

**State of Illinois Uniform Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
Summary Information**

Awarding Agency Name	Capital Development Board
Agency Contact	Natalie Lambert (Natalie.Lambert2@illinois.gov)
Announcement Type	Initial
Type of Assistance Instrument	Grant
Funding Opportunity Number	511-00-2113
Funding Opportunity Title	Early Childhood Construction - Rebuild Illinois
CSFA Number	511-00-2113
CSFA Popular Name	Early Childhood Construction - Rebuild Illinois
Anticipated Number of Awards	0
Estimated Total Program Funding	\$60,000,000
Award Range	\$0 - \$10000000
Source of Funding	State
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	Yes
Indirect Costs Allowed	No
Restrictions on Indirect Costs	No
Posted Date	07/12/2022
Application Date Range	07/12/2022 - 10/10/2022 : 5:00 pm
Grant Application Link	Please select the entire address below and paste it into the browser... https://il.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/50db3f58-4e37-4f37-bb5b-f72b016e5154
Technical Assistance Session	No

July 12, 2022

TO: Eligible Applicants

FROM: The State of Illinois Capital Development Board

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO): Early Childhood Construction Grants – Rebuild Illinois Initiative

CSFA Number: 511-00-2113

CSFA Title: Early Childhood Construction – Rebuild Illinois

Program Overview

Eligibility and Application Information

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.

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.

NOTE: The State of Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (“GATA”) requires applicants to complete Prequalification requirements before applying for any grant. This includes completion of the Grantee Registration and Prequalification process through the Illinois GATA Web Portal at [Illinois GATA Grantee Portal](https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/). Grant applications must be submitted by the application deadline indicated in this Notice of Funding Opportunity (“NOFO”). Applicants are advised to complete the prequalification requirements well in advance of the NOFO deadline. Information on how to create an Illinois.gov public account and how to access the Illinois Grantee Portal is available at [Illinois GATA Grantee Portal](https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/) (<https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>).

System for Award Management (“SAM”): Each applicant (unless the applicant is an individual or federal or state awarding agency that is exempt from those requirements under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the federal or state awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:

- (i) Be registered in SAM before submitting its application. If you are not registered in SAM, you may do so at www.sam.gov;
- (ii) Provide a valid Unique Entity Identifier (“UEI”) number in its application; and
- (iii) Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal, federal pass-through or state award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal or state awarding agency. CDB may not consider an application for a state award until the applicant has complied with all applicable SAM requirements.

This grant is subject to the provisions of:

- Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (“GATA”), 30 ILCS 708/1 *et seq.*
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3559&ChapterID=7>
- Administrative Rules for GATA, 44 Ill. Adm. Code Part 7000
<https://ilga.gov/commission/JCAR/admincode/044/04407000sections.html>.
- Section 5-300 of the School Construction Law, 105 ILCS 230
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/documents/010502300K5-300.htm>
- Early Childhood Construction Grant Rules, 71 Ill Adm. Code 43
<https://www.ilga.gov/commission/Jcar/admincode/071/07100043sections.html>
- The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards from the Code of Federal Regulations incorporated into GATA, 2 CFR 200 (December 26, 2014) <https://www.ecfr.gov/>

Merit-Based Review and Selection Process for Competitive Grants: CDB has a merit-based review and selection process for applications. This process is incorporated by reference in all applicable funding opportunities. Applicants are advised to refer to the CDB’s merit-based review policy, which can be accessed at <https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/professionalgrowth/grants/Pages/default.aspx>.

Grant Period: The grant period will begin no sooner than December 1, 2022, and will extend for a maximum of five (5) years from the execution date of the grant agreement. All construction work and any close-out requirements must be completed within that term.

