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# Children's Investment Fund Newsletter

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Dear Colleagues and Partners,

In March, I had the opportunity to take part in a national discussion on early childhood facilities hosted by the Bipartisan Policy Center in DC. It was wonderful to connect with other organizations across the country that are focused on high-quality learning environments for children. The meeting was a great opportunity to share the many resources we have developed—from the [Facility Inventory Report](#) to the [Design Guidelines](#)—with other states.

In February, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a report, [Transforming Financing for Early Care and Education](#), which outlines funding for facilities as a key need and cites Children's Investment Fund's work. No other state currently has a bond-financed public source of funding for facilities like the Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund (EEOST) alongside data on facility needs across multiple programs. The Commonwealth still has a long way to go to ensure that all children have access to quality facilities but the Fund has pushed Massachusetts to the forefront.

Our work continues and we look forward to ongoing discussions at the national level.

## News Update:

### **Housing Bond Bill Awaiting Governor's Approval**

On Wednesday, May 23, the Legislature passed *An Act financing the production and preservation of housing for low and moderate income residents*, the housing bond bill that authorizes major affordable and supportive housing programs as well as the Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund (EEOST) for another five years (FY19 to FY23). The bill now moves to the Governor for his approval.

### **Project Spotlight: YWCA of Southeastern MA**

On April 27, the YWCA of Southeastern MA hosted a groundbreaking event at its headquarters in New Bedford. The Y received an \$800,000 EEOST grant to renovate and expand its historic building to include eight units of housing for women and an afterschool program for 50 children. Roger Herzog and Theresa Jordan represented CEDAC and CIF in congratulating the Y on a unique project that co-locates housing and high-quality school-age care. Check out more media coverage [here](#).

Best,



Theresa Jordan  
Director of Children's Facilities  
Finance



## Program Pulse:



### 2018 Let's Take It Outside Training

Did you know that on average, American children under the age of 8 spend over two hours each day in front of a screen? As a result, children are spending less and less time outdoors. Early education and care environments are important places for providing children with the opportunity for outside play, yet many programs struggle with adequate space that is enriching and promotes children's connection to nature.

Thanks to support from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, the Fund is hosting a one-day training on June 14th for non-profit programs planning to renovate or create a new outdoor play space. For more information on the training, click [here](#).

### Building Stronger Centers 2018

From May 21 - 24, the Fund hosted the 10th *Building Stronger Centers* (BSC) Training Institute at the Wylie Inn and Conference Center in Beverly. This year, 11 organizations participated in intensive sessions on conceptual planning & feasibility, organizational and project finances, and design. Nine architecture firms attended Wednesday evening's Design Charrette to provide feedback on the preliminary projects. The Fund looks forward to working with these organizations as their projects progress!



*New Bedford City Council President Linda Morad, Theresa Jordan, Senator Mark Montigny, Mayor Jonathan Mitchell, YW Executive Director Gail Fortes, YW Board President Juli Parker, Representative Antonio Cabral, CEDAC Executive Director Roger Herzog, and DHCD Assistant Undersecretary Susan Terry*

## Partnership News:

### The Barr Foundation's Lasting Legacy

[The Barr Foundation profiled the Fund](#) as part of a new website featuring the legacy of its early education and care investments. Since 1999, the Barr Foundation has contributed \$12M to the Fund's work, supporting its operations and training programs, providing small-scale emergency grants to providers, and funding the research that ultimately led to the establishment of EEOST. Barr's partnership and deep understanding of the early education and care sector is unparalleled. The Fund is grateful and honored to have been a longstanding partner.

### BCBSMA Healthy Living Network

The Fund is delighted to be a part of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts' Healthy Living Network, a group of local organizations focused on accelerating healthy living innovation in communities across Massachusetts. Blue Cross Blue Shield featured the Fund's *Let's Take It Outside* training in its 2017 [Annual Report](#) and is offering a series of related workshops and opportunities to us as part of the Network. Thank you, Blue Cross Blue Shield!



MASSACHUSETTS

### MA Asthma Action Partnership

The Fund also presented alongside its [Massachusetts Asthma Action Partnership](#) (MAAP) colleagues at the 2018 Ounce of Prevention Conference hosted by the



Department of Public Health. The session, “Clearing the Air: Healthy Early Education Centers and Schools,” featured MAAP’s new Asthma Toolkit for Healthy Schools, MassCOSH’s and the Worcester Public School’s work to promote healthy school environments, and the Fund’s expertise in improving indoor air quality in early education and care spaces in the Commonwealth. The Fund has been a member of MAAP since 2013.

## Design Guidelines Training

On April 26, the Fund and architecture firm D.W. Arthur and Associates hosted a training on high-quality design for Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) licensors and program staff at EEC’s Quincy office. EEC licensors are responsible for monitoring programs across the state, ensuring that they meet health, safety, and programmatic requirements. The training featured specific best practices documented in the [Design Guidelines for Construction or Renovation of Facilities for Early Education and Out-of-School Time Programs](#). It was also a forum for rich dialogue about the challenges and opportunities inherent in early childhood design.



*Kira Taj, Children's Investment Fund; Stacey Chacker, Health Resources in Action; Debra McGovern, Worcester Public Schools; Jenny Fernandez, MassCOSH*



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