

CHILD CARE SERVICES GRANTS INFORMATION





What Are Child Care Grants?

Child Care Grants provide funds to Child Care Programs to help cover the cost of supplies, equipment, technology, and training.

How many grants am I eligible to receive?

- You may receive one **Regional Child Care Aware grant** award per year.
- Providers licensed fewer than six months may be eligible for a **Start Up grant** for items required by the licensor or fire marshal. Those receiving start-up grants may not receive a Regional Child Care grant in the same fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).
- You may be eligible to apply for an **Emergency Grant**. These are viewed on a case-by-case basis

What other funding is available from Child Care Aware?

- **R.E.E.T.A.I.N. bonuses** reward childcare professionals who have earned a degree or National Child Development Associate Credential and have demonstrated a general commitment to continuing education and professional development. Information can be found at www.childcareawaremn.org.
- **Parent Aware** is Minnesota's Quality Rating and Improvement System. Programs who volunteer to be Rated go above and beyond health and safety requirements. Some of the benefits include; having your quality recognized, free coaching and assistance, increased access to scholarships, marketing support provided and higher Child Care Assistance rates. If you're interested in joining Parent Aware, please contact Amber English, ambere@familiesfirstmn.org.

Who can apply for Regional Grants?

Any Early Childhood program or provider who is licensed or is soon-to-be licensed and has been visited by the licenser or is exempt from licensing, or legally exempt school-based preschool and school-age care programs, including certified centers. Applicants must have an organization ID on Develop and completed the profile tabs to qualify. Childcare centers and family Childcare programs licensed with the Minnesota Department of Human Services must not have licensing violations, including conditional license, temporary immediate suspension, suspension, revocation, or a maltreatment determination.

When and how should I apply?

- Participants must apply online between September 1 -25, 2021.
- Applications can be found on Develop. There are instructions on how to apply under “Guides” on the front page of Develop. You can email for help at support@develophelp.zendesk.com

How much money can I apply for?

Family Child Care Programs: \$2000

Child Care Centers: \$3000

If I am awarded, how will I receive the money?

- All grants are paid on a reimbursement basis
- You will be reimbursed after purchases are made and verified by the Grant Coordinator, and training requirements have been met. You will be uploading all completed and accurate receipts into develop including an invoice form (sent with award letter). Please no pictures from a phone. ***Please scan and upload all documents in a pdf or word document format from a computer and not a phone.***
- Purchases must be made AFTER November 1st



Will I have to pay back my grant award?

These are grants not loans. You would only have to pay it back if:

- You are out of compliance with grant requirements.
- You give up or lose your license for any reason within two years from the date of your award letter.

If I am awarded a grant what are the requirements?

- Complete 12 hours of approved training between January 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022
- Meet all grant deadlines - all documents due by April 15, 2022
- You must keep your childcare business operational for two years after your award letter date
- Not refuse families because they are participating in Child Care Assistance Program
- Use the grant funding for its intended purpose -You must purchase what you asked for and no other items will be reimbursed.

Remember this is a competitive grant – not all that apply will get awarded.

What type of items can I apply for?

Programs may apply for funds to support childcare. The items selected must fall into at least one of six categories. When applying, you will be asked to identify which category each purchase relates to.

- Teaching and Relationships with Children
- Relationships with Families
- Professionalism
- Health and Well-being
- Assessment and Planning for each child
- Multicultural

**10% of your total grant must be spent on culturally responsive items, and all those items must be listed in the multicultural category, even if they fit into another category. Example: multicultural dolls can fit into teaching and relationships, but they need to be listed in the multicultural category.*

Priorities

- These are set by the grant committee and the Department of Human Services.
- Committee members will base their scores on how well you explain and answer how your items match these priorities.