Submission Dates and Times/Other Submission Requirements: Applications should be submitted electronically through the State Grant Management System, AmpliFund, no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, October 10, 2022. Information on managing AmpliFund access is available at <https://grants.illinois.gov/portal/>. In the event that the applicant cannot submit through AmpliFund, applicant may request a paper application from CDB Grant Analyst, Natalie Lambert at CDB.Grants@illinois.gov. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that any paper application that is submitted is complete. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed or scored, except as outlined in CDB's Merit Based Review policy. Please note that AmpliFund will not allow an incomplete application to be submitted.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that its application is submitted on time. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed. Applicants are encouraged to review the presentations described in the Technical Assistance section below as soon as possible. One presentation outlines the prequalification requirements and initial steps to be taken when applying for a grant opportunity, and the other presentation walks applicants through completion of the Early Childhood Construction Grant application. Reviewing these presentations may assist in determining how long the application process may take and may flag information that the applicant may need to gather prior to submitting its application. Applicants are encouraged to work with a third party, such as an architect, to provide necessary information on the project scope and budget. Additionally, applicants should ensure sufficient time prior to the submission deadline to address and resolve any issues in completing the application.

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. Design costs incurred prior to grant execution will be allowed as part of any successful applicant's cost sharing allowance. Any money spent outside of design costs is done at the applicant's own risk and likely will not be allowable as part of the grant.

Technical Assistance: Technical assistance is provided through two presentations located on CDB's website. One presentation, entitled "Capital Development Board Grants: Initial Steps," outlines the prequalification requirements and initial steps to be taken when applying for a grant opportunity. That presentation may be found at <https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/professionalgrowth/grants/Pages/default.aspx>. A second presentation, "CDB's Early Childhood Construction Grant Application Guide," walks applicants through completion of the Early Childhood Construction Grant application, including providing additional detail on the types of information that should be included by the applicant. That presentation may be found at <https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/professionalgrowth/grants/Pages/ecgp.aspx>. Questions that are not addressed in the presentation may be emailed to CDB at CDB.Grants@illinois.gov up until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 15, 2022. The presentation on CDB's website will be updated no later than noon on Friday, September 2, 2022, with responses to all questions received. Applicants are encouraged to review the presentation both before and after that date.

Changes to NOFO: CDB will post any changes made to the NOFO prior to noon on Friday, September 2, 2022. Applicants are advised to check the CDB’s website before submitting an application (<https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/professionalgrowth/grants/Pages/ecgp.aspx>).

Agency Contact/Contact to Request Application Package: For more information on this NOFO, contact Natalie Lambert at 217-720-1595, or CDB.Grants@illinois.gov. Email is the preferred method of communication.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Description

Pursuant to 105 ILCS 230/5-300, 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 projects include the acquisition, construction, expansion, or renovation of an early childhood center that is owned or will be owned by the grant recipient.* A project may include, as part of the overall capital project, equipping the facility. 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. 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. 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.

Grant funds must be used for facilities and equipment that are developmentally and age appropriate for the children to be served. Resources on what is developmentally and age appropriate may be found at National Association for the Education of Young Children’s website at: <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/developmentally-appropriate-practice>.

Funding Information

- The State has allocated \$100,000,000 in Rebuild Illinois funds for the Early Childhood Construction Grant (“ECCG”) program. Of that total amount, \$60,000,000 is available for this round of funding. One additional round of funding will occur at a later date.
- A grant ceiling of \$10,000,000 per project has been established. The number of grants awarded will depend on the size and type of projects proposed by successful applicants. CDB is not obligated to make any State award as a result of this announcement.
- A school district with a population of more than 500,000 is eligible for an award of 20% of the total amount awarded to other applicants, provided the school district submits an application in accordance with this announcement.

Additional Requirements

- Successful applicants must enter into a grant agreement with CDB outlining the roles and responsibilities of the parties.
- Other than a school district with a population of more than 500,000, subrecipients are not allowed as part of this grant program.
- Subcontractors and subrecipients are subject to all applicable provisions of the grant agreement executed between CDB and the grantee. The successful applicant shall retain sole responsibility for the performance of its subrecipient(s) and/or subcontractor(s).
- A grant agreement will be issued for a maximum contract period of five years. All projects must be operational at the end of the grant term. Grants are subject to the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act (30 ILCS 705). As such, all applicable design and construction contracts must be bid and awarded within 2 years of the grant agreement execution date. Any grant funds not legally obligated within two years shall be returned to CDB within 45 days.
- Proposed projects, including the project area, project scope, and proposed beneficiaries, supplied in the grant application submitted for funding must not be changed or modified at any time without express written approval by CDB. Modifications will only be allowed by CDB when the requested change is outside the control and foreseeability of the grantee and would not have affected any scoring outcome.
- When grants are made to non-profit corporations for the acquisition or construction of a new facility, CDB shall place a lien on the facility for a period of 10 years after the date of the grant award, after which time the lien shall be removed, provided that the grantee has complied with the terms of its grant agreement.
- Any equipment, material, or real property that the grantee purchases or improves with grant funds may not be sold, transferred, encumbered, or otherwise disposed of without prior approval of CDB.
- 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.
- Applicants must comply with the standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.317-200.326 for use in establishing procedures for the procurement of supplies, services, equipment, real property, or other items with grant funds.
- Grantees shall comply with all audit requirements found at 44 Ill. Adm. Code 7000.90 and may be required to incur costs related thereto.

