

Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation



Building Environments That Enhance Program Quality

Autumn 2024

Children's Investment Fund Newsletter



CIF Board members and staff in front of East Boston Social Centers following the FY24 Capital Grant Award Announcement Event on August 26.

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

A new school year has begun and early education centers across the state are welcoming new families and children. We continue to support the capital needs of these programs, ensuring that more children have access to safe, healthy, and enriching classrooms and facilities.

We joined EEC Commissioner Kershaw and Secretary Tutwiler in August to celebrate the [announcement of twenty new small capital grants](#) for early education and out-of-school time providers. The projects are located statewide, as far west as North Adams and as far east as Beverly. They bring cleaner air for young children, improved play spaces, new windows, and many other benefits.

With growing awareness of the impact of climate change on early education programs and the children they serve, fifty percent (50%) of these new small grant recipients will upgrade their HVAC systems for greater efficiency and healthier air quality. Additionally, 45% of the projects will enhance their outdoor play spaces to provide more children with safe outdoor access. These renovations are important and costly and would not be possible without support from the Commonwealth.

As we look ahead to the fall and to new rounds of funding, we take a moment to be grateful for the work we are able to do.

Best,



Theresa Jordan
Director



Program News

Small Capital Grants FY24 Award Announcement

East Boston Social Center (EBSC) hosted EEC's FY24 awards celebration for the Early Education and Out of School Time (EOST) and Early Education and Care Provider Capital Grant (EEPCG) small rounds on Monday, August 26. During the event, EBSC Executive Director Justin Pasquariello discussed the impact of their newest grant on the center and its community. The \$246,000 award will be used to fund a long-awaited elevator renovation and accessibility project which will improve safety and mobility for all. EEC awarded this grant to EBSC as part of a group of twenty grant recipients this round, with a total of \$8.5 million in awards.

Secretary of Education Patrick Tutwiler and EEC Commissioner Amy Kershaw spoke about the state's commitment to early education and care and the importance of quality facilities for children and educators. Theresa Jordan congratulated each grant recipient organization for the non-profit (15) and for-profit (5) awards. Read more about the event and grant awards [here](#).

In September, EEC announced the EOST FY24 Large Capital Grant awards. Six organizations received grants of up to \$1 million for major capital improvements projects.



CIF Director Theresa Jordan, Education Secretary Patrick Tutwiler, State Representative Adrian Madaro, East Boston Social Centers (EBSC) Executive Director Justin Pasquariello, Senator Sal DiDomenico, an EBSC educator and student, and EEC Commissioner Amy Kershaw.

EEC and CIF announce the availability of capital grant funding through three programs:

- The FY25 Early Education and Out of School Time (EEOST) Capital Fund [small grant round - for non-profit centers](#)
- The FY25 Early Education and Care Provider Capital Grant (EEPCPG) [small grant round - for for-profit centers](#)
- The FY25 Early Education and Out of School Time (EEOST) Capital Fund [large grant round - for non-profit centers](#)

The EEOST Capital Fund awards capital grants to non-profit centers. Funding is made available through the [Healey-Driscoll Administration's FY25-29 Capital Plan](#). EEC will award small grants between \$200,000 and \$500,000 and large grants up to \$1,000,000.

The EECPCG program awards capital grants to for-profit centers. Funding is made possible through funds appropriated through the Commonwealth's FY24 operating budget. EEC will award small grants between \$200,000 and \$500,000.

How to Apply for a Small Grant

Applicants must be EEC-licensed, **center-based** programs and 50% of enrollment must be utilized by families eligible for public subsidy. Family Child Care providers are **not eligible** for these grant programs. The application materials and program guidelines are posted on COMMBUYS, linked below, and full applications are due by 11:59 PM on December 12, 2024.

This year, all applications must be submitted through an online portal instead of via email. We hope that this will result in a smoother, easier process for all applicants.

CIF and EEC will host four online information sessions as follows:

For non-profit centers (EEOST):

Tuesday, [October 22, 2024 at 11 AM](#)

Thursday, [October 24, 2024 at 2 PM](#)

COMMBUYS [link to application documents here](#) (Posting ID: BD-25-1037-1CEN0-C0000-108055)

Online application link:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/ChildrensInvestmentFund1/EEOSTFY25ApplicationSmallGrant>

For questions, please contact the Children’s Investment Fund team at EEOST@cif-ma.org or EEC at jose.mendez@mass.gov.