Teaching and Relationships with Children

- Materials, activities, strategies, assessment and curriculum development to promote social/emotional, physical and intellectual development in all children

Relationships with Families

- Materials that support the mental health of young children and their families

Professionalism

- Technology items for professional use including laptops, tables, desktop computers, printers

Health and Well-being

- Equipment and activities that promote health and fitness in your program

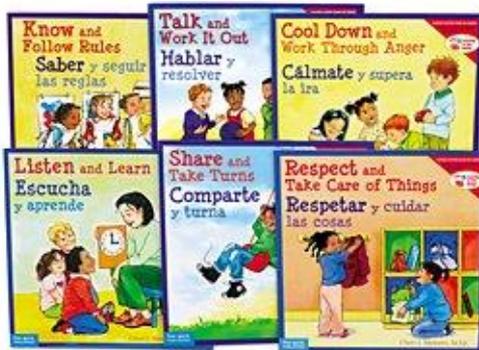
Assessment and Planning for each child

- Materials that support school readiness, infant through school age, in areas such as literacy, social and emotional growth, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) including assessment support pieces

How do I know what category my items fall into?

- Refer to your Child Care Aware Grant Application Guide. Pages 3 through page 7 list sample items.
- You may also contact your Grant Administrator for assistance. dawne@familiesfirstmn.org or gwen@familiesfirstmn.org

Some items may fit into more than one category and priority area. Example:



Learning to Get Along Bilingual Book Set

- Teaching and Relationships with Children
- Relationships with Families
- Assessment and Planning for Each Child
- Multicultural

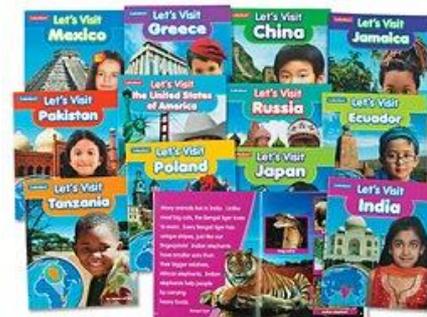
The answer is: Any multicultural items must go in the multicultural action item even if it fits in another.

Why do I have to spend 10% on multicultural resources?

Minnesota state statutes requires that the Child Care Aware grant program to provide culturally responsive childcare services. One of the ways we do this is requiring 10% of grant dollars be spent in this category.

There is a list of resources to refer to in the guide.

***** Curriculum, crib, dollhouse etc. is NOT considered multicultural**



Why is it important to have multicultural resources in my program?

Research has shown that children begin to create ideas about race very early on – typically, by ages three and four. For this reason, it is important to teach all children about differences and help them develop individual and group identities based on personal abilities and interests, rather than race. This is crucial for children to be able to develop unbiased and successful relationships with others as adults.





What kinds of things should my program NOT apply for?

- major construction or renovations
- religious-based curricula or counseling
- consumable supplies (diapers, wipes, soap, paper products) or office supplies (paper, staples, pens, printer ink)
- one-time field trips for children
- childcare tuition (scholarships)
- items prohibited by licensing
- used items
- Items considered “Cost of Doing Business”

Cost of Doing Business includes the following items:

Don't apply for these

- Accounting and legal fees
- Advertising
- Banking service charges
- Cleaning
- Food
- Insurance
- Licenses
- Taxes
- Rent or mortgage
- Transportation
- Utilities

May possibly be other items not approved by grant committee

Tips

- Be descriptive in listing your budget requests. You must purchase items **exactly as listed in your grant application**. General statements such “toys, manipulatives, etc.” should not be used.
- You can only be awarded up to the maximum amount. Your award amount may be reduced if the committee denied an item.
- If, after awarded, a change is needed (example: item no longer available), you **MUST** get prior approval from the Grant Administrator by email, so in writing. All change requests must be made prior to March 1, 2022 and only one change request is allowed.
- Research products and prices. Don’t guess at the cost but find a place to purchase items where the costs are reasonable. *Grants will pay for tax and shipping.*
- Keep in mind that the review committee gives points based on how well your answers fit the priorities from the state that are listed in the grant guide.
- Remember, you will **not** be reimbursed for purchases made before November 1st.



Tips

- Have a printed out copy of the priorities, which is in the grant guide, beside you before applying so you can refer back to it.
- Have all items, price, category and answer to priority questions before you go online to start entering your grant.
- Remember if you apply for items in all categories', you will only have 6 expenditures/action items. Many applications will not apply for all 6 categories. Example: If you only have Multicultural items and Teaching and relationship items – then you will have 2 expenditures/action items.
- Please remember that all items must be new and purchased from a reputable store/company with complete receipts. NO used items, or items purchased from a facebook account or Etsy will be allowed.
- Remember– do not upload pictures or receipts from a phone. Print them and scan then from a computer and upload then to develop. We will not reimburse from incomplete receipts.

