

Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation



Building Environments That Enhance Program Quality

Autumn 2024

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# 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 physical needs of these programs, ensuring that more children have access to safe, healthy, and enriching classrooms and buildings.

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 providers. The projects are located 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.

We are also increasingly aware of the impact of climate change on early education programs and the children they serve. (add more here?)

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

Best,



Theresa Jordan  
Director



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## **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 (EEOST) and Early Education and Care Provider Capital Grant (EEPCG) small rounds on Monday, August 26. EBSC Executive Director Justin Pasquariello spoke about the impact of their newest grant on the center and its community.

Their award of \$246,000 will fund a long-awaited elevator renovation and accessibility project, improving safety and mobility for all. EBSC was only one of twenty grant recipients this round, totaling awards of \$8.5 million.

Both 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 teachers. Theresa Jordan congratulated each grant recipient organization for both the non-profit (15) and for-profit (5) awards. Read more about the event and grant awards [here](#).

The EEOST FY24 Large Capital Grant awards will be announced later this fall. Application materials for FY25 rounds are anticipated to be posted on COMMBUYS in September.



*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.*

Announcing FY25 Capital Grants for ECE/OST Providers

Children's Investment Fund (CIF) and the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) 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 EEPCPG 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. 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 11:59PM 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.

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

#### **For non-profit centers (EEOST):**

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

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

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](mailto:EEOST@cif-ma.org) or EEC at [jose.mendez@mass.gov](mailto:jose.mendez@mass.gov).

#### **For for-profit centers (EEPCPG):**

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

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

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

Online application link:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/ChildrensInvestmentFund1/EEPCGFY25ApplicationSmallGrants>

For questions, please contact the Children’s Investment Fund team at [EEPCG@cif-ma.org](mailto:EEPCG@cif-ma.org) or EEC at [jose.mendez@mass.gov](mailto: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 11:59PM 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.

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

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

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

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](mailto:EEOST-LG@cif-ma.org) or EEC at [jose.mendez@mass.gov](mailto:jose.mendez@mass.gov).

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### **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 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 Eveyln Friedman. Ellis Early Learning received a \$250,000 EEOST 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 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

In Framingham, the [MetroWest YMCA hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony](#) on August 8th to celebrate its vibrant and highly interactive outdoor playscape for its Early Learning Center teachers and students. EEC Commissioner Amy Kershaw addressed attendees, lauding the work of both the Children's Investment Fund and MetroWest YMCA educators and administrators. Selected children, designated "playscape experts," literally showed the ropes to their 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 cross-sector investment in early learning. Both The Baupost Group and Cathy E. Minehan contributed significantly to this Ellis improvement. Representative Aaron Michlewitz remarked on the legislative effort to improve Massachusetts' early education sector and policies, evidenced by the reauthorization of the House Bond Bill. 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 T 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*

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### **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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