Cost Sharing or Matching:

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.

In the event that the proposed project location is in the geographical area of two separate school districts, the Tier for the elementary school shall apply for purposes of determining the match amount. 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 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.

In addition to sharing in the costs of a construction grant, the recipient must ensure the availability of sufficient funds for operation (or continued operation) of the facility when construction or renovation is completed to allow the effective use of the facility for grant-supported purposes by the grantee.

Indirect Cost Rate:

This grant opportunity is limited to capital improvement expenses and is funded with bond funds. 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.

Funding Restrictions:

All purchases made with grant funds must be bondable.

Allowable costs and activities include the following:

- Acquisition and installation of fixed equipment
- Appraisals from a licensed appraiser
- Architectural and engineering services by licensed individuals
- Bid advertising
- Bid bonds and performance and payment bonds. A bid bond or guarantee is a form of security assuring that the bidder will not withdraw a bid within the period specified for acceptance and will execute a

written contract and furnish required bonds. Performance bonds secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under the contract and payment bonds assure payment as required by law to all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

- Contingency fund. To provide for unanticipated costs, applicants for construction grants may include a project contingency amount with the initial total allowable cost estimates. The construction contingency is an allowance for cost growth that may occur during construction as a result of unexpected circumstances or incomplete design documents. CDB recommends no more than 10% of the construction budget for contingency. Any unused contingency funds set aside from the grant award must be spent on other, approved direct project costs or returned.
- Filing fees for recording the liens required by CDB.
- General conditions (e.g., moveable site trailers, port-a-johns, hard hats, temporary or limited duration signage, security costs during construction).
- Inspection and commissioning fees.
- Insurance. Costs of builder's risk insurance, title insurance, physical destruction insurance, and liability insurance are generally allowable. Builder's risk insurance and title insurance may be charged to the grant in proportion to the amount of State participation in the property.
- Legal fees. Legal fees related to obtaining a legal opinion regarding title to a site.
- Pre-award costs. Costs incurred before award for architect's fees, consultant's fees and environmental analysis necessary to the planning and design of the project are allowable as part of the applicant's required match if the project is subsequently approved and funded. Pre-award construction costs are generally unallowable.
- Site survey and soil investigation and any necessary remediation.
- Site clearance. Site clearance costs are allowable as long as they are reflected in the bid.

Unallowable costs and activities include the following:

- Bonus payments to contractors.
- Construction of shell space designed for completion at a future date.
- Consultant fees not related to actual construction.
- Damage judgment suits.
- Equipment purchased through a conditional sales contract. A conditional sale is a type of agreement to sell under which the seller retains title to goods sold and delivered to a purchaser until full payment has been made.
- Fund-raising expenses.
- Interior and exterior decorating fees (e.g., purchase of artwork, sculpture, etc.).
- Legal services not related to title certification.
- Indirect costs, overhead, or operational expenses of the grantee.
- Pre-award costs 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.

Additionally, grant funds shall not be used for the following:

- To offset existing debt.
- To supplant existing funds that support a service, program, or activity for which grant support is requested.
- To fund expenses associated with the operations of the early childhood center.
- To lease/rent space for occupancy.
- To make leasehold improvements.

- To use for sectarian instruction, religious worship or a school or department of divinity.
- To use 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.

