initial Steps](#); [New User Guide](#).

48. I had a question about whether our PreK program would qualify for application for the Early Childhood Construction Grant. We are a 501-C-3 and a licensed non-exempt (we fall under ISBE school guidelines) private Christian school.

*The NOFO states, Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include **any public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families.***

I am asking about eligibility because of this statement on page 4 of 9 from AmpliFund-Details: Additionally, grant funds shall not be used for the following: To use for sectarian instruction, religious worship, or a school or department of divinity.

As a Christian school, would that place us in this category?

The grant funds must be used for construction purposes.

The elements of that line are operational expenditures and therefore not allowable costs.

49. Is LEED/environmental sustainability design required? If not required, is it recommended and scored?

LEED is not required, but is encouraged. Please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity for items that will be scored.

50. Are classroom furniture and office furniture allowable costs? If some furniture expenses are unallowable, should it be included in the project budget? Can a grantee's match funds be used to pay for any unallowable furniture costs? The grant notes that equipment is unallowable if it is conditional sales contract. Does that mean it's allowable if it's not a conditional sales contract?

A project may include, as part of the overall capital project, equipping the facility. This may include furniture. Other equipment purchases are also allowed provided that the equipment has a significant useful life and complies with the requirements of 71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.100. Match funds may only be used on allowable expenses. Items purchased with conditional sales contracts are never allowable. Unallowable costs should not be included in the project budget.

51. Does the equipment purchased list and reason that this equipment is needed to be included if the project scope of work involves renovation or construction, or is this list only required if the scope of work is for equipment purchases only?

Any equipment that will be purchased using grant funds or match funds, regardless of the overall project type, must be listed on the budget.

52. Can you request funding for multiple sites owned/operated by the same non-profit organization? If so, should a non-profit submit separate applications for each site or combine into one application for all sites? If a non-profit can submit applications for more than one site, does the total grant funding requested for all sites need to be limited to \$10 million?

As stated in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, "Each entity may only submit one application per funding round and each application must be for a single location."

53. Does the grant recipient need to obtain multiple bids to select an architect?

Please see 2 CFR 200. 320 Methods of procurement to be followed, which says “(5) The Non-Federal entity may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/ engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services. It cannot be used to purchase other types of services though A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.”

54. What is the timing of the Programmatic Risk Assessment that will be administered by the CDB? Is there any information you can share about the content of this risk assessment?

The Programmatic Risk Assessment is part of the Internal Controls Questionnaire which must be completed prior to submission of the application.

55. Can you clarify the terminology “total project cost”? It is used on Page 3 of the application. Will the total project cost exceed the grant amount requested plus required match?

At a minimum, the Total Project Cost will equal the grant amount requested plus the required statutory match. However, an applicant may contribute more than the minimum amount required by statute. In that case, the Total Project Cost will include the grant amount requested, the statutorily required match, and any additional contributions from the applicant.

56. Is the last line item in the budget (Proposed Budget Summary/ Expense Budget Detail and Narrative) an operational budget that is exclusive to the capital project budget that we enter into the chart of Page 7 of the application? Or do we include the capital project budget in the Proposed Budget Summary? Is the match to be included in the Project Budget Summary?

The amounts entered on the Project Budget (Form 7 of 8) must match the amounts on the Expense Budget. Only allowable expenses should be included on the budgets. Operational costs are not allowable and therefore should not be included on any budget.

57. When we confirm on Page 7 that the Total Project Cost matches that provided in the Uniform Budget Template, is the Proposed Budget Summary after Page 8 what you are referencing by the “Uniform Budget Template”?

The Uniform Budget Template is located at the navigational button entitled “Budget” within the Amplifund Application.

58. Can an applicant submit an application with a property that will be purchased upon grant award? Does the applicant need a letter of intent or contingent sales contract?

Yes, property purchases are allowed as part of the overall grant project. No paperwork regarding the property is required at the time of application; however, documentation related to the property purchase will be required after grant award to support the payment milestone related to the purchase.

