

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

FY25 ACCESS TO QUALITY CHILD CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Request for Application (RFA) Release Date: May 8, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) will issue a Request for Applications to expand the supply of child care options that meet the needs of children with disabilities. This grant will provide funding to child development facilities and out-of-school time programs, licensed by OSSE, to create and maintain dedicated child care slots for infants, toddlers, and school-age children with disabilities in the context of an inclusive program. The purpose of this grant is to expand the supply of child care options that meet the needs of children with a variety of disabilities, including those who require intensive health, behavior, and other supports to successfully participate in early learning or out-of-school time care programs. Each selected grantee will receive funding to create and maintain a specified number of slots based on the ages of children with disabilities they propose to serve, the type and intensity of services they commit to provide and their projected budgets to deliver these services.

The funding provided under this grant is funding secured through District of Columbia local funds made available through and authorized by D.C. Code 38-2613(c)(5).

Eligibility and Selection Criteria: Eligible applicants for this grant are community-based non-profit, for-profit or faith-based organizations that operate licensed child development centers caring for infants and toddlers and/or out-of-school time programs licensed by OSSE or consortia of multiple organizations operating child development facilities or out of school time programs that agree to work together to support effective implementation of the grant program across multiple facilities and organizations. Operators of child development homes and expanded homes caring for infants and toddlers may apply to participate in a grant as part of a consortium with other operators of child development facilities (including other child development homes or expanded homes, as well as at least one organization that operates a child development center), but applications for grants to support a single child development home or expanded home will not be considered. Consortia and organizational applicants that operate multiple child development facilities must indicate in their application the specific facilities in which services will be provided. Applications submitted on behalf of a consortium must designate one organization participating in the consortium to serve as the lead applicant and fiscal agent for the grant. Applicants must have a child care subsidy agreement with OSSE.

Applications will be scored on the following selection criteria: executive summary; organizational information; service delivery, monitoring, evaluation, and sustainability plan; and detailed planned expenditures.

Length of Award: The total award period is three years. Each budget period will be one year, with the first period beginning Oct. 1, 2024, or the date of the award if awards are made after

Oct. 1, and ending Sept. 30, 2025. The applicant will be required to complete a continuation application each fiscal year. Funding in future fiscal years is contingent upon the following:

- Availability of funds;
- Recipient's implementation and/or operation of the program as described in applicant's work plan
- Recipients' demonstration that substantial progress has been made toward meeting the objectives set forth in the approved application, based on ongoing monitoring and review of the recipient's reports;
- Compliance with the District and federal laws, regulations and guidance; and
- Appropriate expenditure of funds throughout the grant award period.

Available Funding for Award: The total funding available for this grant is \$6 million. These funds are intended to establish approximately 175 child care slots. OSSE plans to award at least two (2) grants from this RFA: at least one grant to an infant-toddler child care provider and at least one grant to an out-of-school time provider. OSSE anticipates but does not guarantee, a minimum award amount of \$200,000 and a maximum award amount of \$4 million. The actual number of awards will be based on the quality and number of applications received. Successful applicants may be awarded amounts less than requested.

Application Process: The application deadline is June 20, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. Applications must be submitted through EGMS. Please allow additional time for any issues you may experience, as well as the consistency check to run, prior to submission.

An external review panel or panels will be convened to review, score, and rank each application. The review panel(s) will be composed of neutral, qualified, professional individuals selected for their expertise, knowledge or related experiences. The application will be scored against a rubric and each application will have multiple reviewers to ensure accurate scoring. Upon completion of its review, the panel(s) shall make recommendations for awards based on the scoring rubric(s). OSSE will consider these recommendations but will make all final award decisions.

Interested applicants are encouraged to participate in the pre-application webinar on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. To attend the pre-application webinar, please register using the following [link](#).

The RFA will be available on [OSSE's website](#) and the Serve DC Grants Clearinghouse [website](#). Applications must be submitted through the [Enterprise Grants Management System](#) (EGMS). Please see the RFA for more details.

For additional information regarding this grant competition, please contact:

Alejandra Londono-Gomez
Policy Analyst
Division of Early Learning
Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Phone: (202) 679-8406

Email: alejandra.londono-gomez@dc.gov

Hakima Muhammad

Director of Operations and Budget

Development of Early Learning

Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Phone: (202) 727-2814

Email: hakima.muhammad2@dc.gov