



Emerging and Expanding Child Care Grant Program Guidance

The Emerging and Expanding Child Care Grant Program has been created for the purpose of expanding access and availability of licensed child care throughout Colorado and especially in areas where there are [child care deserts](#). Eligible programs may apply and include: 1) Currently open and operating licensed programs, serving children birth to five, with a permanent or provisional license which are expanding their current licensed capacity; OR 2) An applicant actively pursuing a child care license through the Division of Early Care & Learning Child Care Licensing Division.

Currently licensed programs and those who are actively seeking a child care license will be eligible for a grant award from \$3,000 up to \$50,000 in expenses related to the expansion of current capacity or the opening of a new child care program. Programs must serve children ages birth to five to be eligible.

Child Care Licensing Specialists and Early Childhood Councils will provide support at the local level including offering consultation to prospective programs on how to become licensed and assisting existing child care programs to expand their licensed capacity.

“Program” refers to both licensed and those seeking a license that are family child care homes, or child care centers serving children birth to age five. Existing programs that have outstanding violation corrections from a recent inspection or be under the adverse licensing process, must meet these requirements before funds can be awarded. Programs that receive 100% of funding from public sources such as Head Start/Early Head Start or the Colorado Preschool Program will not be eligible.

Priority Areas for Funding

To qualify for an Emerging or Expanding grant, programs must submit an application to request funds for their project, to include a full explanation and budget. Awards will be issued based on the following:

- Opening a new licensed family child care home that will serve children birth to age 5.
- Opening a new licensed child care center that will serve children 6 weeks to age 5.
- Opening a new licensed classroom in an existing child care center that will serve children between the ages of 6 weeks and 5 years (reopening an existing classroom does not qualify).
- Changing the license-type for a family child care home to serve more children.
- Related projects, not described above, that will increase the number of licensed child care slots that will serve children to age 5.

Allowable Uses of Grant Funding

Programs that choose to apply for the Emerging and Expanding Child Care Grant must explain how the proposed project will assist with increasing the number of child care slots for children birth to age five in Colorado. Allowable costs include any costs associated with the expansion of child care capacity within a Colorado community, especially those that are in desert, rural, or underserved areas of the State. Programs must provide a detailed explanation of their project as well as provide a budget completed on the available template accessible through the grant application. Programs will prepare a budget of the project within the following budget categories:

- 1) **Coaching** - Includes costs associated with coaching services needed to support the expansion of an existing program or the opening of a new program. This could include services to support quality practices, child health consultants, mental health consultants, and other coaching supports as needed, to be explained in the project narrative.
- 2) **Professional Development** - Includes costs associated with training/course work needed to support the expansion or new program. Both training fees and hourly/salary costs for staff to complete the training are allowable costs.
- 3) **Learning/Classroom Materials (and fees, other)** - Includes costs associated with any educational materials, curriculum, Personal Protective Equipment, cleaning supplies, etc. needed to support the expansion or new program. This category would additionally include any fees (licensing, background checks, inspections, etc.) or technology needs that are associated with the expansion or new program. Any other costs that are not associated with the other categories should be listed here within the budget template.
- 4) **Capital Improvements** - includes costs associated with the expansion or new program that are more permanent such as construction, flooring, etc. Capital includes both major and minor renovations or improvements. Bids are required to obtain funding for capital improvements.

Initial and Ongoing Licensed Program Eligibility Criteria

Applications must meet the following requirements in order to be eligible for the Emerging and Expanding Child Care Grant:

Applicants applying for a child care license:

- 1) Minimum 18 years of age
- 2) Pass all required background checks.
- 3) Apply for a permanent or provisional child care license to serve children between the ages of birth and five years old in the State of Colorado.
- 4) Must engage in the [Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System](#) by earning a minimum Level 2 within 12 months of being issued a permanent license.

- 5) Commit to submitting a complete application for a Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) fiscal agreement AND indicate acceptance of CCCAP on your ColoradoShines.com program profile after receiving your license.
- 6) Agree to sign a memorandum of understanding with your local early childhood council.
- 7) Submit an application for the Emerging and Expanding Child Care Grant.

Applicants with an existing child care license

- 1) Hold a current, permanent, or provisional child care license.
 - Programs that are currently on probation may not apply until a permanent license is issued.
- 2) Serve children between the ages of 6 weeks and five years.
- 3) Must engage in the [Colorado Shines Quality Rating and Improvement System](#) by earning minimally a quality level two within a 12-month period of grant award, or by June 30, 2022.
- 4) Commit to submitting a complete application for a [Colorado Child Care Assistance Program \(CCCAP\)](#) fiscal agreement AND indicate acceptance of CCCAP on your ColoradoShines.com program profile.
- 5) Submit an application for the Emerging and Expanding Child Care Grant.