59. Can licensed exempt programs that are not school districts apply for the ECCG funding?

Yes, any nonprofit entity with experience in providing early childhood services is eligible.

60. Is it possible to expand the 1,000-character limit for the narrative portions of the application? This limits the ability to address need.

No. Please be concise in any responses provided.

61. There is no section in the application to write about the community need, so how will this be scored? If no need section is added, where should we indicate our community need in the narrative sections?

Need shall be evaluated using the school district tier under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code for the area where the proposed project is located and using data from Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map ([IECAM \(illinois.edu\)](http://IECAM.illinois.edu)) related to the number of children living at 185% poverty or below and the number of children in the area versus the number of available early childcare slots for ages 0-5 (Head Start, licensed and licensed-exempt child care centers, licensed family child care centers, etc.), with an emphasis on children 0-36 months.

62. Does the construction dollar amount on Page 24 get pulled from the construction dollar amount on Page 20 under Project Cost?

No, but all items on the Project Budget (Form 7 of 8) must be entered on the Budget at the end of the application. Please see the [Early Childhood Construction Grant Application Guide](#) located on CDB's website for additional information.

63. What is the time period for the full line-item budget (not the project budget), i.e., is it annual on an agency's fiscal year? Should the full budget include all operations, i.e., both current and what will be needed for expanded services after project completion?

All costs that will be paid with grant funds or match funds should be included on the budget. The budget should not include any operational expenses. Only allowable expenses should be on the budget.

64. Will the application response be on a full go, no-go approval basis? Or will the application response indicate what parts of the project are awarded as eligible expenses and what are not?

Grant amounts will be awarded based on the amounts requested in the application. Applications should only include eligible expenditures. Please note that the amounts paid under the grant agreement may be reduced to reflect only eligible expenses. Please review the Notice of Funding Opportunity for additional information on allowable expenditures.

65. We have identified opportunities to improve amenities that will attract more families and more staff. This will indirectly improve the quality infant/toddler care by attracting families who would have sent their infants/toddlers elsewhere and increasing the talent pool to select more qualified staff for a better infant/toddler experience. Would these types of improvements meet the criteria for this grant?

Yes. Please note that the applicant's ability to increase enrollment slots as a result of the project for children ages 0-5, with an emphasis on children 0-36 months, will be evaluated as part of the scoring process.

66. Are there any limits on the match fund sources or non-cash-in kind sources?

Matching may be in the form of allowable costs incurred by the recipient or a contractor under the grant. CDB may allow third party in-kind contributions included in the application budget as a source to meet the matching requirement provided they are reasonable, necessary, and otherwise meet the requirements for the grant. Third party in-kind contributions may be in the form of real property, equipment, supplies and other expendable property and the value of goods and services directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to the project. All sources of matching funds and all proposed in-kind contributions must be identified in the application.

67. What is meant by “bondable”?

Allowable expenses outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity are considered bondable. Please see 71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.100 for additional information. Indirect Costs, general operation overhead, and administrative expenses are not allowable uses for bond funds. The grant therefore cannot compensate for indirect costs, general operation overhead, or administrative expenses associated with the execution of the program.

68. If a multi-purpose facility is divided into wings or divisions, how does this fall into the ECCG renovation planning?

Eligible expenditures can only include spaces that will be used to provide early childhood services to children 0-5 years old. The space improved or constructed with grant funds must be owned by the applicant and must be used for early childhood services for a minimum of ten years. The applicant must be a school district or a nonprofit entity with experience in providing early childhood services to children ages 0-5.

69. Is HVAC Units replaced to a renovated facility considered construction or renovation?

That could be considered a renovation expense.

70. Can we get an elevator with this grant money?

An elevator may be an allowable expense depending on the overall project and how the elevator would affect use of the space.

71. With a desire to renovate a connecting Kitchen and/or Multi-purpose Room that will have primary shared used for Early Childhood Center operations, activities, and functions ... What is the call or rule for “proportional share of joint use facilities” in this state?

