**OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

**THE BACK TO WORK EARLY CHILDHOOD GRANT**

**Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: January 28, 2022 by 12:00 p.m.**

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), Division of Early Learning (DEL), is soliciting grant applications for the Back to Work Early Childhood Grant. The goal of the Back to Work Early Childhood Grant is to provide economic relief to child care providers, with a priority for child care providers servicing children participating in the subsidy program and those in communities with highest rates of COVID-19 cases, unemployment, or child development facilities with low enrollment. OSSE is soliciting applications from organizations interested in (1) developing and implementing a sub-granting mechanism for enabling child development providers to improve the supply of such child care services and (2) providing technical assistance for the same purpose.

The funding provided under this grant is funding secured through the U.S. Treasury’s Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program, which is authorized and subject to Section 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act as added by section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

**Eligibility and Selection Criteria:** OSSE will accept applications from eligible applicants. Eligible applicants must be non-profit organizations but are not required to provide direct child care services to infants and toddlers. Additionally, eligible applicants must have a proven track record of success in providing financing and investment approaches and technical assistance in child development facility financing and development and specifically in grant-making related to child development facilities. Applicants are encouraged to seek and propose bold and creative solutions.

OSSE will make the funds available through a competitive process to identify nonprofit organizations with experience in the child care field that are interested in implementing the Back to Work Early Childhood grant. Applications that meet all eligibility and application requirements will be evaluated, scored, and rated by an OSSE designated review panel. Applications will be scored on the following categories: (1) Information about the organization; (2) Organizational knowledge; (3) Process to provide and monitor sub-grants; and (4) Financial management and proposed budget.

**Length of Award:** The period for this grant will be three years, ending on September 30, 2024, contingent upon availability of funds. Each budget period will be one year, with the first period ending September 30, 2022. The applicant will be required to complete a continuation application each fiscal year. Funding in future fiscal years is contingent on the following:

* Availability of funds;
* Recipients demonstration that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives set forth in the approved application, based on ongoing monitoring of the recipient and reporting from the recipient; and
* Compliance with the District and federal laws, regulations and guidance.

**Available Funding for Award**: The total funding available for this award period is approximately $32,105,000. OSSE anticipates issuing one award from this funding opportunity.

**Application Process** OSSE will use external peer reviewers to review and score the applications received for this RFA. External peer reviewers may include employees of the District of Columbia government who are not employed by OSSE. An external peer reviewer is an expert in the field or the subject matter. OSSE may use multiple peer review panels. The final decision to fund applicants rests solely with OSSE. After reviewing the recommendations of the review panel(s) and any other relevant information, OSSE shall decide which applicant to fund. Applications must be submitted by March 11, 2022 (3 p.m.). OSSE anticipates issuing an award by April 30, 2022.

**For additional information regarding this grant competition, please contact:**

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The RFA will be available on OSSE’s website and the Serve D.C. website. Applications will be submitted through the [Enterprise Grants Management System (EGMS)](https://osse.mtwgms.org/WDCosseGMSWeb/GMSLogon.aspx).