



## FY2025 Large Grant Round

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

The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) are pleased to announce the availability of FY2025 funding through the Early Education and Out of School Time (EOST) Capital Fund to provide critical resources necessary to sustain the Commonwealth's essential child care infrastructure. The FY2025 EOST Capital Fund Large Grants round will award grants up to \$1,000,000 to large group early education and out-of-school time programs to offset expenses for critical capital improvements.

#### 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 incurred on or after December 16, 2023. Organizations whose projects will be 100% complete at any point between the time of the Pre-Application through award announcements cannot apply for EOST Large Grant Program funding for reimbursement and such applications will not be considered.

These uses include but are not limited to:

1. Acquisition of property or buildings
2. EOST funding can be utilized for rehabilitation of an eligible facility that may include, but is not limited to, major systems replacement, reconfiguration of classrooms, administrative and staff spaces, and redesign and renovation of outdoor space
3. Soft costs directly related to the development of a facility.

#### ELIGIBILITY

As outlined in the original EOST Capital Fund 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 in good standing for the project site;
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate that at least 50% of the project site's enrollment is comprised of low-income children. This is defined as having at least 50% of the site's enrollment comprised of children who receive EEC child care subsidy, attend a Head Start slot, or receive another form of public subsidy. If this is a new site, then the applicant organization's total licensed enrollment must serve or exceed 50% subsidized slots. When complete, the EOST-funded facility must provide services to at least 50% of its capacity to low-income families who are eligible for public subsidy

Please note that organizations that received an EOST grant in the years FY2014 – FY2020, or a large grant round in FY2024 (up to \$1,000,000) **are not eligible** to apply for this year's Large Grant Program round for the **same** site. Organizations that received an EOST grant for the same site in the years FY2021, FY2022, FY2023, or the small grant round in FY2024 (up to \$500,000) are eligible to apply for the same site through this round. Organizations that received an EOST grant for **other** sites in any year are eligible to apply for this program. **However, organizations cannot apply to both the FY25 small grant and FY25 large grant EOST rounds for the same site.**

Applications will be reviewed and scored with the expectation that construction will begin by September 30, 2026. Please note that if your project involves substantial renovation, construction, or HVAC work, you must have already worked with a development team and be far along in the process to be competitive.

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

Application materials and Program Guidelines and Regulations will be posted on COMMBUYS on October 1, 2024.

This year, pre-applications must be submitted online via the following link:



<https://www.cognitofrms.com/ChildrensInvestmentFund1/EEOSTFY25PreApplicationLargeGrant>

Pre-applications will be due at 11:59PM Eastern Standard Time on December 16, 2024. EEC will host virtual information sessions on October 28, 2024 at 11AM and October 30, 2024 at 2:00PM. Organizations invited to submit a full application by EEC will submit the full application and materials by 11:59PM EST on April 14, 2025 using a different online link that will be shared with those invited to apply.

For any questions, please contact the Children's Investment Fund team at [EEOST.LG@cif-ma.org](mailto:EEOST.LG@cif-ma.org)

Or the EEC EEOST general mailbox at [jose.mendez@mass.gov](mailto:jose.mendez@mass.gov)