

Facilities Inclusion Enhancement Grant Application

FY27 - San Francisco - Center

Grant Awards

Applications will be accepted by successful applicants through May 1, 2027.

- Non-profit center grants up to \$100,000 based on evaluation criteria
- For-profit center grants up to \$30,000 based on evaluation criteria

Purpose

This funding is provided through the Department of Early Childhood (DEC) and is available to eligible early care and education (ECE) centers in San Francisco. The Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF), through its Child Care Facilities Fund (CCFF), serves as the fiscal intermediary and provides grant management on behalf of DEC for this initiative.

The Facilities Inclusion Enhancement Grant Program provides support for centers building out new spaces and/or the enhancement of current spaces that incorporate:

- Universal Design for Learning for both indoor and outdoor environments
- Specialized spaces for occupational therapy and play therapy
- Support for personalized learning
- Equipment and materials that supplement these ECE spaces

Grant Program Goals

- Promote inclusive access
- Support sensory regulation and developmental growth
- Create calm, healthy learning environments
- Increase access to therapeutic supports

Eligible Programs Must

- Be located in the City and County of San Francisco.
- Be Early Learning for All (ELFA) qualified.
- Serve families who reside in the City and County of San Francisco.
- Possess a valid child care center license from the State of California.
- Maintain compliance with the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division.
- Serve children birth to five (5) years of age.
- Demonstrate financial and organizational viability for the grant term (e.g., business is financially well-managed).
- Demonstrate that the project is feasible and that grant funds are necessary to undertake and complete the project; funds must be identified to meet all the costs of the proposed project.
- Provide evidence of control of the designated child care site for the term of the grant (e.g., a lease or deed of trust).
- If the applicant leases the site, construction/renovation projects must also be approved by the property owner prior to grant funding.

- Meet the following Facilities Inclusion-specific criteria:
 - Have, or be in the process of formalizing, a vendor agreement with San Francisco Unified School District and/or Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC)
AND/OR
 - Currently employ one or more specialized staff (20 hours or more per week per position) with credentials in one of the following areas:
 - Speech and Language Therapy
 - School Psychologist
 - Occupational or Physical Therapy
 - Registered Behavioral Therapy

Note: If the grant is to finance renovations, the applicant must have obtained or applied for all necessary permits for the proposed project and must use licensed and insured contractors for the work.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following priorities:

- Applicants provide support documentation regarding eligibility
- Applicants request materials and/or environmental design modifications that align with the Facilities Inclusion Enhancement Grant goals
- Applicants with a greater number (by count and percentage of total enrollment) of children enrolled with IEPs and IFSPs over the last 12 months

Design Standards

LIIF and DEC have an obligation to children, families, and Center staff to ensure child care facilities across San Francisco are being built to the highest quality standards. The design of ECE sites should promote functionality while enabling children's creativity and learning. Therefore, LIIF and DEC have higher standards than licensing.

LIIF provides ongoing technical assistance to help grantees align with our design standards and funding requirements. We stay closely involved during planning and implementation to ensure projects meet expectations and reflect shared goals.

- Eligible programs must meet or have plans in place to meet LIIF and DEC's Design standards:
 - Have **50 square feet of usable space per child** (usable space is classroom space that children are in). This does not include administration space, bathrooms, desks, etc. A good rule of thumb for quickly calculating this is 100 square feet per child, based on the total indoor square footage.
 - Where feasible, all classrooms have direct access to outdoor space for indoor/outdoor education with a specific priority of appropriate and accessible outdoor space for infants.
 - Where feasible, all classrooms have natural light.
 - Classroom design that fosters independence by allowing children to access bathrooms and learning areas independently.

In addition to the Design Standards, LIIF and DEC have a unified vision for high-quality early childhood programs that include those listed below. Eligible programs must meet or have plans in place to meet the following high-quality environment standards:

- Indoor and outdoor environments should be furnished with equipment made of wood and other natural materials that do not contain off-gassing toxic chemicals.
- Indoor and outdoor environments should be calming and foster learning by reducing visual stimulation by using neutral or natural colors in rugs, paint and furniture choices.
- Outdoor spaces should use natural surfaces such as dirt, pebbles and grass, avoiding plastic turf and large areas of cement.
- Outdoor spaces should have shaded areas for children, ideally created by trees and plants.
- Classroom consumables and cleaning supplies should be made from non-toxic materials.

Through the technical assistance process provided by LIIF, programs will be supported in working toward these standards to create high-quality learning environments whenever feasible.

Eligible Uses

- Environmental Enhancements
- Movement and Gross Motor Supports
- Sensory and Regulation Supports, including materials, equipment, and environmental adaptations that help children:
 - Regulate sensory input
 - Maintain attention and engagement
 - Manage transitions
 - Access learning and play opportunities
 - Participate comfortably in group settings
- Case-by-Case Review Items, e.g.:
 - Therapy Room
 - Bathroom renovation
 - Outdoor play spaces
 - ADA accommodations
 - Mounted cameras for observation/treatment purposes

Ineligible Uses

- General facility improvements unrelated to inclusive child learning environments
- Enhancements or materials not related to children's use
- Administrative or office-only upgrades
- Day-to-day operating costs such as salaries, rent and food purchases
- Non-permanent supplies (e.g., art materials) and other consumable materials such as paint, cleaning supplies, paper, etc.
- Professional development
- Purchase or replacement of unrelated equipment e.g., technology
- Vehicle or transportation expenses
- Reimbursement of previously incurred expenses related to the proposed project

- Indirect or administrative costs

Application Process

In an emergency, please contact a CCFF Program Officer immediately at ccff@liifund.org

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

Applicants must complete an application form and submit it, along with all required attachments, to be considered for funding. The required attachments, including the organization business plan and project budget, will indicate whether the project is feasible. Low Income Investment Fund/Child Care Facilities Fund (LIIF/CCFF) 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 ccff@liifund.org.

LIIF will promptly evaluate each complete application and deliver a written funding decision 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.

LIIF/DEC reserves the right, at any point in the process, to deny a facilities grant award based on funding availability and/or changing local, state, or federal policies. Applicants whose requests are not funded by DEC may contact LIIF to discuss the reason(s) for the denial. Applicants may reapply for funding in future rounds.

If a Facilities Inclusion Enhancement Grant is Awarded

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

- Maintain a license in compliance with California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing division
- 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/CCFF or the San Francisco Department of Early Childhood may require (including, but not limited to applicable provisions from the City Administrative Code dealing with Disadvantaged Business Enterprise; Nondiscrimination; Minimum Compensation and the Provision of Health Care Coverage)

Grant Terms

Grant Amount	Term
Less than or equal to \$100,000	3 years

As a condition of receiving grant funding, the Grantee agrees to provide early education services for at least three years at this site. If the program is unable to meet this commitment or otherwise does not fulfill the requirements of the Grant Agreement, some or all of the grant funds may need to be repaid to LIIF/CCFF. If

services are provided for only part of the three-year period, any repayment amount will be prorated based on the portion of the commitment that was completed.