Purchase of Equipment:

A project may include, as part of the overall capital project, equipping the facility. Other equipment purchases are also allowed provided that the equipment has a significant useful life. "Equipment" means movable equipment, including all items of equipment, other than built-in equipment, necessary and appropriate for the functioning of a facility that is purchased, renovated, or constructed with grant funds, and that will be used solely or primarily for purposes related to the mission of an Early Childhood Center. Further, equipment is defined as durable manufactured items that have a significant useful life of at least 20 years, that are not affixed to a building and are capable of being moved or relocated from room to room or building to building, that are not consumed in use, and that have an identity and function that will not be lost through incorporation into a more complex unit. Additional guidelines related to allowable equipment may be found at 71 Ill. Adm. Code 43.100 (<https://www.ilga.gov/commission/Jcar/admincode/071/071000430001000R.html>)

Statutory Requirements

Grantees must comply with extensive legal requirements related to procurement, environmental concerns, labor standards, and other requirements. Failure to comply with any legal requirement or other requirement specified in the grant agreement may result in suspension or termination of the grant agreement, grant funds being repaid by the Grantee, the withholding of future grant payments by CDB, or other remedy provided by law. In addition to the below requirements, Grantees must comply with all rules, regulations, and laws applicable to the grant program, as may be listed in this NOFO.

- **Business Enterprise Program (30 ILCS 575/0.01 et seq.):** For grant awards of \$250,000 or more, the grantee will be required to comply with the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act (30 ILCS 575/0.01 et seq.), which establishes a goal for contracting with businesses that have been certified as owned and controlled as a minority-owned business, woman-owned business or business owned by a person with a disability. CDB will work with the grantee to ensure compliance prior to the establishment of the grant agreement as well as through the life of the grant. Grantee must agree to coordinate the meeting of these goals with CDB's Fair Employment Practices Unit and to provide documentation of its good faith efforts to meet the established percentages in the event that the goals are not met.
- **Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/0.01 et seq.):** Applicants that are awarded grants shall comply with all requirements of the Prevailing Wage Act, including, but not limited to, inserting into all contracts for construction a stipulation that not less than the prevailing rate of wages as applicable to the project shall be paid to all laborers, workers, and mechanics performing work under the grant and requiring all bonds of contractors to include a provision as will guarantee the faithful performance of such prevailing wage clause as provided by contract.
- **Illinois Works Jobs Program Act (30 ILCS 559/20-1 et seq.):** For grants with an estimated total project cost of \$500,000 or more, the grantee will be required to comply with the Illinois Works Apprenticeship Initiative (30 ILCS 559/20-20 to 20-25) and applicable administrative rules (14 Ill. Adm. Code 680). The "estimated total project cost" is a good faith approximation at the time an

applicant submits the grant application of the costs of the entire project being paid for in whole or in part by grant funds. The goal of the Illinois Apprenticeship Initiative is that apprentices will perform either 10% of the total labor hours actually worked in each prevailing wage classification or 10% of the estimated labor hours in each prevailing wage classification, whichever is less. Grantees will be permitted to seek a waiver or reduction of this goal in certain circumstances pursuant to 30 ILCS 559/20-20(b). The grantee must ensure compliance for the life of the entire project, including during the term of the grant and after the term ends, if applicable, and will be required to report on and certify its compliance.

- **Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 et seq.):** All grantees will be required to comply with the Employment of Illinois Workers on Public Works Act (30 ILCS 570/0.01 et seq.). During any period of excessive unemployment, which is any month immediately following two consecutive calendar months during which the level of unemployment in the State of Illinois has exceeded 5% as measured by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics in its monthly publication of employment and unemployment figures (see <https://www.bls.gov/lau/>), the grantee and its subcontractors shall employ at least 90% Illinois laborers on the project. In the event that the grantee is unable to comply with this requirement, it may submit an exemption request to be evaluated by CDB and the Illinois Department of Labor.
- **Project Labor Agreements:** It is in the public interest to have construction projects funded by State grants completed in the most timely, efficient, and orderly manner possible and without labor disputes or disruptions of any kind which might interfere with or delay the project. Accordingly, all contracts for the construction of fixed works which are financed in whole or in part grant funds shall include a project labor agreement. Each such project labor agreement shall comply with the requirements of Section 25 of the Project Labor Agreements Act (30 ILCS 571/25). The Project Labor Agreement template will be provided by CDB.
- **Environmental Requirements:** If the proposed project and/or land development falls under the requirements of the Farmland Preservation Act (505 ILCS 75), the Interagency Wetland Policy Act of 1989 (20 ILCS 830), the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (525 ILCS 30), and/or the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act (520 ILCS 10), the grantee will be required to accept assignment of any duties CDB has or may have under those, and will be required to provide proof of compliance.
- **Additional Legal Requirements:** The grantee shall agree to comply in all respects with the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Act (20 ILCS 3420) and the Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection Act (20 ILCS 3435), including the acceptance of the assignment of any duties CDB has or may have under those Acts. Additionally, grantee shall comply with the equal employment practices of Section 2-105 of the Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/2-105); the Illinois Accessibility Code (71 Ill. Adm. Code 400); the Employee Classification Act (820 ILCS 185); and with Executive Order 2006-05, Construction Activities in Special Flood Hazard Areas, if applicable.
(www.illinois.gov/Government/ExecOrders/Documents/2006/execorder2006-5.pdf)

