

Children's Investment Fund Newsletter



Staff at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield pose for a photo during their October "brick-breaking" event on October 13.

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

What a fast year this has been! We are grateful for the many accomplishments we achieved this year alongside our many partners.

We are particularly in awe of the efforts of the early childhood education and out-of-school time workforce. These are the individuals who have reported to work in person since the beginning of the pandemic, put their health at risk in service of others, and continue to show up for children and families each day. We see you and we appreciate you. Investing in the workforce, in the form of higher wages, is the first step to strengthening the early childhood education system. We are encouraged by the growing public recognition that the [child care crisis is a wage crisis](#).

We remain committed to serving the child care sector in order to create high-quality, supportive spaces for children AND their staff. Wishing you a lovely holiday season.

Best,

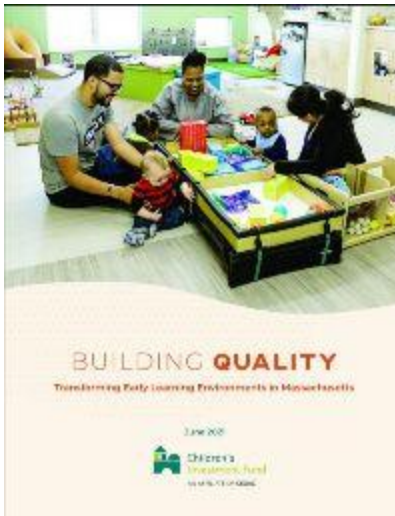


Theresa Jordan
Director

Program News:

Building Quality Report

In September, Children's Investment Fund officially released its new report, [Building Quality: Transforming Early Learning Environments in Massachusetts](#). The report celebrates the achievements of the EOST Capital Fund and highlights the importance of investing in child care facilities. Our live release event featured Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy, For Kids Only Afterschool Executive Director Debbie Kneeland, and LISC National Policy Director Nicole Barcliff. If you missed the release, check out [this recording](#).



FY22 EOST Capital Fund Round

Applications for this year's Early Education and Out of School Time (EOST) Capital Fund round are due December 9th! Details and materials are on our [website](#) and on [COMMBUYS](#).

This year's funding is intended to provide center-based early education and out-of-school time care facilities with the resources to make renovations that enhance health and safety, including:

- Improvements to outdoor play space
- Improvements to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, and exterior window replacement
- Reconfiguration of indoor spaces including classrooms, gross motor rooms, and bathrooms.
- Emergency repairs and system upgrades that impact the health and safety of occupants including roof replacement and upgrading electrical, life safety, and security systems.
- Physical environment modifications including accessibility or other improvements to support inclusion of children and adults with special needs.

A similar round last year [awarded \\$7.5M](#) to 36 projects, making critical improvements in learning environments for children throughout the state.



Lt. Governor Karyn Polito at the East Boston Social Centers in July 2021 to announce the EEOST Capital Fund FY21 awardees.

CIF is Hiring!

CEDAC and Children's Investment Fund seek a Project Manager to join a diverse team of twenty-five employees, including a three-member child care team. Please share with your networks and [read about the position here](#).

Looking to improve your facility?

Children's Investment Fund can help you along your journey to renovate space, newly construct a building, and/or acquire property. CIF offers financing, training, and technical assistance to support the creation of high-quality educational space. Reach out to Theresa Jordan by emailing tjordan@childrensinvestmentfundma.org if you'd like to learn more about our services.

Project News:

The Children's Investment Fund team attended several project events this fall. It was great to be back in centers again after a period of virtual events!

Stone House

On September 29th, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy toured the new early childhood education center at [Stone House](#)'s new building in Boston. Also on the tour were Theresa Jordan of Children's Investment Fund and Roger Herzog of CEDAC.

Stone House received a \$1M EEOST Capital Fund grant in 2018. The center is part of a mixed-use building that contains supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing domestic violence. Stone House previously operated a drop-in program for children but is now an EEC-licensed provider of year-round care for up to 51 children.



New classroom at Stone House. Photo courtesy of studioMLA Architects.



Part of the Stone House's beautiful, natural play space for children. Photo courtesy of studioMLA Architects.

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield

On October 13th, the [Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield](#) celebrated its new addition, built to serve an additional 100 children in preschool and out-of-school time programming. Department of Early Education and Care Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy toured the facility and spoke during the program, sharing her congratulations. CIF's Theresa Jordan and Kira Wilke attended as well.

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield received a \$1M EEOST Capital Fund grant in 2020, comprising more than a fourth of the project's entire \$3.5M budget.



Attendees celebrating the new wing of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield. Photo credit: Don Treeger of the Republican.



Preschool children eating lunch in their new classroom. Photo credit: Don Treeger of the Republican.

Berkshire Family YMCA - Pittsfield Branch

On November 10th, Congressman Richard Neal, EEC Commissioner Samantha Aigner-Treworgy, and several other supporters gathered to break ground on the Berkshire Family YMCA's \$12M [capital project](#) in downtown Pittsfield. CIF's Senior Project Manager, Bree Horwitz, also attended to celebrate this important milestone.

The YMCA will renovate the 109-slot child care program space at the branch, enabling it to serve an additional 25 children, including 16 new slots for infants and toddlers. Other features include a new multi-purpose space, a STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, and Math) room, a staff break room, and an open play space for physical activity.



Rendering of the Berkshire Family YMCA's Pittsfield branch addition, which broke ground in November.



Congressman Richard Neal at the Berkshire Family YMCA's groundbreaking ceremony.

In the News:

CIF board member Anne Douglass of UMass Boston advocates for training programs that leverage the enormous expertise already in the child care workforce in [CommonWealth Magazine](#)

CIF board member Carl Sussman is featured in [this video](#) from the Bipartisan Policy Center on the importance of child care facilities

The Bipartisan Policy Center releases a [guide to best practices for family child care facilities](#)

[Common Start legislation](#) is featured in the education hearings on Beacon Hill, setting a vision for large investment in early childhood education in Massachusetts

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