



Family Child Care Home Facilities Improvement Grant

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Family Child Care Home Facilities Improvement Grant?

To address the declining number of licensed slots within child care homes and to improve quality within home-based learning environments, the [Buell Foundation](#) granted funds to the [Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance \(ECCLA\)](#) to provide facility improvement funding to family child care homes. This opportunity is intended to help family child care homes start-up, expand, or maintain consistent operations, increase capacity, and reduce the number of family child care homes closing their doors due to financial restrictions.

2. What are your funding priorities for the Family Child Care Home Facilities Improvement Grant?

Our funding priorities include: 1) statewide geographic distribution with 50% of funding provided outside the Denver Metro area, (Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Boulder, Denver, Douglas, and Jefferson), 2) addressing unmet service gaps, and 3) increasing capacity and access to family child care home programs. In addition, priority will be given to applicants that serve vulnerable families and children.

3. Who is eligible for the Family Child Care Home Facilities Improvement Grant?

The eligibility criteria include the following:

- Must be a licensed family child care home.
- A program can have for-profit or non-profit status.
- Funds must be used to serve children from birth to 5 years of age.
- Funds must be utilized to address health, safety, or licensing issues through physical improvements to a facility's learning environments to maintain or increase capacity.
- Funds cannot be used for retirement of debt, salaries, or consultants.
- Applications requesting more than \$2,500 must own the facility or demonstrate a long-term lease and have written landlord support.
- The maximum amount requested is \$5,000.
- Applicant must complete all fields of application and submit all required supporting documentation including 'before' photos.
- A child care program may receive only one grant during a 12-month period.
- Applicant must submit a six-month progress report and a 12-month completion report that includes 'after' photos of the funded project.
- Applicant must submit copies of at least two bids for the project.
- If opening a new family child care home, they must be in the pre-licensing stage or completed pre-licensing.
- If an application is not selected, the applicant may be resubmitted in the next round.

4. What is the application process?

A family child care home may submit their application and supporting documentation to ECCLA by the posted deadline. Please submit your application and supporting documentation by email only to shannon@ecclacolorado.org. Receipt of your application will be confirmed by email.

ECCLA will assemble a committee to review all applications and make funding decisions. Awarded family child care homes will be notified and funding will be provided to assist with their program. The family child care home must submit a final report and documentation after the projects have been completed with their program.

If an application was not selected during the first round, a family child care home may resubmit during the second round. It is advised to speak with Shannon Hall, Director of Workforce Supports prior to resubmission.

5. What documents are required to be submitted with my application?

The following documents are required to be submitted with your application:

- A copy of the current and legible license issued by the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Early Childhood unless you are in the pre-licensing process in which case you will need to submit documentation of the process including a copy of pre-licensing paperwork speaking to barriers or hurdles you may be facing.
- At least three 'before' photos documenting the project before work has started. If emailing your application, the photos must be sent as attachments in either .jpeg, .jpg, or .pdf file formats. Please do not send photos as links or other formats.
- If you rent your space, please include a current copy of your lease and a letter of support from your landlord. The lease must demonstrate at least three years left in term (if requesting more than \$2,500).
- At least two project bids (this can be two bids for the same project to show all considerations made due to cost or other factors).

6. What reporting is required if I receive a grant?

After an awarded family child care home has completed their grant-funded project, they will be required to submit a final report and photos documenting changes to their program.

7. How many application periods are there for funding?

The first round of funding was awarded to 18 family child care homes in May 2020. The second round application was released on June 15, 2020, and will be due August 28, 2020. Funding decisions are expected by October. Additional details are available at www.ecclacolorado.org/fchgrant.

8. Can I apply for both rounds of funding?

If your family child care home applied during the first round of funding but was not selected then you may apply for the second round application. If your family child care home applied during the first round and received funds, we will not support you during the second round. However, we hope to continue offering grants in 2021 if funding is available.

9. Can I apply for funding if I'm not a family child care home?

The Family Child Care Home Facilities Improvement Grant is intended by our funder to support only family child care homes.

10. Does my family child care home need to be licensed to apply for funding?



ECCLA will grant funds to existing licensed family child care programs or new family child care programs that have the intention of becoming licensed. If opening a new family child care home, the program must be in the pre-licensing stage or have completed pre-licensing.

11. What is the maximum award amount provided to family child care homes?

The maximum amount requested is \$5,000. Applications requesting more than \$2,500 must own the facility or demonstrate a long-term lease and have written landlord support.

12. Who can I speak with if I have questions about the application or process?

Shannon Hall, Director of Workforce Supports is the program manager for the Family Child Care Home Facilities Improvement Grant. ECCLA will also host two (2) optional technical assistance webinars for applicants. The dates include June 25 and July 23. Please visit ECCLA's website (www.ecclacolorado.org/fchgrant) for information regarding the Family Child Care Home Facilities Improvement Grant and to register for a technical assistance webinar.

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