Reporting, Monitoring, and Audit Requirements

Grantees must complete multiple reports during the term of the grant and potentially after the grant has ended. This will include, but is not limited to, financial and performance reports, closeout report, labor hour reports, and a single audit. Deadlines for any required reports may be extended at the discretion of CDB. Extensions shall be issued only in extraordinary circumstances not in control of the grantee.

1. Grantee must complete periodic financial reporting at least quarterly using the State grant management system.
2. Grantees with participation goals under the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act will be required to report at least quarterly on their use of approved vendors.
3. For applicable projects, Illinois Works periodic compliance reporting is required quarterly.
4. More frequent or additional reporting may be required in the grant agreement based on the successful applicant's risk assessments.

In addition to required reporting, grantees are subject to fiscal and programmatic monitoring visits by CDB in accordance with 2 CFR 200.336. Grantees must have an open-door policy allowing periodic visits by CDB monitors to evaluate the progress of the project and must provide documentation upon request. CDB staff will also maintain contact with the participants and will monitor progress and performance under the terms of the agreement(s). CDB may modify grants based on performance.

Grantees shall be subject to Illinois' statewide Audit Report Review requirements. Terms of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 (31 USC 7501-7507), Subpart F of 2 CFR Part 200, and the audit rules set forth under the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act shall apply. (See 30 ILCS 708/65).

Content and Form of Application Submission

Instructions: Each application should be submitted using the AmpliFund system. A complete application will include all required components (the numbered items below) and signatures, when required. Each entity may only submit one application per funding round and each application must be for a single location. Unsuccessful applicants may reapply for subsequent funding rounds. Please review the CDB's Early Childhood Construction Grant Application Guide located at (<https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/professionalgrowth/grants/Pages/ecgp.aspx>) for additional guidance on completing the application.

- 1. Project Information:** Application name, the award amount requested, the match contribution, and the primary contact information for the applicant.
- 2. Uniform Application for State Grant (Form 1 of 8):** Name of the entity applying, including any DBA; address; tax identification number; UEI number; GATA ID; SAM CAGE Code; information about the applicant's organizational unit, including department name, division name, and contacts for both programmatic matters and business/administrative matters; areas affected by the proposed project; and the legislative and congressional districts for both the applicant and the program. The certifications and assurances for CDB grant programs, the truth of which you confirm in this section of the grant application, may be found on CDB's website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/professionalgrowth/grants/Pages/ecgp.aspx>.
- 3. Initial Questions (Form 2 of 8):** Type of applicant, ExceleRate Illinois designation, previous experience in providing services to young children and their families, information about the proposed site, whether the applicant has a collaborative relationship with Early Intervention and/or Child and Family Connections, and the age groups served by the applicant's program.

