

Family Child Care Capital Grant

Responses to Submitted Questions

September 11, 2025

Please note: All questions below are written as they were submitted. Questions with similar responses have been answered together.

Question: What does it mean "increase capacity". We are limited to the number of children we can serve.

Increasing capacity means expanding an educator's ability to serve more children, either by enhancing physical space or through other improvements that allow for an increased number of children within licensing limits.

Question: Would we be eligible for this grant program if we have gotten our home licensed with the past year but have been licensed with EEC for over two years?

If your home was licensed within the past year but you've been licensed with EEC for over four years, you are eligible.

Question: Nine months from application or approval?

The nine month timeline refers to the time interval between signing a Grant Agreement and project completion. For example: A project for which a Grant Agreement is signed on January 1, 2026, would need to be completed nine months later, by September 1, 2026.

Question: Is the grant all or nothing? or will there be partial acceptances

Question: Will there be partial acceptances of the submitted grant. For instance, you don't feel all of my grant request is approvable, will you accept part of it, or will the entire application not be approved.

Question: Si envío una aplicación con vinada, se considerarían los dos proyectos ? o podría ser aprobado solo uno de los dos ? *Google Translate: If I submitted a agreed application, would both projects be considered? Or could only one of the two be approved?*

If you submit an application that includes multiple projects (e.g. Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects), both projects will be considered for funding, as long as the total request is below \$25,000.

No, it is not all or nothing; partial grant awards may be approved.

Question: No es simple para los educadores con formación básica elaborar un proyecto. Hablar de factibilidad, viabilidad, etc. Habría q pagar a alguien. *Google Translate: It is not simple for educators with basic training to develop a project. Talk about feasibility, viability, etc. Someone would have to be paid...*

The program does not provide project planning assistance. Educators are advised to submit applications for projects that they feel they can reasonably implement.

Question: Tengo q elaborar una idea de proyecto de manera separada a la forma basica q se incluye en el link? *Google Translate: Do I have to develop a project idea separately from the basic form that is included in the link?*

The application form has sections where an educator can describe their project and plans. Additional attachments should be for scopes of work, estimates, vendor quotes, etc.

Question: You are showing many things which may not be approved within our regulations. Will you have the new regulations available for review before this substantial opportunity to include fixed /integrated play equipment?

The images are examples to clarify distinctions for fixed and integrated equipment. Please consult your licensor before submitting your application.

Question: Are we going to receive the slides of this meeting information by email?

Recordings of webinars are available on MassDevelopment's website using [this link](#).

Question: Puedo hacer mi solicitud combinada, desde ahora? *Google Translate: "I can make my combined application, starting now?"*

Yes. The application window for Tier 1, Tier 2, or combination Tier 1 and 2 projects is October 1 through October 31, 2025.

Question: En que tiempo estará disponible el dinero? *Google Translate: How long will the money be available?:*

Grantees will have nine months between signing a Grant Agreement and project completion. For example: A project for which a Grant Agreement is signed on January 1, 2026, would need to be completed nine months later, by September 1, 2026.

Question: Para cuándo harán las aprobaciones? *Google Translate: When will the approvals be made?*

Question: After applying, when we will be notified if we get approved?

Notifications of approval are expected to be sent in early spring, 2026.

Question: Will future opportunities for applying for this wonderful grant include everyone? Many educators do not live in gateway cities and/or they do not accept vouchers. However they are motivated to increase their quality and capacity and they make no more money than those educators in the gateway cities and who take vouchers.

Question: What if I don't have any voucher kids but am just trying to improve my daycare?

All qualified Family Child Care providers are currently eligible to apply. Please see Section III of the Guidelines on the MassDevelopment [website](#).

Question: If a tier 2 project cost 5 thousand will 100% of the cost be covered after the 75% and 25% is distributed or are we expected to participate in covering some of the cost?

After signing a Grant Agreement, you may request up to 75% of the value of the grant award. To receive the final 25%, you must submit proof of project completion and invoices. If your proposed project will cost \$5,000 and is approved, grant funds could cover the full project cost without you needing to provide matching funds.

Question: se puede enviar la aplicacion en Espanol. *Google Translate: You can send the application in Spanish*

Yes. The Spanish version of the application can be found in the LEAD Portal.

Question: If approved in round 1, can one apply in round 2 again?

