

Child Care and Development Infrastructure Grant Funding 2023-24 California State Budget

Budget Request

**\$10 million, one-time funding, to support
childcare providers needing assistance in
repairing and/or renovating their existing
childcare facilities**

Background

Over the last two budget years, California has allocated \$300.5 million for the *Child Care and Development Infrastructure Grant Program* to fund child care facility repair and renovation projects as well as new construction and major renovation. The Program is being managed by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and has made great progress in providing grant funding to providers throughout the state and educating providers about the availability of grants.

In 2022, more than 5,000 child care providers responded to the request for applications for repair and renovation projects and requested over \$380 million to upgrade and retrofit their program spaces. Unfortunately, the Program only had \$200 million available for repair and renovation grants, with unmet facility needs for hundreds of providers remaining. There has been statewide participation in the Program, as providers from all 58 counties submitted applications for funding. 3,801 providers will receive funding and with that funding 124,000 child care slots were enhanced and 24,000 jobs were preserved. This funding has delivered substantial impact for child care providers and additional funding could continue to help a severely under resourced field.

Currently, CDSS has received over 1,800 applications from 52 counties with requests totaling over \$600 million for the available \$150 million in grants for new construction and major renovation of child care facilities. The goal of this funding is to create new physical spaces to serve more children throughout California. We expect the Program to fund only 1 in 6 applications. This funding will most likely

go to shovel ready projects, with other providers potentially not receiving funds and left hoping for additional state investment in the Program.

Why More is Needed

California's investment in this Program is historic. It is the first statewide Program to support the facility needs of child care providers and the children they serve. Build Up California continues to work to ensure all providers are able to access the Program. However, we know \$300.5 million is just the beginning of what is needed for the field, and the current funding has not been enough to meet demand.

The UC Berkeley Center for Cities and Schools estimated that over \$10 billion in funding is needed in California to address the facilities-related need for subsidized childcare for infants and toddlers at licensed home-based and center-based businesses. According to Advancement Project, California's early care and education facilities infrastructure only has the capacity to serve less than a quarter of our youngest learners. Out of the nearly 1 million children under age two who need quality child care in California, there are only 47,000 publicly funded seats.¹ 60% of California children from low-income families live in child care deserts.² Demand far exceeds supply for high-quality child care, particularly for low-income families, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated California's early learning and care capacity problem

Whether home- or center-based, all providers throughout the state have unique needs when facing facilities funding concerns. By providing additional funding, California recommits to this crucial Program and ensures that childcare investments for safe facilities remain a priority.

For more information, please contact Esmeralda Martin-Singh, Partnerships & Policy Manager, at emsingh@liifund.org or (415) 287-3190 Ext. 390

¹ [Building California's Future: Tackling the Facilities Challenge for Our Youngest Learners](#)

² [Early Childhood Facilities: What Research Tells Us](#)