- 4. Location and Funding (Form 3 of 8):** The total amount of grant funds being requested; the address and county of the facility that will be purchased, constructed, or renovated with grant funds; the school district encompassing the facility’s address; the school tier for the district; the statutory match amount; and information about the match contributions and additional funds.
- 5. Provider Details (Form 4 of 8):** History of the organization; number of years the applicant has been operating; previous experience in administering grants; information on people at the organization having various responsibilities; information on enrollment and licensing capacity; information on the increased spaces as a result of the proposed project; programmatic changes resulting from the proposed project; staff-to-child ratio information; information on recruitment; and acknowledgment that the facility must be operated by the applicant for 10 years as an Early Childhood Center.
- 6. Project Details (Form 5 of 8):** Description of how the funds would be used, a description of the proposed project and scope of work, information on compliance with applicable licensing standards or other accreditations, whether LEED certification will be sought for the project, and information on any environmentally sustainable components for the proposed project.
- 7. Project Status (Form 6 of 8):** Design stage of the proposed project and information on the estimated construction timeline.
- 8. Project Budget (Form 7 of 8):** Information on the various types of costs to be included in the proposed project including whether the proposed project will include architectural/engineering fees, project inspection fees, site work, demolition and removal, property/building purchase, construction, equipment, or other miscellaneous expenses; how the budget estimate was formulated; and when the budget estimate was formulated.
- 9. Final Certifications (Form 8 of 8):** Certification from the applicant verifying the completeness and accuracy of the information provided in the application and compliance with the certifications and assurances on CDB’s website (<https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/professionalgrowth/grants/Pages/ecgp.aspx>).
- 10. Uniform Budget Template:** Information on costs related to various parts of the proposed project and an identification as to which parts would be funded with grant funds and which would be funded with match contributions.

Review Criteria

Application Review and Selection Process

All applications will be reviewed for initial eligibility to ensure that the applicant is an eligible recipient and the proposed project is of an allowable scope. Any ineligible applicants will be notified of such following this review and will not be scored further. Additionally, the School Tier in which the project will be located and the match calculations will be verified by CDB. In the event that CDB determines the applicant has listed the incorrect School Tier or match amount, CDB will notify the applicant by email of the error. The applicant will have three (3) business days from notification to correct the tier or match amount. In the event that the applicant fails to correct the match amount and the listed match amount is

less than the statutorily required contribution, the applicant will be determined ineligible for failing to meet the statutory match requirement and the application will not be reviewed further.

With the exception of a grant to any school district with a population of more than 500,000, grant applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Each application will be scored on a 350-point scale. CDB shall consider the following criteria when evaluating the application submittal:

Capacity/Sustainability (125 points) – A maximum of 125 points will be awarded in this category based on the level of verification provided by the applicant describing its ability to successfully complete the grant requirements, including its ability to continue operation of an early childhood center at the new or improved facility. Consideration will be given to the applicant’s track record with other grant programs, the sustainability of the early childhood program, whether the program has a quality rating through ExceleRate Illinois, and whether the program works collaboratively to assist children with special needs. Additionally, 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.

Quality (50 points) – A maximum of 50 points will be awarded relative to the applicant’s presentation of a realistic budget and project readiness.

Need (175 points) – A maximum of 175 points will be awarded in this category based on the demonstration of need in the area of the proposed project. Priority will be given to areas with the most children from marginalized communities and populations aged 0 to 5 years old, with an emphasis on children 0-36 months, who exceed the number of enrollment slots designated for their age groups at Early Childhood Centers in the area served by those centers. 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.

Applications will be graded using the Merit Based Review process and scored on the criteria specified in this notice. CDB will designate an Evaluation Committee to grade each application received for this funding opportunity. The final score of each committee member will be calculated and an average of all scores for that application will be the final application score. Each application will then be ranked by its score. Grants will be awarded by CDB in rank order from available funds. Nothing herein requires CDB to issue any grants pursuant to this opportunity.

Tiebreaker:

In the event of a tie, the applicant with the highest score in the “Need” category will be given priority. In the event the Need points are also tied, the applicant providing the most new slots will be given priority. In the event the Need points are tied and the same number of new slots are being provided, the applicant with the highest score in the “Capacity/Sustainability” category will be given priority.

Appeals Process:

The Merit Based Review process is subject to appeal. However, evaluation scores cannot be appealed. The appeal must be submitted in writing to the CDB within 14 calendar days after the date that the grant

award notice has been published. The written appeal shall include the name and address of the appealing party, the identification of the grant and a statement of reasons for the appeal. To file an appeal, applicants must submit the appeal in writing to:

Capital Development Board

Attn: Natalie Lambert

401 S. Spring, 3rd Flr, Springfield, IL 62706

Email: CDB.Grants@illinois.gov

Please refer to CDB's Merit Based Review Policy at <https://www2.illinois.gov/cdb/professionalgrowth/grants/Pages/default.aspx> for additional information on the appeals process.