Yes, but you may not apply for the same Tier in future rounds.

Question: si cumpla 2 años con mi licencia en enero 2025 puedo calificar para la segunda ronda?

Google translate: If I complete 2 years with my license in January 2025, can I qualify for the second round?

If you are licensed for two years in January 2025, you are not eligible for the second round. You must have at least four years of licensed operation.

Question: trabajar, esto afecta mi aplicacion? *Google translate: work, does this affect my application?*

No response; question too vague.

Question: About how many grants do you think you will fund for this Pilot?

The number of grants funded will depend on the volume and types of applications received.

Question: You mentioned that this program is highly competitive. Even if an application is strong, it doesn't guarantee approval. Could you elaborate on why an application that meets all the conditions and standards might not be approved? Additionally, how do you prioritize applications that are good and meet the rules?

Applications meeting all conditions may not be funded due to Program budget constraints. All applications will be evaluated using the criteria and preferences listed in Section V of the Guidelines.

Question: Will you show the applications that were approved for reference please?

No.

Question: How much money is there available total?

We have up to \$4 million for the second round.

Question: si cometo un error en la aplicacion o me falta un documento, me daran oportunidad de completar la aplicacion? *Google Translate: If I make a mistake in the application or am missing a document, will I be given the opportunity to complete the application?*

Question: I made a mistake when I submitted my application. How can I fix it?

Please submit a new and complete application before the application deadline.

Question: Can you apply for 2 capital improvements under tier 2?

Question: Should I choose just one item per level or can I choose two items of the same level? For example, can I change the daycare window and build the playground fence?

Yes, you can apply for two capital improvements under Tier 2 as long as the combined total does not exceed \$25,000.

Question: How long do you have to stay licensed for if you got the award?

You must remain licensed and in operation for at least four years from the completion date listed in the Grant Agreement.

Question: Porque no nos dan el dinero este año?? Porque la espera es tan larga para obtener el dinero? *Google Translate: Why don't they give us the money this year? Why is the wait so long to get the money?*

The program is anticipated to receive hundreds of applications; the review, approval and notification process is estimated to take several months.

Question: Will grants be awarded on a rolling basis or will all applications be considered first and then decisions will be made?

All applications will be reviewed at the same time after the submission deadline.

Question: Do we get taxed on this grant? If so, how does that work?

Grant recipients will receive a 1099 and should consult a tax professional for specific advice regarding the taxable value of the award.

Question: I redid the kitchen in my daycare and wanted to apply for the grant to pay off my debt for the renovation. Would I be eligible for that?

No. Section IV of the Guidelines states that program funds cannot be used to reimburse previously completed work or work that has begun prior to execution of a Grant Agreement.

Question: Can a FCC Home program that has been open less than 2 years apply?

The grant is available for FCC providers who have been open for at least four years. Newer programs are not eligible.

Question: What is Tier 1 and Tier 2 applications? Do we need to fill both at the same time?

Please see Section IV of the Guidelines which outlines Tier 1 and Tier 2 applications. You only need to complete the application relevant to your situation as outlined in the Guidelines.

Question: Entendemos que la aplicación puede parecer limitante. Sin embargo, pedimos a los proveedores que sus respuestas sean concisas. *Google Translate: We understand that the app may seem limiting. However, we ask that providers keep their responses concise.*

This is a reminder to keep your application responses concise, but it does not require additional action.

Question: If my husband is a licensed contractor, with his own business, can he do the work on our home?

Question: If my husband is a licensed contractor, can I use him to do the work?

No; licensed contractors and vendors must not have a familial relationship to the grantee.

Question: If the project costs more than \$25,000 and I can pay the remaining balance, do you need proof of my budget to pay the remaining balance? What proof do I need to submit?

Question: Do we need receipts for what the contractor won't cover? How many estimates do you need?

Question: If the contractor's budget exceeds \$25,000, can I still submit it knowing we will only get \$25,000?

Yes, but you may need to provide proof of your ability to cover any project costs above the value of the grant funds. This may include financial statements or a bank letter demonstrating sufficient funds. It is suggested that applicants receive three quotes for their project and then choose and submit the one that is the best fit for your plans.

Question: I already have 10 children; can I use this money to expand daycare?

Yes, funds may be used to improve the quality of the program currently offered.

