



First 5 Early Childhood Facilities Fund

Grant Application Guidelines for Child Care Centers

About the Grants

First 5 is offering funding to help early care and education providers fix urgent issues, and make changes required to care for infants and toddlers. These grants are designed to help child care businesses pay for repairs and upgrades.

First 5 Alameda County is working with The Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF) to manage the grant program.

Grant Awards

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. All interested programs will be put in a pipeline for future funding. An anticipated 20 grants will be awarded to child care centers by October 30, 2026.

- Grant amounts for child care centers are up to \$350,000 per site

Purpose

- to preserve the supply of high-quality child care programs
- to increase the accessibility of children and families with special needs
- to increase the number of infant-toddler spaces by converting preschool spaces, and
- to improve the health and safety and quality of child care programs and child-centered environments
- priority given to urgent situations.

Eligible programs must apply for and meet the First 5 Early Care and Education Emergency Grants. View the ECE Emergency Grants Application [here](#).

ECE Emergency Grant Eligibility Highlights

To be eligible, programs must:

- Hold a valid Child Care License in "Good Standing"
- Have been open with children birth to age 5 enrolled as of 6/11/25
- Meet one of the following:
 - Location
 - Sites operating in a Census tract with 5% or higher poverty levels.
 - For multi-site agencies, only sites in the tracts qualify
 - Need
 - Single-site center in which at least 25% of children birth to age 5 enrolled at the site was participating in an Alameda County ECE subsidy program at any time between July 1, 2022 and June 11, 2025
 - Multi-site agency in which at least 25% of children birth to age 5 enrolled across the agency were participating in an Alameda County ECE subsidy program at any time between July 1, 2022 and June 11, 2025

- Meet or exceed California state or local city minimum wage requirements for early educators

Facilities Funding Priorities

- Renovation and repair needs meeting the definition of urgent*
- Preservation of, or increase to infant/toddler child care spaces
- Care for children who participate in an Alameda County ECE subsidy program
- Care for children before 6 am, after 7 pm, overnight, or on weekends
- Specialized care for children who are neurodiverse, gifted, have developmental delays, disabilities, or other special needs
- Specialized care for children who are experiencing homelessness or in foster care
- Geographic distribution of projects across Alameda County
- Not previously funded by the California Child Care and Development Infrastructure Grant Program

** Urgent repairs means that the repairs must be carried out immediately to prevent disruption to the site's operations or to avoid potential threats to the program's enrollment. These situations require prompt attention to ensure the continued safety and functionality of the site. Common causes of urgent repairs may include flooding, fire, sewage backups, and extreme winds.*

Eligible Uses

- Repair and remediation for damage from emergencies such as but not limited to sewage, flooding, fire, or earthquake
- Physical renovations to increase or preserve number of child care spaces
- Repairs to facility and/or facility equipment
- City & State compliance
- Purchases of equipment to increase safety
- Construction and planning costs to convert preschool slots to infant/toddler slots
- Purchase of equipment suitable for the care of infants/toddlers
- Improvements that increase the accessibility of the program to children, parents, guardians, or staff with special physical or mental health needs
- Aesthetics and beautification; creating child-friendly spaces in conjunction with related renovation and repair needs
- Facility and site construction or major renovation costs
- Consultant(s) to assist with the physical development of the facility e.g., Project Manager/ Landscape Architect/ Playground Designer

Ineligible Uses

- Day-to-day operating costs such as salaries, rent and food purchases
- Working capital to cover shortfalls or delays in payments from families, government agencies or other funding sources
- Non-permanent supplies (e.g., art materials) and other consumable materials such as paint, cleaning supplies, etc.
- Professional development
- Purchase of unrelated equipment e.g., televisions, DVD players/recorders
- Vehicle or transportation expenses
- Repayment of loans

- Reimbursement of previously incurred expenses except in the case of expenses incurred for emergency in prior 1-2 months that necessitated faster action than review process allowed, such as sewage or plumbing emergencies.
- Any expense that does not support increasing or preserving licensed child care spaces, for child care center grantees.
- Indirect or administrative costs

Application Process

For a list of required documents needed to prepare for the application, [click here](#).

Applicants must complete an application form and submit it along with all the required attachments to be considered for funding. The required attachments, including the organization's business plan and project budget, will indicate whether the project is feasible. LIIF staff, who are operating the grant program on behalf of First 5 Alameda County, may request additional information as needed. An incomplete application will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant. If assistance is needed in filling out the application, please contact LIIF at AlamedaECFF@liifund.org.

LIIF and First 5 will evaluate each complete application promptly and deliver a funding decision in writing approximately four to six weeks from the date of receipt. As part of the selection process, LIIF will also conduct a site visit at a pre-arranged, mutually convenient time.

Applicants whose requests are not funded may contact LIIF to discuss the reason(s) for the denial. Eligible applicants may reapply for funding in future rounds.

If a Grant is Awarded

The grantee must sign a Grant Agreement and must fulfill all the terms of that Agreement, including but not limited to:

- Maintaining a child care license in compliance with Community Care Licensing
- Ensuring grant expenditures are aligned with the approved budget from Grant Application and Grant Agreement
- Submitting a Use of Funds Report detailing how the funds were used
- Submitting an Annual Status Report each year during the term of the grant
- Such other and further general provisions as LIIF and/or First 5 Alameda County may require

If the grantee defaults on any of the terms of the Grant Agreement during the term of the Grant, grant funds will be due and payable to LIIF in full. If services are provided for a portion of the term, only a prorated portion of the Grant will be repayable.

Facilities Grant Terms

In addition to the ECE Emergency Grant eligibility outlined above, First 5 Early Childhood Facilities Fund grantees must:

- Demonstrate financial and organizational viability for the length of the grant term
- Demonstrate that the grant funds are necessary to undertake and complete the project; funds must be identified to meet all costs of the proposed project

Grant Amount	Term
Less than or equal to \$100,000	3 years
Greater than \$100,000 up to and including \$250,000	5 years
Greater than \$250,000 up to and including \$350,000	10 years