Grant funds may not be used for the proportional share of joint use facilities that either provide personal residential space for those who are not students or provide space for business activities unrelated to the educational mission of the early childhood center.

72. We have been recently awarded a PFA/E grant. Can we convert our “0 to 3yr” DCFS Approved space (3rms) to an approved PI space, and our “3 to 12yrs” DCFS Approved space (2rms) to an approved PFA/E space, and provide construction/renovation to another educational building?

Costs related to classroom conversions may be eligible. However, only those costs related to spaces to be used by children 0-5 years old are allowable.

73. Is the new or updated facility (or will it be) a joint use facility that ... provides space for business activities unrelated to the educational mission of the early childhood center?"

The space to be improved or constructed with grant funds must be used to directly support early childhood services and must be owned by the school district or non-profit entity applying for the grant. Upon completion of the construction or renovation project, the new or improved space must be used by the grantee to provide early childhood services for at least ten years.

74. Can you please confirm what tier Peoria Public Schools, District 150 is on?

There is a link to the tier list on the ECGG page of CDB's website and in the application itself.

75. I am wondering where to find the link for the FAQs for this grant opportunity. I also understand there will be a forthcoming change to the system to submit this grant. Will that information be posted as well?

The FAQ will be published on CDB's website on Sept 2.

While ISBE may be updating their system, CDB only accepts applications through the Amplifund site which has no updates scheduled.

76. We are in the process of applying for the Early Childhood Construction Grant. The "Opportunity Details" page indicates that there is a district matching requirement, yet on the first page of the application it indicates no match is required. We are applying for \$4,000,000. Would there be a match requirement, and if so, what would the amount be?

Per the NOFO, Applicants must demonstrate their ability to obtain the required match and any amounts needed for the proposed project that exceed the grant amount and required match. Local matching funds must be provided in an amount equal to the percentage of the grant as required under 105 ILCS 230/5-300. A public school district or other eligible applicant must provide local matching funds in the following manner:

1. A public school district assigned to Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code or any other eligible applicant in an area encompassed by that district must provide local matching funds in an amount equal to 3% of the grant awarded.

2. A public school district assigned to Tier 2 under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code or any other eligible applicant in an area encompassed by that district must provide local matching funds in an amount equal to 7.5% of the grant awarded.

3. A public school district assigned to Tier 3 under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code or any other eligible applicant in an area encompassed by that district must provide local matching funds in an amount equal to 8.75% of the grant awarded.

4. A public school district assigned to Tier 4 under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code or any other eligible applicant in an area encompassed by that district must provide local matching funds in an amount equal to 10% of the grant awarded.

The application format does not allow for variable match requirements, so we were unable to enter correct details.

77. I am assisting a client in preparing its application for the above-referenced grant. We plan to submit through AmpliFund, but I was hoping to receive a paper application while we work to prepare/finalize our submission. Can you please provide a copy at your convenience?

Do you have the ability to print the application yourself?

Yes, definitely. I can print; an electronic copy would be great.

You can actually print the individual pages directly from the Amplifund site.

78. We will be applying for the grant program but one of Board member requested information on how the funding works if it is awarded: Would the renovation or construction require the district to go to referendum if we are using let's say 7.5% of local funds?

The local match that needs to be provided by an applicant is set by statute and ranges from 3% to 10% depending on the assigned school tier under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code for the location of the facility. Although grantees must provide the statutorily required match, CDB does not determine how the grantee acquires the match. Please review the Notice of Funding Opportunity for additional information on match requirements.

Would we need to have public approval if we build a new building? This would not be referendum funds just from fund balances.

CDB has no authority over local requirements and cannot advise either way.

79. Will a non-profit license exempt qualify for this grant? Also, the facility has a bank mortgage, can we qualify for the grant or needed to be pay off?