Question: If I get the grant, what is the required follow-up on my part? Will it be survey questions or in what format?

The Grant Agreement will contain language regarding completing a required annual survey which will be sent electronically to grant recipients, as well as any other reporting requirements.

Question: I have a license for 10 but want to remodel a room to open a classroom just for babies and infants. Will this be considered an improvement for the program?

Yes, remodeling to create a new classroom for babies and infants is considered an improvement to the program.

Question: If I want to expand my childcare and license, but can't due to current space. I do have a basement without an exit. Will the grant be eligible to make an exit to qualify to bring the daycare to the basement?

Yes, creating an exit to make a basement usable for daycare is an eligible use of the grant, as it improves safety and expands the usable space.

Question: What is the difference between the pilot and round two?

The Pilot Program is a smaller round; Round 2 will be larger and incorporate any changes determined during the Pilot Program.

Question: Do we need before and after pictures?

For the round 2 applications you will need to provide before and after pictures to document the improvements made with the grant funds.

Question: If you are in the process of closing the purchase of the house where the daycare will be transferred, can you apply?

Question: Estoy en proceso de comprar una casa. No sé si puedo aplicar o es exclusivamente para las que ya tienen una casa. Google Translate: "I am in the process of buying a house. I don't know if I can apply or if it's exclusively for those who already have a house."

Applicants must own their home outright or with a mortgage at the time of application submission. You need to own the property at the time of application. You may need to wait until the purchase is finalized before applying.

Question: Why are the grants only for FCC providers who opened for two years, instead of new providers?

The program aims to support established providers who have a demonstrated track record of operation.

Question: Would replacing old vinyl siding be acceptable? We are told it needs to be replaced to prevent mold.

Yes, replacing old vinyl siding to prevent mold is acceptable as it falls under emergency repairs and system upgrades that impact health and safety.

Question: Does an electric system that provides electricity in the event of an outage count?

No

Question: My roof is 25 years old and in need of repair. Does that qualify?

Yes, roof replacement qualifies under emergency repairs and system upgrades that impact health and safety.

Question: Do solar panels qualify?

No.

Question: Cambio de waterheater and furnaces viejos en el area de trabajo de los niños con massafe es muy tardado para conseguir las visitas presupuestos con ellos. Que hacer? Google Translate: "Changing old water heaters and furnaces in the children's work area with safety is very delayed to get budget visits with them. What to do?"

Applicants should schedule site visits with potential contractors as soon as possible.

Question: Can I use the money to install sprinklers in the backyard to keep a good outdoor play area?

Yes. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: I want to add a porch to cover from snow and rain the stairs that go to where my daycare is located. It will work as another space so the kids can stay. Do you think it can be eligible?

Yes, adding a porch to increase usable programming space for children would be eligible. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: Would converting a 3-season porch into a 4-season porch be eligible? Would increase size capacity AND would be the sole place for the childcare program.

Yes, converting a 3-season porch into a 4-season porch to increase capacity and programming space is eligible. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: Will a new driveway qualify?

No.

Question: Would opening up a wall to increase a larger space and make it easier for the teacher to work with the children?

Yes, reconfiguration, renovation, or expansion of indoor spaces to improve the learning environment is eligible. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: Would tree removal for more sunshine be acceptable, as children need sun?

No.

Question: Could the grant be used to replace a failing septic system?

Yes, replacing a failing septic system qualifies under emergency repairs and system upgrades that impact health and safety. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: I don't understand when explain about the mini split heat. Can I apply for change heat to a mini split?

Yes, improving heating systems, including installing high-efficiency heat pumps like mini splits, is eligible. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: Can put air conditioning in the house and would I need permission from the city hall?

Yes, improvements to air conditioning systems are eligible. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines. Applicants are responsible for ensuring proposed improvements are done in compliance with all relevant regulations, including any local approvals that may be required

Question: Would expanding the shed for materials for my program be considered? This would allow accessible materials for the children.

Yes, expanding the shed for better access to materials and supporting program operations is eligible. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: Can the structured vs. unstructured outdoor play equipment be explained?

Fixed and integrated outdoor play equipment includes items like playground sets, swings, slides, and other climbing structures that are not easily portable or movable.

Question: Can the kitchen be remodeled to have more storage for the children and can it be used to make the playroom in the basement?

