ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education

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American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Child Care Supply Building Grant

The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) of the Department of Human Services (DHS) is accepting applications for the ARPA Child Care Supply Building Grant. DCCECE seeks applications from organizations interested in increasing the availability of quality early care and education in communities with an identified shortage or no services for infants, toddlers, and school-aged children.

The ARPA Child Care Supply Building Grant will provide funding to qualifying organizations and businesses that want to open a new child care center, child care family home, or out-of-school time program, or for existing providers that opened after March 11, 2021, that plan to expand a child care center, child care family home, or out-of-school time program.

DCCECE anticipates awarding up to twenty-five million dollars ($25,000,000) in total funding for this project to selected grantees.

The competitive grant process will be overseen by DCCECE with subject matter experts acting as the readers. Funding can be used for start-up expenses, minor renovations, salaries, equipment, and all items necessary to operate a high-quality early childhood education facility.

Applications will be prioritized by the following areas of focus:

- CCDF Participation
- Child Care Deserts
- Infant/Toddler Care
- School Aged Care
- Essential Business Partnerships
- Non-Traditional Care Hours

Preference will be given to proposals which:

- Provide a documented need for expanded or new services in the community to ensure that all children have access to a full day, year-round quality program that meets the needs of working parents (verified by DCCECE).

- Provide service in low-income areas.

- Define a clear collaborative effort in offering quality child care and early childhood services to the community which involves other programs such as health services, local government, business/industry, public schools, Arkansas Better Chance programs, Head Start and Early Intervention Services for young children.

- Reserve facility slots for CCDF voucher participants.

Requirements:

- Eligible entities may use grant funds for minor renovations. This funding cannot be used for construction of new facilities, major renovations including moving a load bearing wall, or for purchasing a building. Maintenance costs, operation costs, and the purchase of moveable (non-permanent) equipment are eligible for grant funds.

- The facility must be operated for the purpose of full-service child care. At least 10 children (for family child care homes) in full day slots must be served by the facility. Programs are required to be in operation for a minimum of 10 hours per day and offer year-round care**.**

- All applicants must agree to obtain Better Beginnings Level 2 or above within one year of the opening of the child care and early childhood education facility. Existing programs must participate in Better Beginnings.

- All parties to the proposal should be aware that if DCCECE contributes grant assistance for the renovation of a child care center, the building must remain for that use for at least five years from grant close out; otherwise, the grantee will be required to repay grant funds.

- It is the responsibility of prospective grantees to demonstrate efforts/provisions for use of the facility which will ensure that low- and moderate-income persons have equitable and easy access to the facility. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, transportation, public accommodation, communications, and governmental activities. The Child Care Licensing Unit will notify the applicable federal agency at any time they become aware of applicable federal laws which may affect the operation of the facility, such as, (ADA). (101: Related Laws and Requirements)

- Potential grantees must maximize the utilization of other resources in financing the project.

- Grant recipients must adhere to all state and federal requirements for financial and programmatic reporting including, but not limited to, financial audits and progress updates.

Due Date:

- Applicants for the ARPA Child Care Supply Building Grant must complete and submit their proposal electronically to paige.cox@dhs.arkansas.gov.
- **Applications are due by 4:00 PM on April 15, 2022**, for consideration of funding. The projected grant award period is July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, **pending legislative approval**.

Contact:

Paige Cox
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501-320-8940

ARPA CHILD CARE SUPPLY BUILDING GRANT
Application

Applicant _____

Address_____

City/Zip_____

County _____Email Address_____

Contact Name_____ Phone Number_____

Site Name _____

Contact Name_____ Phone Number_____

Address_____

City/Zip_____ County_____

Facility Number _____

Project Summary (Brief overview of the project)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Total estimated budget_____

Amount requested from DCCECE_____

Budgets should comprise of more than this funding amount and/or expenses. Applicants should secure funding from additional sources.

Are you willing to accept a partial funding amount? Yes____ No____

Program Information (check all that apply)

Center-based_____ School-based_____

Before/after school_____ Infant/Toddler care_____ Preschool (3-5 year) _____

Number of new children to be served as a result of the grant in each age range:

Infant: _____ Toddler: _____ School-age: _____

The information listed below must comply with Licensing, Better Beginnings, and the Environment Rating Scale Requirements for Child Care Centers.

Square footage of usable space for proposed facility_____

Number of toilets _____Number of sinks_____

Square footage of enclosed outdoor play space_____

Attach a diagram/floor plan of the proposed structure to include both the size and proposed use of each room. Include a diagram of the proposed playground in relation to the building.

Site location (street address) and description of location in relation to population being served:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

STAFFING/PERSONNEL

Name of Staff	**Position**	**Education Level**	**Credentials**	**Years of Experience**	**Date of Hire**

If the project is a joint application, list all agencies/organizations involved and identify the type of support provided by each agency.

CAPACITY/SUBSIDY

Identify the source and number of publicly subsidized child care slots anticipated:

Funding source	full-time slots	part-time slots

PROGRAM ABSTRACT

Describe in ten (10) pages or less the proposed program. This abstract should address the overall project and proposed program and must include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Statement of Need – a description of the community and population to be served. Define the need for funding for development of a child care early childhood facility. Justify the need for the project and present the data used to determine the need. The results of your needs assessment must be included. Data will be verified with census and DCCECE databases.