Per the NOFO, Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or **not-for-profit entity** with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families. A broad range of eligible providers may apply for these grants, including, but not limited to:

- Public School Districts
- Preschool for All programs
- Licensed private nonprofit childcare centers [If an early childhood center is operated by a child care center subject to the licensure requirement of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), then that childcare center must hold the appropriate licensure in accordance with rules promulgated by DCFS [see 89 Ill. Adm. Code 403 (Licensing standards for Group Homes), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 405 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Agencies), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 406 (Licensing Standards for Day Care Homes), 89 Ill. Adm. Code 407 (Licensing Standards For Day Care Centers) and 89 Ill. Adm. Code 408 (Licensing Standards for Group Day Care Homes).]
- **Licensed-exempt private nonprofit childcare centers**

A mortgage on an existing property will not prevent you from applying.

80. If the school has two programs: License and license exempt, do we need to submit separate projects or only one project submission per program? Also, can we add more than one project?

Each entity may only submit one application per funding round and each application must be for a single location.

Can it be one application and more than one project? Let say: floors, outdoor pavilion and HVAC system for the school.

The Early Childhood Construction grant is intended to assist providers build, renovate or otherwise improve their facilities. These improvements could take many forms and each application will be assessed individually, so long as the improvements are to the facility used for the provision of care.

81. We are a higher education institution with a 501c3, so I assume that counts?

To be eligible, the entity applying must be a public school district or a not-for-profit entity. Provided that the 501c3 would be the applicant, that is an eligible entity.

“Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or not-for-profit entity **with experience** in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families.”

“With experience” means directly working with families? Or can it mean “indirectly?”

§ We have been looking into renovating or building a place for childcare on our campus for a while now; we do not have one yet.

§ We are currently working on an early childhood program for our college, and this would tie in with it.

As specified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity, “eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families.” There is no specific length of time the non-profit must have been providing early childhood services, but it does have to have some history of providing services directly.

82. I am in construction of an early childhood center (have already bid and am in construction). Can I apply and be reimbursed

No, you cannot be reimbursed if you have started the construction.

83. Where do we find the list of "underserved communities" in Illinois. We had applied for and received the 2012 Construction Grant in large part because we are in an underserved area. If we are still underserved, I would be interested in applying again. I just can't find where the data is. I appreciate any help you can provide.

There is no list of undeserved communities. However, for purposes of this funding opportunity, need within communities will be evaluated using the school district tier under Section 18-8.15 of the School Code for the area where the proposed project is located and using data from Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map related to the number of children living at 185% poverty or below and the number of children in the area versus the number of available early childcare slots for ages 0-5

(Head Start, licensed and licensed-exempt child care centers, licensed family child care centers, etc.), with an emphasis on children 0-36 months. Data from the Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map is available on their [website](#).

84. For the construction grant, how does it work if you're a center operating inside the church? The church owns the building, but the center and the church are under the same nonprofit, so would these types of centers still be eligible to apply?

Eligible projects for Early Childhood Construction grants include the acquisition, construction, expansion, or renovation of an early childhood center that is **owned or will be owned by the grant recipient**. If the church itself owns the building but does not operate the early childhood center, then it would not be eligible.

The use of grant funds also does not allow improvements to the proportional share of joint use facilities that ... **provide space for business activities unrelated to the educational mission of the early childhood center**. So again, space partially set aside for a daycare center etc in a larger, multi-use building is not allowed.

85. I have a few questions about the early childhood construction grant

1. Would our preschool program be locked into any different programs for curriculum or programing?
2. Would our rebuilding of the Kitchen so that we can get public health to certify the kitchen in order for us to serve our own meals, would the church that we are housed in be allowed to use the kitchen when the preschool isn't in session?
3. Is this a one-time grant? Will there be other grant opportunities in the future like this one?
4. Before construction work on this property, we have to ask for permission from the congregation which we expect that to happen. How would we deal with it if by the off chance they don't approve it and we have already been approved for the grant?

CDB does not determine curriculum or programing, apart from the restrictions already detailed in the Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Is remodeling the kitchen the purpose of the grant application? Per the NOFO, Grant funds shall not be used for "**the proportional share of joint use facilities** that ... provide space for business activities unrelated to the educational mission of the early childhood center.

There is one additional round of funding which will be made available at a later date.

