



FY21 Special Grant Round

The Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund (EOST)

The Massachusetts Governor's Office and the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) are pleased to announce the availability of funding through the Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund (EOST) to provide critical resources necessary to sustain the Commonwealth's essential childcare infrastructure. As outlined in legislation, the FY21 EOST Capital Fund special round will award grants between \$100,000 and \$250,000 to large group early education and out-of-school time programs to offset expenses for capital improvements related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency.

FUNDING USES

EOST funding is intended to provide center-based early education and out-of-school time care facilities with resources to make renovations that enhance health and safety, for costs that were incurred during the period that begins on March 22, 2020 and ends on September 30, 2021. These include but are not limited to:

- Capital improvements necessary to facilitate compliance with COVID-19-related health and safety measures, which could include:
 - Modifications to improve indoor air quality, including upgrading or replacing existing HVAC systems
 - Replacing windows to ensure they are operational with the intent of increasing fresh air intake
 - Renovating bathrooms to include hands-free controls
 - Installation of sinks to promote handwashing
 - Expanding and/or reconfiguring space
 - Improvements to entryway
- Emergency repairs that impact the health and safety of occupants such as roof replacement or upgrading electrical or security systems.
- Physical environment modifications addressing accessibility or other improvements to support inclusion of children and adults with special needs.

ELIGIBILITY

As outlined in legislation, main eligibility criteria include but are not limited to the following:

- Applicants must be a non-profit, center-based program
- Applicants must have a valid license from EEC and be in good standing with the EEC
- Applicants must demonstrate at least 50% of the program's enrollment utilized by families who are eligible for public subsidy (as of February 1, 2020)

Please note that eligible organizations that received an EOST grant in a prior fiscal year **are eligible** to apply for this year's special grant round.

Applications will be reviewed and scored with the expectation that all capital improvement work will be completed by September 30, 2021. Please note that if your project involves substantial renovation, construction, or HVAC work, you will need to have been already working with a real estate development team and be far along in the process in order to be competitive.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please fill out an [Interest to Apply](#) form online by November 13th to help us plan for the special grant round. The Application materials and Program Guidelines and Regulations are posted on [COMMBUYS](#) and full applications are due at 4PM on December 10th. EEC will host online information sessions on [November 10th at 11AM](#) and [November 16th at 6:30PM](#).

For any questions, please contact Denise Karlin (denise.karlin@state.ma.us) at EEC or the Children's Investment Fund team at EOST@childrensinvestmentfundma.org.