2. Overall objectives of the project.

3. Description of the proposed program, site, number, and ages of children to be served, and curriculum/program model. Provide specific information regarding the "proposed operators/managers" of the program. Describe the operational relationship between the parties applying for funding.

4. Collaboration with other service/public/private agencies. Must include partnerships with other early childhood programs and public school. Explain specific collaboration activities with each partner. Describe how other funding sources have been and will continue to be generated and integrated into the overall program to ensure a comprehensive program. Provide verification and a listing of other resources for financing the project which have been approved, those which are pending and those which have been denied.

5. Justification of grant request including line-item budget that identifies eligible costs.

Programs must include a letter from the Child Care Licensing Specialist regarding the facility and whether the program, as proposed, is eligible to receive a child care license. If the program (or the proposed program operator) is currently licensed, a letter from the Licensing Specialist must not only address the new proposal but also the status of the child care license held by the applicant. Verification of appropriate approval (or preliminary contacts) from the City Planning Commission, Health and Fire Departments must also be attached.

Include appropriate information (including specific time lines and projected goals) regarding the plans this program will implement to obtain Better Beginnings Approval status by DCCECE for the developmentally appropriate educational program provided to children. **If you are currently participating in Better Beginnings, please provide information on how you will maintain your Better Beginnings status and/or your plans for advancement. Include Implementation Plan and Scope of Work.**

CERTIFICATION

The Authorized Official, who signs this grant application, needs to be an officer of the organization who has the authority to sign agreements and approve budgets.

I certify that all information in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I have reviewed and approved all information in this proposal and will adhere to all guidelines and terms set forth for the ARPA Child Care Supply Building Grant.

_____

Name/Title

_____ _____

Signature Date

PROGRAM FUNDING RATING CRITERIA

The maximum score for any proposal is 253 points.

I. Priority Status of Need (80 points maximum)

Program must be full day/full year to qualify. Programs are to be in operation for a minimum of 10 hours per day.

1. CCDF Participation (20 points)
2. Infant/Toddler care/full day/full year (20 points)
3. School-age care/full year (20 points)
4. Non-Traditional Care Hours (20 points)
5. Full day/full year not planned or no documentation (0 points)

II. Documentation of Need (20 points maximum)

DCCECE will review all available data to support need.

1. No programs offering full day/full year services in area (20 points)
2. No programs offering full day/full year services including infant/toddler care in area (15 points)
3. No programs offering full day/full year services including school-age care in area (10 points)
4. No documentation of need (0 points)

III. Collaboration with Other Agencies and/or Essential Businesses (35 points maximum)

This can be cash match, in-kind or a combination of the two.

1. Collaboration with more than 4 agencies (35 points)
2. Collaboration with 3 to 4 agencies (25 points)
3. Collaboration with 1 to 2 agencies (10 points)
4. No collaboration documentation (0 points)

IV. Quality Services (30 points maximum)

Better Beginnings Status will be verified.

1. Better Beginnings Quality Accreditation Approval Status is level 3. Documentation is included (30 points)
2. Better Beginnings Quality Accreditation Approval Status is level 2. Documentation is included (20 points)
3. Better Beginnings Quality Accreditation Approval Status is level 1. Documentation is included (5 points)
4. Detailed plan for meeting Better Beginnings Quality Accreditation/Approval status is included. At a minimum this plan should address staff qualifications, plan for professional development, plan for parental and community involvement and plan for program/educational standards (5-10 points)
5. Plan for meeting Better Beginnings Quality Accreditation/Approval status is incomplete or not included (0 points)

V. Attachments Required (18 points maximum)

1. Readiness to begin renovation or services (3 points)
2. Service Area/Site Location map (3 points)
3. Licensing approval (3 points)
4. Indoor/Outdoor diagrams (3 points)
5. Planning Commission/Zoning approval (3 points)
6. Health and fire approval (3 points)

VI. Budget (50 points maximum)

1. Budget included and complete (30 points)
2. Program sustainability addressed (20 points)

VII. Other (20 points maximum)

1. All areas of proposal included and complete including age-appropriate staff/program plans (20 points)
2. All areas of proposal included but incomplete age-appropriate staff/program plans (10 points)
3. No documentation included (0 points)

ARPA CHILD CARE SUPPLY BUILDING GRANT

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Proposal Checklist)

Application	Page ____
Table of Contents	Page ____
Program Abstract (not to exceed 10 pages)	Page ____
Service area/Site location map (8 ½" X 11")	Page ____
Letter(s) from funding agency(ies) regarding the status of application and/or funding commitments	Page ____
Diagram/Floor plan for structure (8 ½" X 11") including square footage	Page ____
Diagram/Proposed use of outdoor space including square footage	Page ____
Budget for proposed project	Page ____
Licensing approval letter/Copy of current license	Page ____
Planning Commission/Zoning approval	Page ____
Health approval/Confirmation of contact	Page ____
Fire approval/Confirmation of contact	Page ____
Confirmation letters regarding collaboration	Page ____

Instructions: Service Area/Site Location Map – Provide a legible letter sized map locating the site of the proposed and/or current facility. This map should also indicate the area of need. This is the geographic area served by this center. It is imperative that the map provided clearly marks proposed and/or current facility.

Table of Contents: Use this as a checklist of the items required to submit a Child Care Proposal. Number the pages consecutively in the order listed.