



First 5 Early Childhood Facilities Fund Grant Application Guidelines For Shelters

About the Grants

First 5 is offering funding to help shelters fix urgent issues. These grants are designed to help shelters pay for repairs and upgrades and support high quality environments for children experiencing homelessness.

Grant Awards

All interested programs will be put in a pipeline for future funding if resources allow. An anticipated 10 grants will be awarded to shelters by October 30, 2026.

- Shelter grants up to \$150,000 per site

Purpose

- To preserve the supply of high-quality child-centered environments.
- To increase the accessibility of children and families with special needs.
- To improve the health and safety and quality of shelter programs and child-centered environments.

Eligible Programs Must

- Be located in Alameda County
- Be a non-profit or public agency operated site
- Provide emergency shelter to children 0-5
- Demonstrate that the grant funds are necessary to undertake and complete¹ the project

Funding Priorities

- Renovation and repair needs meeting the definition of urgent and impacting operations and families served
- Volume of young children the shelter serves annually
- Demonstrated organizational capacity to manage facilities projects and commitment to equitable service delivery, including years in service and community track record
- Ability to sustain improvements or leverage other resources/funding

** Urgent repairs must be carried out immediately upon receipt of funds to prevent disruption to the site's operations or to avoid potential threats to the program's enrollment. Critical needs impact immediate health and safety—active violations or systems failures.*

Eligible Uses

- Purchases of equipment to increase safety
- Purchase of equipment suitable for the care of infants/toddlers

¹[Shelter budget](#)

- Support outdoor improvements that meet the LIIF standards of creating more natural outdoor spaces
- Repair and remediation for damage from emergencies such as but not limited to sewage, flooding, fire, extreme winds, or earthquake
- Physical renovations to increase or preserve number of shelter spaces for children 0 to 5
- Repairs to facility and/or facility equipment
- Repairs and renovations necessary to comply with state and local law
- Improvements that increase the accessibility of the program to children, parents, guardians, or staff
- Creating child friendly spaces
- 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
- Vehicle or transportation expenses
- Repayment of loans
- Reimbursement of previously incurred expenses except in the case of expenses incurred in the two-month period preceding the award of funding that necessitated faster action than review process allowed, such as sewage or plumbing emergencies.
- Any expense that does not support increasing or preserving shelter spaces for children 0-5, for shelter 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. Low Income Investment Fund and/or First 5 Alameda County (LIIF/First 5) staff 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/First 5 will evaluate each complete application promptly. As part of the selection process, LIIF/First 5 will also conduct a site visit at a pre-arranged, mutually convenient time.

Eligible applicants may reapply for funding in future rounds as funds allow. Future applicant eligibility and receipt of future grants are not guaranteed for those receiving this current award.

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:

- 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
- Complying with such other and further general provisions as LIIF and/or First 5 Alameda County may require
- Complying with state and local law

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/First 5 in full. If services are provided for a portion of the term, only a prorated portion of the Grant will be repayable.

Grant Terms

Grant Amount	Term
Less than or equal to \$100,000	3 years
Greater than \$100,000 up to and including \$150,000	5 years