What do I need to submit?

1. Completed application through Develop
2. Bids for items or a **ONE** page of pictures of items you want to include are allowed but not required (only 1 page front and back is allowed). Right now, develop won't allow uploads when applying. You will have to email us, and we will include it.
3. Estimate or bid - This is required for fences, windows, or minor construction (as required by licensing), or assembly projects where you are requesting the cost of labor. This must be a bid from a licensed contractor email to us.

MUST BE COMPLETED BY END OF DAY SEPTEMBER 25TH



How is it determined whether or not my program will receive funding?

Applications will be reviewed by a review committee. Each application is reviewed by three review committee members and a scorecard is used to rate the applications. Committee members will base their scores on how well your request matches the priorities, and your answers to questions about the priorities. Funding is awarded to the highest scoring applications.

You will receive an award or waitlisted or denial letter after November 1, 2021. **Please read your entire letter.**

(Waitlisted means that we will keep your grant available in case money does come available throughout the grant period).

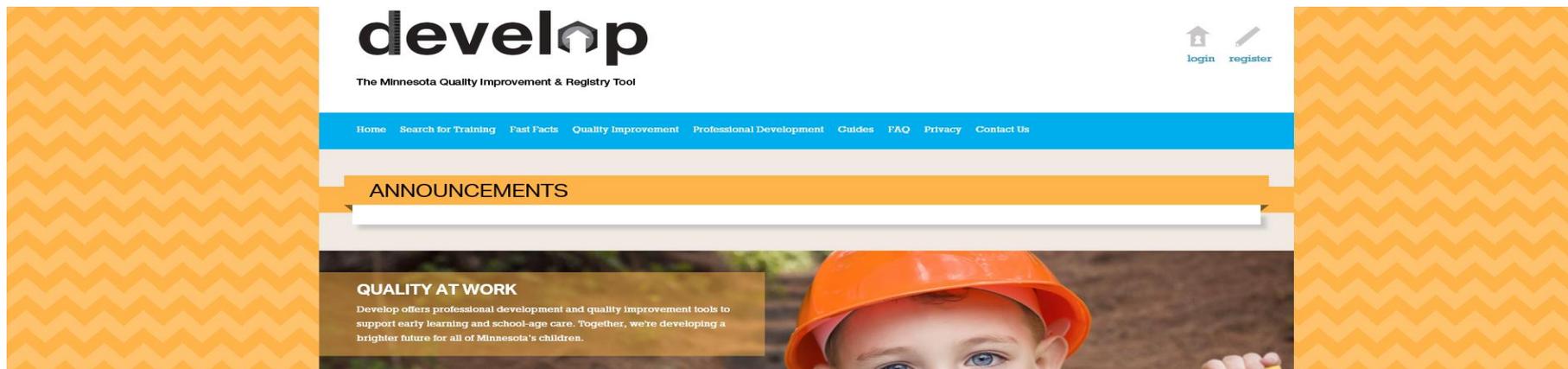


Things to consider:

- Print out a copy of the application to refer back to if you're awarded a grant. You must purchase items **exactly as listed in your grant application. Be detailed in description when you are applying.**
- Be prompt and accurate.

Develop

- Must have an Organization ID and Profile on Develop. This is different than an Individual Profile. Your score will be affected if these tabs are not complete.
- You can find instructions on how to create a Develop Account on <https://www.developtoolmn.org/>
- All Regional Child Care Services Grant applications will be through Develop this year.
- You can contact develop at support@develophelp.zendesk.com
- If interested in applying on Develop, please go to [develop/under guides](#) For the instructions.



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The Minnesota Quality Improvement & Registry Tool

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

QUALITY AT WORK
Develop offers professional development and quality improvement tools to support early learning and school-age care. Together, we're developing a brighter future for all of Minnesota's children.



Questions?

Please feel free to call or email me with any questions.

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gwenl@familiesfirstmn.org

If you need assistance with your develop organization ID or
profile, please email

support@develophelp.Zendesk.com

or

rhondao@familiesfirstmn.org

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Or

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Region 9