Yes, these types of projects are eligible. Be sure to explain how these improvement fulfill the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Can you use tier 2 for an addition to add square footage to the childcare space?

Yes, you can use Tier 2 funds for an addition that adds square footage for programming space. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: I am wondering if I am able to build a small addition onto my home for FCC children with a ramp into my fenced-in backyard?

Yes, this type of project is eligible. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: Can I use it to make the basement into a play area?

Yes, converting the basement into a play area is an eligible use of the grant. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: Can I use it to make the basement into a play area? Would enlarging/renovating/removing a partial wall and adding a small bathroom (toilet and sink) on the floor of the childcare licensed space be something I could do? I will pay the overage cost.

Yes, enlarging or renovating a space and adding a small bathroom (toilet and sink) on the floor of the child care licensed space is eligible. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines. Grantees will be responsible for any project costs that exceed their grant award.

Question: Hello, can the windows be changed since I have old windows and the cold seeps in during winter?

Yes, this type of project is eligible. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: Am I able to extend my kitchen, into my pantry and porch, to enlarge the area? We spend most of our time between playroom and kitchen. The kitchen is where we do sensory play and messy play.

Yes, this type of project is eligible. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: Example: a heating system. Also, is there a number for energy efficiency or just a current heating system as opposed to a thirty-year-old heating system?

The grant supports energy efficiency projects, including replacing outdated heating systems with newer, more efficient models.

Question: Does new carpets count under the grant qualifications?

Yes, new carpets are eligible. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: Projects about water efficiency, like organic toilets, energy efficiency, does this make a strong application?

Projects related to water efficiency, like installing organic toilets and improving energy efficiency, are eligible projects. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: Lead or asbestos removal included?

Yes, lead or asbestos removal is an eligible type of project as it improves the safety and health of the childcare environment. Be sure to explain how this improvement fulfills the key objectives in Section II of the Guidelines.

Question: If you are in the process of closing the purchase of the house where the daycare will be transferred, can you apply?

Question: Me mudare a una casa propia, califico? *Google Translate: I am moving to my own house, do I qualify?*

Question: Estoy en proceso de comprar una casa, no sé si puedo aplicar o es exclusivamente para las que ya tienen una casa. *Google Translate: I am in the process of buying a house, I don't know if I can apply or if it is exclusively for those who already own a house.*

If you do not own your house by the application's deadline, you are ineligible for this round.

Question: Buenas noches la hipoteca demi casa está a nombre de mi hijo pero yo soy quien paga la mensualidad y yo estoy en el título de la casa yo cualificaría? *Google Translate: Good evening, the mortgage on my house is in my son's name but I am the one who pays the monthly payment and I am on the title of the house. Would I qualify?*

Question: My house is owned by me and my son and it's a 2-family. Will I be eligible?

Yes, if your name is on the title of the house and you are operating your child care program out of that home, you are eligible to apply.

Question: La casa donde tengo el Daycare está a nombre de mi esposo puedo aplicar???

Google Translate: The house where I have Daycare is in my husband's name, can I apply?

Question: The house is in the husband's name and the daycare is in the wife's name! Can she apply?
Yes.

Question: no soy duena de la casa pero Pago El morgage, puedo cualificar? *Google Translate: I am not the owner of the house but I pay the mortgage, can I qualify?*

No. To be eligible, providers must operate their child care program out of a home that they and/or their spouse own in their own name(s), outright or with a mortgage.

Question: Si solo estoy en el Dee de la casa y no en la hipotecas puedo calificar para llenar el gran?

Google Translate: If I am only in the deed of the house and not in the mortgages, I can qualify?

Yes, if your name is on the deed of the house and you are operating your child care program out of that home, you are eligible to apply.

Question: Solo aplican las personas dueñas de casa. *Google Translate: Only homeowners apply*

Yes, only individuals who own the home where they operate their child care program, either outright or with a mortgage, are eligible for this round of the program.

Question: My house was purchased only in my husband's name, we are married, what should I do to prove that the house is also mine?

At this time, you are eligible to apply. If approved, we will request additional documentation.

Question: I've owned my house for 20 years, but I put the house in a trust a few years ago. The trust includes my name on it, and I have proof that I pay all the bills, property and income taxes, maintenance, and repairs. Would I be able to apply?