Any required permission would have to be obtained first. Please note, the applicant must own the space intended for improvement and operate the early childhood center.

The answer to number 2 states provide space for business activities unrelated to the educational mission of the early childhood center. From a church official "The church is a not for profit for tax purposes. It is not a corporation but was organized in the early part of the century under Illinois statues that just let churches "exist". We can't find the certificate that verifies that but I would say ALC is not a business but a not-for-profit religious organization"

We don't sell anything for profit. We want to share usage of the kitchen (preschool use it during our school day to prepare our children lunches and the church would use it at other times to do mission work) Would that be allowed?

As stated, shared use of grant funded facilities is not allowed. Any improved space must be used 100% for and by the early childhood center.

86. The church owns the building, but the center and the church are part of the same nonprofit. Would these types of centers still be eligible to apply?

Any nonprofit entity with experience in providing early childhood services is eligible to apply. The applicant must provide proof of its nonprofit status at the time of application and must be properly licensed or licensed exempt in the operation of the center. Additionally, the grantee must own the property to be renovated or constructed. Please note that grant funds may not be used for sectarian instruction, religious worship or a school or department of divinity or for the proportional share of joint use facilities that provide space for business activities unrelated to the educational mission of the early childhood center.

Technical Website Questions

1. I am trying to access the merit based review and selection process BUT the highlighted link is not working. Can you provide another link?

The Merit Based Review Policy is linked at the bottom of the webpage provided in the NOFO. However, you may also access it here: [Microsoft Word - Merit Based Review Policy FY19 \(illinois.gov\)](#)

2. Hi I just created an account with you guys to be able to apply for the early childhood grant but it's not allowing me to. It keeps saying error. Can you please help me. Thank you.

In order to apply for CDB's Early Childhood Construction Grant you will first need to create an account and complete prequalification in the [Illinois GATA Grantee Portal](#). The State of Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act ("GATA") requires applicants to complete prequalification requirements before applying for any grant. Some information on this prequalification process and links to additional information that might be helpful is available [here](#) at CDB's website.

Prequalification is an eligibility requirement for the vast majority of grants from the State of Illinois. Additionally, to be eligible for CDB's Early Childhood Construction Grants, you must be a public school district or a not-for-profit entity. Eligible applicants for Early Childhood Construction grants include any public school district or not-for-profit entity with experience in providing educational, health, social and/or child development services to children ages zero to five years old and their families. Therefore, if your entity is not a public school district or a not-for-profit entity, you are not eligible for an Early Childhood Construction grant even if you are prequalified. Additional information on the Early Childhood Construction grants may be found at the [Catalog of State Financial Assistance](#).

3. I am having trouble access the il.amplifund website with the notice below-----Any suggestions?

403 - Forbidden: Access is denied.

You do not have permission to view this directory or page using the credentials that you supplied.

It is not clear what exactly is going on, but we have many resources available to hopefully help you to navigate the website. Please review CDB's [Initial Steps](#), which contains links to additional guides that may be helpful as well. Also, [GATA's State Grantee Portal Guide](#) may help you to resolve these issues.

4. Hello, the following message was received from the Illinois.gov website. Is there anyone else having difficulties?
Thanks.

ILLINOIS.gov Authentication Portal

An error occurred

An error occurred. Contact your administrator for more information.

[Error details](#)

- Activity ID: fd642522-4fb8-40e2-f132-008000000012
- Relying party: Employee Account
- Error time: Fri, 22 Jul 2022 01:34:34 GMT
- Cookie: enabled
- User agent string: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/98.0.4758.80 Safari/537.36

Please review CDB's [Initial Steps](#), which contains links to additional guides that may be helpful as well. Also, [GATA's State Grantee Portal Guide](#) may help you to resolve these issues.

5. I am in the process of filling out the information for the Construction Grant. Everything is going smooth, but I am having trouble getting into the GATA portal and SAM portal. I thought the GOV. LOGIN would be the same, but it is not working for me. The GATA portal and the SAM Portal states I am in the system, but will not let me login. I received the necessary UIE from GATA, but do not have a Cage number from SAM. I know this is necessary to complete one of the application pages. Would you please help me with this.

