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## Children's Investment Fund Newsletter

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*An educator at Horizons for Homeless Children teaches children about plants, using plexiglass dividers for separation. Photo courtesy of Horizons for Homeless Children.*

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Happy spring. We are still currently in the review process for this year's [FY21 Early Education and Out of School Time \(EEOST\) Capital Fund round](#), which was modified this year to fund facility improvements that address COVID-19 health and safety challenges. Many thanks again to our partners at the Department of Early Education and Care, the Executive Office of Education, the Executive Office for Administration and Finance, and the Governor's office for allocating \$4 million in capital bond funds this year to fund improvements such as HVAC upgrades, new windows, emergency repairs, and other important needs.

The early childhood education community has continued to care for children and their families throughout the challenging winter. Operational costs are still high and programs are doing the best they can with their current facilities. While we are excited that an [influx of federal funding for child care is coming to Massachusetts](#), we know that much more is needed to support the investment in infrastructure in the long term.

Best,

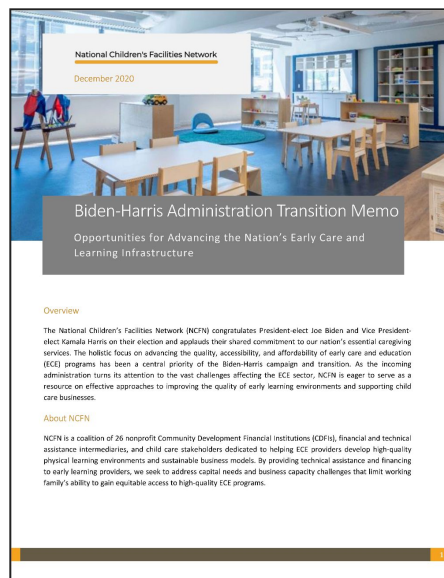


Theresa Jordan  
Director

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### Early Education Infrastructure as Essential Infrastructure

The [National Children's Facilities Network \(NCFN\)](#), a group of community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and other intermediaries, [released a brief](#) on the state of early education facilities and opportunities for the incoming Biden-Harris Administration. The report profiles Children's Investment Fund among other leaders across the nation that are focused on improving learning environments for children. NCFN was created over 20 years ago by CIF board member Carl Sussman and a handful of founding members.



On March 16, Congresswoman Katherine Clark [re-introduced the Child Care As Infrastructure Act](#), which proposes an investment of \$10 billion for child care facility improvements and workforce supports. Justin Pasquariello of [East Boston Social Centers](#) was a panelist and shared his organization's experience relocating and renovating high-quality spaces for children living in low-income families through the help of a \$1 million EEOST Capital Fund grant and other CIF financing and training supports. Nicole Barcliff, Policy Director at the [Local Initiatives Support Corporation \(LISC\)](#) and member of NCFN, spoke to the health and safety challenges facing early education providers.

Thank you, Representative Clark, for your persistent efforts to increase federal resources for the child care sector!

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## Child Care Facility Needs During COVID-19

In the fall, CIF hosted two trainings on facility design considerations for early education and out-of-school time settings to address capital improvements related to the public health emergency. [Recordings of the trainings are now available on our website.](#)

An excellent [brief released by the Bipartisan Policy Center](#) in January outlines key features of child care environments that inhibit the spread of COVID-19 within programs. They include:

- Ventilation systems in good working condition
- An entrance that facilitates screening, safe drop-off procedures, and hand washing upon entry
- Self-contained classrooms with bathrooms, sinks, and storage directly within the space
- An isolation area for the program, in order to isolate a sick child

While providers have been making these improvements and more since the beginning of the pandemic, many renovations entail significant cost and time to implement. CIF is here to help. We offer technical assistance to centers as well as project financing. Contact us at [CIF@childrensinvestmentfundma.org](mailto:CIF@childrensinvestmentfundma.org).

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## Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Resources

In early January, the Small Business Administration re-opened the federal [Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#) for businesses across the nation. In addition to being open to first-time applicants, organizations that already received a PPP loan in 2020 may be eligible to receive a second loan through this new round of funding. The deadline for both types of applicants is **March 31, 2021**.

New data from the Small Business Administration, analyzed by the Bipartisan Policy Center, shows that in 2020, Massachusetts brought in the [seventh-highest dollar amount of PPP loans for the child care sector](#) in the country (\$161 million in total), on par with other more populous states such as New Jersey and Illinois. Children's Investment Fund and its technical assistance team provided one-on-one support to [almost 300 early childhood education and out-of-school time businesses](#) last year, helping them access this crucial funding source.

Although CIF is not providing technical assistance support for PPP's second round, child care businesses can request individual assistance through the [Massachusetts Equitable PPP Access Initiative](#) convened by LISC Boston.

**If you are a minority-led and/or woman-led child care business, you can request assistance with applying to PPP [here](#), with support in several languages available.**

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## Project News:

### Educare Springfield

[Educare Springfield](#) hosted a virtual ribbon cutting on January 29th to celebrate the completion of its new building -- a beautiful 26,000 square-foot center with the capacity to serve 141 children. EEC Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy provided live virtual remarks and several local legislators sent their congratulations. The center received an EOST Capital Fund award of \$1 million in 2018.



*Educare Springfield's new 26,000 square-foot center.*



*Toddlers play in a new gross motor space at Educare, before the pandemic. Photo courtesy of Don Treeger/ The Republican.*

## Partnership News:

The Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation awarded Children's Investment Fund with a \$5,000 grant in December. Eastern Bank continues to be a champion for early childhood education and recently announced the [creation of the Massachusetts Business Coalition for Early Childhood Education](#), with over 70 companies involved. Thanks for your support and leadership, Eastern Bank!



## In the News:

CIF Board member Renee Boynton-Jarrett is the first guest on a new podcast from Child Care Aware of America's CEO Lynnette Fraga called [A Seat at the Table](#)

CIF Board member Amy O'Leary comments on [a new bill filed with the Massachusetts Legislature](#) proposing substantial public investment to create universal child care

The YWCA of Central Massachusetts, an EEOST grantee, demonstrates the [power of an all-female construction team](#) for the renovation of its Worcester building

Square One's new Executive Director, Dawn DiStefano, participates in a [panel hosted by the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank](#) on the synergy between the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and Early Education

A [ventilation study comes to life in this NYTimes article](#) about the importance of operable windows and air filtration in classrooms

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