



**Minor Renovation and Repair Grant Webinar  
March 10, 2022**

**Follow-up Q & A from the Chat**

**Q: What is the total amount of funding from the state?**

A: \$100 million available statewide total

**Q: Is the amount per site or per facility?**

A: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/child-care-and-development/infrastructure-grant-program#FAQs>

Center-based projects can request up to \$249,999 and FCC projects can request up to \$75,000. It is at the discretion of the CDSS to determine the appropriate grant amount for each grantee, based upon factors that include, but are not limited to, the scope of the project, regional costs, the use of universal design to provide inclusive environments, the need to meet licensing requirements or health and safety standards, and the proportion of children receiving subsidies to be served.

**Q: Does completed within 120 days take into consideration supply delays... like appliances - ordering but not receiving within 120 days?**

A: I have posed that to CDSS multiple times in multiple forums and have NOT gotten a response to that. Bottom line, the 120 day timeline will only likely apply to projects that have already begun or are "shovel-ready". Equipment purchases will be, generally, prioritized, per the RFA outlined state priorities.

Due to the challenges with acquiring supplies and other aspects of a project that are outside of a grant awardees control, it is unclear whether the 120 day clock is an issue- for the application or the award and completion process

**Q: You mentioned that if there are multiple sites, they want the combined annual operating budget for all sites... is that all sites in CA (if a national company)?**

A: You want to include all the project amounts into the total.

**Q: Can you go back if you need to make a correction?**

A: Yes! You can save and make changes until you submit.

**Q: Realistically, what amount can a single facility receive? Does it make sense to apply with as many achievable projects as possible, or prioritize among a few projects?**

A: This is a pretty unique investment that the state is making, so it is hard to gauge how many applications and the amount requested to expect. We are encouraging folks to submit

applications that reflect their real needs, a more full request. Partly because you can't get the \$ if you don't ask for it! And also we want to make sure that the real deep need in this field is accurately reflected. Perhaps not strategic to put all your request in one large complex project in early stages. So your suggested strategy of as many achievable projects as possible, makes sense, with some attention to having project proposals which are easily achievable and meet the prioritization (i.e., equipment purchase, projects that don't require permits.)

**Q: Is the indoor/outdoor square footage the licensed square footage or the site square footage?**

A: You should respond with the square footage used for child care. You could use your license square footage, but if you are seeking to expand use of space through the proposed project, it would be advised to include that square footage as well.

**Q: The age groups say 0-18 for infants... but what if infants are on one license and is 0-24 months?**

A: 0 - 24 months are infants and toddlers.

**Q: do we have to provide a plan from a contractor about the estimated cost of renovation?**

A: depending on the project type, you may need to reflect the cost from a contractor.

**Q: what if you do give tuition assistance but do not check the family income?**

A: The state has not given guidance for how to verify a family's low-income status for the purpose of this grant application. You may determine how to best support/document your tuition assistance helps low-income families.

**Q: What type of subsidy is Bananas and Child Care Links, etc?**

A: Bananas, 4Cs, Hively, and Davis Street administer multiple different types of vouchered subsidies that low income families may be eligible for. Families that receive any of the subsidies below are definitely considered low income for the purpose of the grant per the state website.

Also helpful to note that families may be income eligible but not receiving a subsidy (because there aren't enough subsidies!) and they should be included in your count as well:

*Vouchers through Alternative Payment agencies:*

- o CalWORKs Stage 1
- o CalWORKs Stage 2 (C2AP)
- o CalWORKs Stage 3 (C3AP)
- o California Alternative Payment Program (CAPP)
- o California Migrant Alternative Payment Program (CMAP) (no contract in AC but you may be serving out-of-county families)
- o Emergency Child Care Bridge for Foster Families (Foster Bridge)

*Direct contracts with centers include:*

- o Federal Head Start/Early Head Start
- o Programs funded through local subsidies
- o General Child Care and Development (CCTR)
- o Migrant Child Care and Development (CMIG)
- o Child Care and Development Services for Children with Exceptional Needs (CHAN)

**Q: Would the number of slots preserved include new slots that started in August 2021 or slots that continued from the start of the pandemic?**

A: Indicate the number of licensed slots the project funding will impact. If you added new slots in Aug 2021 include these slots.

**Q: We provide financial scholarship (give discount) for the financial difficulty families who are not enrolled in any state or any head start program. Can we record it?**

A: if you provide a scholarship to families that have a low income (please reference table below), you can include them in your count regardless of whether the family receives a state or federal subsidy.

If you work with them and you know they are eligible because they meet the low-income threshold, include that information, document that in your application and note the number of children in the appropriate line of the subsidy serving reporting section of the application.

**State subsidy eligibility limits**

Family Members in Home (Children and Adults)	1-2	3	4	5	6
Total Household Gross Monthly Income	\$5,889	\$6,511	\$7,441	\$8,632	\$9,823
Total Household Gross Annual Income	\$70,668	\$78,132	\$89,292	\$103,584	\$117,876

**Q: Could some of the awarded grant dollars be allocated for income or revenue losses due to potential closure?**

A: No. These funds are limited to minor renovation and repair. Check the list of allowable use in the application.

**Q: Are grants taxable?**

A: Yes. The funds through this grant are considered taxable income. Remember that some of the value may be offset through the cost of the project as you report on your business taxes.

**Q: Please what is meant by Fund development?**

A: The state wants to know if you are fundraising funds for the project as well. If you have other sources to contribute to the cost of the project, indicate that. The state is tracking where other funds are being leveraged.

**Q: For these files is it per location or the entire organization - 4 schools 4 leases? or just add each lease to the separate apps?**

A: The application is for one site. Add each lease to the separate applications.