For for-profit centers (EEPCPG):

Tuesday, [October 22, 2024 at 2 PM](#)

Thursday, [October 24, 2024 at 11 AM](#)

COMMBUYS [link to application documents here](#) (Posting ID: BD-25-1037-1CEN0-C0000-108135)

Online application link:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/ChildrensInvestmentFund1/EEPCPGFY25ApplicationSmallGrants>

For questions, please contact the Children’s Investment Fund team at EEPCPG@cif-ma.org or EEC at jose.mendez@mass.gov.

How to Apply for a Large Grant

Applicants must be EEC-licensed, **center-based, non-profit** programs. Family Child Care providers and for-profit centers are **not eligible** for these grant programs. The application materials and program guidelines are posted on COMMBUYS, linked below, and pre-applications are due by 11:59 PM on December 16, 2024.

This year, all applications must be submitted through an online portal instead of via email. We hope that this will result in a smoother, easier process for all applicants.

CIF and EEC will host two online information sessions as follows:

Tuesday, [October 28, 2024 at 11 AM](#)

Thursday, [October 30, 2024 at 2 PM](#)

COMMBUYS [link to application documents here](#) (Posting ID: BD-25-1037-1CEN0-C0000-108130)

Online application link:

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

For questions, please contact the Children’s Investment Fund team at EEOST-LG@cif-ma.org or EEC at jose.mendez@mass.gov.

Project News

Greater Lawrence Community Action Council

The multi-faceted social services agency celebrated the new Dr. Thomas S. Perrault Childcare Center, named after GLCAC board chairman, the late Dr. Perrault, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 13. GLCAC's Executive Director and CEO Vilma Martínez-Dominguez shared that they "...are thrilled to be able to provide a safe and nurturing environment where working families feel safe leaving their children." The ribbon-cutting boasted a host of speakers including EEC Commissioner Kershaw, CIF Director Theresa Jordan, Lawrence Mayor Brian De Peña, and former Executive Director and CEO of GLCAC Evelyn Friedman. GLCAC received a \$250,000 EOST grant in 2022 to contribute towards this \$12.6M project. Read more how [GLCAC Expands Affordable Childcare Access with New Facility in Lawrence](#).



The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council team cuts the ribbon for its new building in June 2024.

Nurtury Incubator

Nurtury celebrated the opening of a new, innovative center in Boston for family child care providers. The co-location space will provide the opportunity for three providers to care for families out of a newly renovated space with three classrooms. This unique model provides

furnished classroom space and other supports for family child care entrepreneurs who are not able to run programs out of their own homes. Nurtury received \$195,000 in funding from the Inclusive Futures grant program, funded by the Liberty Mutual Foundation and implemented by the Children's Investment Fund.

Read more about this innovative model [here](#) in this Boston Globe article.

MetroWest YMCA Playscape

On August 8th, the [MetroWest YMCA](#) in Framingham, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of its vibrant and highly interactive outdoor playscape for its Early Learning Center educators and children. EEC Commissioner Amy Kershaw addressed attendees, lauding the collaborative work of the Children's Investment Fund and MetroWest YMCA educators and administrators. The children who were chosen as "playscape experts" demonstrated the new playscape to the guests. This renovation was made possible with an FY23 EEOST grant of \$450,000.



The MetroWest YMCA's new nature-based natural playscape. Photo Credit: MetroWest YMCA.

Ellis Early Learning Park

The Ellis Early Learning Park playground celebration on September 18 kicked off under shady trees nestled in the South End. Ellis' CEO Lauren Cook acknowledged the playground's renovation as a successful illustration of public and private investment in early learning. The Baupost Group and Cathy E. Minehan contributed significantly to the playground improvements. House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz in whose district this center is located remarked on the Legislature's commitment to improve Massachusetts'

early education sector and policies, evidenced by the reauthorization of the EOST Capital Fund. EEC Commissioner Kershaw reiterated the importance of investment in early education and care. The celebration was capped with children "riding" the new play train, mirroring the MBTA orange line mural painted by [KOUZZA](#) representing the diverse population Ellis serves.



Children enjoy the renovated Ellis Early Learning Park playground. Photo Credit: Paige McWhorter Photography

In the News

The connection between climate change and child care environments is highlighted in:

- Neighborhood Village's [blog post](#) that mentions the EEOST Capital Fund
 - The Harvard Center on the Developing Child's [podcast episode about extreme heat](#)
 - A Washington Post article about [replacing concrete playgrounds](#) with more green spaces
- IFF, a CDFI headquartered in the Midwest, lays out the potential [considerations nonprofits should consider when it comes to owning vs renting](#).

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Our mailing address is:

18 Tremont Street, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02108

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