



Profile on Fund for Quality & Childcare Map

Category: **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION** | Geography: **PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Quality early childhood education (ECE) helps ensure that the critical development stage is an enriching and educational experience that prepares children to build relationships, learn in school, and graduate ready for college or careers.

Unfortunately, only 17% of all licensed ECE seats in the city of Philadelphia are operated by providers that are considered high quality (rated STAR 3 or STAR 4 by the state rating agency), and those providers are at capacity.

Reinvestment Fund, in partnership with the William Penn Foundation and the Public Health Management Corporation, launched the Fund for Quality in spring 2014, in order to expand the availability of high-quality ECE for Philadelphia's low-income families. In 2016, a second round of funding was awarded to the program—\$15 million will help create 1,500 new high-quality seats over the next five years, most of them for low-income children.

ECE providers struggle to make ends meet, and state subsidies for families in need do not cover the minimum cost per child. Over-capacity and under-financed, most ECE providers are unable to expand, and many struggle to maintain current levels of operations.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Planning & Project Grants:

- \$3.6 million (as of spring 2016)

Financing:

- \$1.4 million (as of spring 2016)

IMPACT

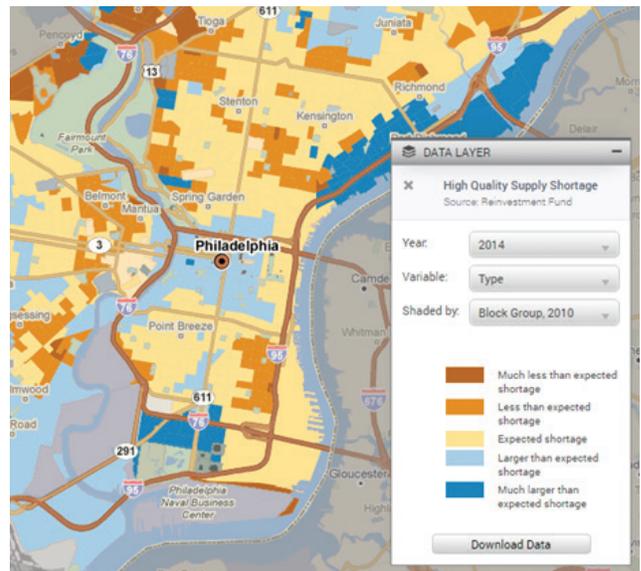
- 630 early childhood education seats;
- 50 full-time jobs, 11 part-time jobs;
- Over 90% of seats are occupied by low-income children across 17 centers.

The Fund is taking steps to create more opportunities for low-income families. Fund for Quality helped Kinder Academy acquire and renovate a new center on Elgin Avenue. The new location now serves 168 children through full- and part-time infant, toddler and preschool care. Another center, Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, received the Fund's support to renovate its current location—maximizing the use of space and tailoring it to meet the needs of the children it serves. Now, Mercy can serve 27 more children each year and continue to provide high-quality care.

EVALUATING AREA SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE

Reinvestment Fund's Policy Solutions team has developed an approach to modeling the supply (total, state certified, rated high-quality), demand, and also the gaps in care across neighborhoods. This analysis was successfully applied to Philadelphia, PA. Because there is typically no single data source for this information, the model statistically estimates the supply of and demand for child care by combining multiple datasets. Additionally, Reinvestment Fund also assembled a project advisory group of local early childhood experts to vet the data and review statistical and spatial methods to ensure results showed an accurate portrait of child care.

Reinvestment Fund used the results of the analysis to create an interactive mapping tool. This tool identifies the neighborhoods where high-quality care is most scarce in absolute and relative terms, and gives funders, practitioners, and child care advocates better data on where resources and intervention are needed, at the Census block group level. The tool is accessible at www.childcaremap.org.



REINVESTMENT FUND

www.reinvestment.com
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REINVESTMENT FUND is a catalyst for change in low-income communities. We integrate data, policy and strategic investments to improve the quality of life in low-income neighborhoods.

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