**Q: Would you think AC and lighting would need approval... or just construction?**

A: Here is the link to the RFA: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCDD/RFA-IGP.pdf> The list of allowable Grant expenditures is on page 8. Remember the prioritizations and how to tie your project to health and safety, disaster preparedness, and quality improvement for the of care for children. For instance, can you tie the AC to fire/smoke hazard conditions and childrens' health?

**Q: If your lease is ending and you are in the process of looking for a new location, where would you include this info?**

Our center would not be able to receive a letter stating that we will be there the term of the grant (4 years I thought it said) so wondering how to address that.

A: At least consider applying for reimbursement of any expenses you have made back to August 1, 2021. Really any equipment that helps your site stay clean, safe, supports social distancing and/or outdoor learning would be eligible. You can also consider applying for the new site and speaking to that in the application. It may be a problem if you do not have site control of the new site, but we encourage you to apply anyway. Also, it is important to get site control before the next RFA 2 for Major construction comes out.

**Q: Contractor bids. Is there a requirement to have more than one bid? Are we required to use the bid submitted for the proposal, or is there any flexibility with that so long as bids are not more expensive?**

A: Guidance re-selection of contractors and collection of bids on page 14 here <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCDD/RFA-IGP.pdf>

**Q: The contractor has declared the roof has to many leaks to repair therefore, a new roof must be placed in (due to health and safety issues). Will this grant make an exception and allow for that to occur?**

A: This would be a project for the New Construction and Major Renovations Grants. Applications for that will be available through CDSS this Spring, track here: <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/child-care-and-development/infrastructure-grant-program/major-construction>

**Q: Do we have to provide an estimate from a contractor for the cost of the repairs?**

A: Yes. You need to submit 2-3 bids per project. Three are recommended, two are required. If you have difficulty obtaining bids, you should still apply and note that in your application. But bids will strengthen your application.

**Q: What happens if you are awarded the grant and for reasons beyond our control and we have to close prior to the 4-year requirement?**

A: There could be a request to reimburse at a pro-rated cost of the total project. If you were relocating and taking the equipment purchased with you, that may not need to be reimbursed.

**Q: Do we submit the bids with the application?**

A: Yes. You need to upload each bid. At least 2 per project. For the equipment bid, a screenshot of two different prices from different suppliers is sufficient to upload.

**Q: Is flooring included for a grant?**

A: Yes, new flooring allowed! But no renovations that would literally change your floorplan.

**Q: Our center is adding the infant service at this moment (application is submitted). Can we add it in?**

A: Yes- you would get priority points for serving infants/toddlers. Make sure you note in your project description that you are in an infant/toddler dessert (per the zip code data we provided.) Since your application is already submitted, you may want to send a request to CDSS to reopen your application. This must occur before the application deadline.

Note: If an applicant submits their application before all documents have been submitted, the applicant can request their application be reopened the CDSS by email at

[CCDDFacilities@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CCDDFacilities@dss.ca.gov) and indicate the reason for the reopening of the application.

- This must occur before the application deadline. The sooner the better.
- Suggest taking a screen shot of any communication at the [CCDDFacilities@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CCDDFacilities@dss.ca.gov). If there is a problem this can serve as support for an appeal.

**Q: Playground renovation does not need the architectural drawing. What should we be attached?**

A: You might need to use your best judgment and make a drawing to show the scope of the project for fences, shades and smaller-scale projects. Or a description may be sufficient for simple renovation (installation of padding, etc.) may be helpful to have square footage of the renovation so that the reviewers understand the scope of the project.

**Q: If denied, is there an appeal process?**

A: Yes appeal process outlined on page 17 here <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCDD/RFA-IGP.pdf>

**Q: What if the work was already completed and you had only one bid?**

A: Re questions about requests for reimbursement for work where you only received one bid- we would encourage you to submit an application and share the bids that you received with an explanation.

**Q: To repair roof leaks, roofers recommend a cover over the entire roof. Is this covered or only small patches?**

A: Put it in the proposal and it might be partially funded. There will be a grant later in the year for new construction which may better fit your roofing problem.

**Q: Do air purification systems and disinfection systems count?**

A: Air purify and disinfection system yes these are eligible expenses per page 7 and 8 here <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCDD/RFA-IGP.pdf> Good idea to tie the project request to fire/smoke mitigation and COVID safety, as these are some of the stated goals of the grant.

**Q: Our project is under the construction. we do not have before-project photos. any suggestions?**

A: You can just explain that in the application. Take pictures of the project in progress.

**Q: Architect fee and city permit fee included?**

A: Yes eligible expenses per page 7 and 8 here <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/CCDD/RFA-IGP.pdf>. These are allowable costs.

**Q: When does the 120-day clock start, when you are noticed of the grant, or when the provider says we are ready to start the work. In how much time should we use the funds?**

A: 120 days following grant award. While the RFA indicates a 120 period for the completion, the RFA also indicates that all funds must be expended by 2023. It appears that there is some recognition of potential construction delays for large projects. But remember, priority is for projects that can be completed timely.

**Q: By when can we get the funds?**

A: The award process is March - September.

**Q: If we have a DUNS number from 2020 does that mean we do not need to re-register with SAM?**

A: Another center operator responded: "When I went on SAM, it required me to re-register even with a DUNS number...apparently re-registering should be done annually- and I have renewed the registration for my organization"

**Q: Is outdoor equipment an allowable expense?**

A: Yes, really any equipment that supports outdoor learning is an eligible expense.

**Q: Is the leasing or purchase of vehicles an allowable cost?**

A: No, leasing or purchasing vehicles is not an allowable cost.

**Q: Would the requested funds be eligible for a 100% grant? Or only a portion of it would be?**

A: Matching funds are not required but would get your project prioritized.

**Q: Are the funds based on a lottery?**

A: The funds will be granted with priorities for certain factors listed in the application