Not at this time.

Question: Can you explain a little bit more about the proof of homeownership?

Proof of homeownership can include a deed showing the property is in your name or your spouse's name, a mortgage statement, or other official documentation that demonstrates ownership.

Question: What other proof can I use besides the deed? We paid off the mortgage.

The deed is the most definitive proof of ownership. Besides the deed, you can also submit a municipal property card or current tax records.

Question: What if the quote is substantially higher when the project starts in the spring?

Question: What about price changes in the time prices are quoted and the time the grant given in the spring and there are price changes?

Question: Costs are going to go up between now and then...what do we do about that?

Question: What happens if you get a quote and then are awarded the grant in the spring, but the contractor has increased their price?

The value of grant awards is fixed and cannot be adjusted to accommodate price increases. Applicants should request contingencies in their quotes to reflect this possibility as well as let contractors and vendors know that work will not begin until Spring so that they can provide a quote that is more reflective of future pricing.

Question: Most contractors provide a guaranteed estimation for 30 days. How come the notifications will be available until next spring, and how can we ensure that the same price will be available?

The program is anticipated to receive hundreds of applications; the review, approval and notification process is estimated to take several months.

Applicants should request contingencies in their quotes to reflect this possibility as well as let contractors and vendors know that work will not begin until Spring so that they can provide a quote that is more reflective of future pricing.

Question: So we are talking about starting the projects next summer?

Notice to proceed may be given immediately after execution of a Grant Agreement. Award notifications are expected to go out in early Spring 2026.

Question: Basically, when looking for contractors do we tell the contractors the projects wouldn't start until the spring of 2026 if awarded the grant?

Applicants should let contractors and vendors know that work will not begin until Spring so that they can provide a quote that is more reflective of future pricing.

Question: We are getting quotes from contractors now but we have to wait 9 months for an answer. Next spring these prices are likely to have increased. What then if it goes a bit beyond the \$25k?

The value of grant awards is fixed and cannot be adjusted to accommodate price increases. Grantees will need to secure additional funding to cover any costs above their grant award.

Question: For those who have already met with a contractor, how did you go about explaining all of this to them? The timeline is probably much longer than a contractor would like to hear.

Award notifications are expected to go out in early Spring 2026. Let them know that notice to proceed may be given immediately after execution of a Grant Agreement.

Question ¿Por qué hay que esperar tanto tiempo y que sea el próximo año y no ahora que el verano acaba de empezar y en realidad se necesita hacer muchas mejoras en el hogar realmente? *Google translate: Why do we have to wait so long and have it be next year and not now that summer has just started and there are actually a lot of home improvements that really need to be done?*

The program is anticipated to receive hundreds of applications; the review, approval and notification process is estimated to take several months.

Question: If I get an estimate now and work is not being done until spring, how is the rise in prices being handled? Price continually rise so the estimate today may not cover the project in the spring (for example a heating system). Also, is there a number for energy efficiency or just a current heating system as opposed to a thirty-year-old heating system?

The value of grant awards is fixed and cannot be adjusted to accommodate price increases. Applicants should request contingencies in their quotes to reflect this possibility as well as let contractors and vendors know that work will not begin until Spring so that they can provide a quote that is more reflective of future pricing. Energy efficiency improvements are encouraged, especially when replacing older systems.

Question: If we get permits for the work now and we don't get the grant we are wasting money...so what would we do in this case?

It is recommended to wait for grant approval before obtaining permits to avoid unnecessary expenses.

Question: Si un estimado de ventanas fue hecho el año pasado, ¿es aceptable porque las compañías quieren dar estimaciones de trabajo a corto plazo y de inmediato? *Google Translate: If a window estimate was done last year, is it acceptable because companies want to give short-term work estimates right away?*

Applicants should submit up-to-date quotes.

Question: La linea de tiempo para finalizar el proyecto es de 9 meses a partir del reembolso del dinero. Si debo incluir las fechas exactas, ¿cuándo sería el desembolso del dinero? *Google Translate: The timeline to complete the project is 9 months from the reimbursement of the money. If I must include the exact dates, when would the money be disbursed?*

After signing a Grant Agreement, you may request up to 75% of the value of the grant award. To receive the final 25%, you must submit proof of project completion and invoices.