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide any assistance with SAM.gov as it is a federal website. Your best option would be to go to the federal service desk listed here, [SAM.gov | Help](#). They should be able to help you locate your CAGE code if they can't provide it directly.

Please note, your Illinois Grantee Portal login details will not be the same as your SAM.gov login details. The SAM.gov helpdesk may also be able to assist you with recovering those login credentials if necessary.

6. Is it necessary for me to have a SAM cage Number? I have everything else, but I am having difficulty getting this number. Is it essential for me to move on in the application process?

A CAGE code is required as part of your entity's pre-qualification to receive grant funds from the State of Illinois.

7. I am trying to submit my application for the Rebuild Illinois Capital Program. When I login I keep getting an error message saying that 'An error occurred when attempting to login'. I have tried logging in with multiple different web browsers; Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge and Safari. Please advise because I want to submit my application as soon as possible. Thank you for your time.

Please verify your computer does not contain programs that may be blocking the application from loading.

8. I was hoping to get more information on the Early Childhood Construction grant process. I am probably doing something wrong, but I feel like I keep clicking on link after link and am going around in circles. Some of the links are also not working (such as the amplifund link), so I figured I'd just reach out and see if there was an easier way to get to the actual grant process.

From your grantee portal registration, it doesn't look like anyone has actually set up Amplifund access, so you aren't able to use the link yet.

The Initial Steps link on our main grants page should walk you through how to do that, [Grants - Grants \(illinois.gov\)](#), and then there are several other links on the ECCG page, [Early Childhood Grant Program - Grants \(illinois.gov\)](#) including a guide to the application itself.

Hopefully that helps. If you still have problems with Amplifund, they have a dedicated State of Illinois helpdesk and should be able to resolve any issues with the site. [Illinois Grant Management Support \(zendesk.com\)](#)

9. When I click on the "amplifund" link, I receive "Access Denied" message. Please help.

I just had a quick look at your GATA registration. It doesn't look like you have registered for access to Ampifund. [Initial Steps](#) should help you do that. And the Amplifund helpdesk can also walk you through the steps needed if you hear back from them quickly.

10. I would like to apply for the EC Grant through Illinois.gov. I am having some trouble getting to the application. Can you please help me or direct me to the person who may be able to help me get started on the application? I have created a public account and when I click log in at the top right I receive an error message to contact the administrator.

[Initial Steps](#), [New User Guide](#)

The two links above should help you determine why you aren't able to access the application. It doesn't look like you have grantee portal access, that is the first step.

11. When we get to our amplifund page, no available grants show up in the listing. We are logging in using our GATA Grantee Portal user information. Any direction or corrective action would be appreciated.

That is a question for Amplifund support as they handle all the background interaction between the Grantee Portal and the application site. [Illinois Grant Management Support \(zendesk.com\)](#). You will need to register an email address if you haven't already and then they are usually very responsive.

12. I am trying to access the grant to start the application. I created an account, but when I go to login it says no account found, please contact an administrator. Can you provide any guidance?

Looking at your GATA registration, you haven't been given access to the portal or Amplifund. Only one person currently has access for your entity. He needs to give you application access. [Initial Steps](#) and [GATA New User Guide](#) should tell you what you need to do to be given access.

13. I do grant writing for a few schools, and I am familiar with the illinois.gov portal as I update the GATA and ICQ for a few schools as well. My question is if applying for the Early Childhood Construction Grant for a school, do I log in as a new user and ask to be added to their portal? Or do I create an account for myself, and can I apply for more than one school under my account?

If you want to be able to apply for grants for multiple entities, each entity needs to grant you access to their application account. Applications aren't done through the portal itself, but through the State grant management system, Amplifund. You would not be able to set up your own account unless you have a SAM.gov CAGE code. And your personal account would only allow you to apply on your own behalf.

If this link doesn't work, [Initial Steps](#) let me know. It should help you understand how to request access from each entity.