

Fund for Quality

Expanding Early Childhood Education in Philadelphia

Application Questions

1. What documents need to be submitted for a complete application? Application Cover Sheet, Narrative Application and attachments, Project Budget spreadsheet and Projections worksheet. All of these items can be found on the FFQ website.
2. Is \$300,000 the maximum grant per applicant entity or per project? The \$300,000 grant maximum is per project site.
3. What if my project is over \$300,000? Projects will not be awarded capital grant funds until they can demonstrate a fully funded project budget. During the planning phase, FFQ staff will work with providers to understand project gaps and how best to fund an entire project. Options can include utilization of business equity or cash on hand, other grant funds, or loan proceeds. Interested providers may apply for Reinvestment Fund financing, eligibility and structure and terms of the loan will vary based on project type and strength of the borrower.

Providers in need of identifying additional sources of funds to support their FFQ capital project budget should look into external grants, loans and related resources such as those listed [here](#).

4. When will Fund for Quality awardees be required to begin making payments on loans? Generally, Reinvestment Fund loan recipients will make interest only payments during the construction period (up to 12 months) and will begin making principal and interest payments once construction is complete. However, the terms of the loans will be determined for each project.
5. Are there limitations on the use of funds? Yes grant dollars are available to support capital expansion projects, however, funds can be used to support a wide variety of expenses determined to be necessary elements of an approved capital project. Expenses may be submitted and considered on a case-by-case basis. Generally, funds may not be used for working capital or to support program costs.
6. Are applicants required to provide a specific cash or in-kind match? No specific cash or in-kind match is required. Partner commitments in the form of in-kind or cash matches are encouraged.
7. Are School-Age programs eligible to apply for Fund for Quality? Fund for Quality participants must serve children in the 0-5yrs age range. Programs serving both child care and school aged children are eligible to apply. Programs that are primarily school age are not eligible to apply.
8. What if my facility is already in the process of expanding? Fund for Quality will evaluate all applications on a case-by-case basis to determine project eligibility and adjust project planning timelines as applicable.
9. I would like to apply for Fund for Quality but I am not in a position to apply by the current deadline. What are the next steps once the application process has closed? The FFQ application will remain open on a rolling basis over the next 3 years. Interested providers should complete the [Contact Sheet](#) and provide information about their proposed child care expansion project. Once the form is completed, please email to fundforquality@phmc.org for review and to schedule a meeting or call to discuss your application to FFQ.

Project Related Questions

1. Does my expansion have to yield a certain number of child care seats? Each proposed project must produce a minimum of 20 new childcare seats. The target for each project is 40 or more new seats.
2. What does “net increase” in new child care seats mean? The net increase in new seats is defined as the number of new seats created after all reconfigurations are complete. For instance, if a project requires removing a certain number of existing seats to accommodate others, the displaced seats are not included in the “new seat” count.
3. Will Fund for Quality awardees identify the contractors and business consultants for their projects? Awardees will identify contractors and other capital project professionals for their facilities projects. A list of recommended providers will be available as guidance. The qualifications and contractors proposed scope of work will be reviewed before final project approval. Awardees will not identify their own business consultants. The services of business consultants will be solicited by PHMC and consultants will be matched to each awardee to address areas of need identified during the application process.
4. How long is the planning phase? The length of the planning phase will vary by awardee based on the organizational and project goals. All awardees will enter through the planning phase and must satisfactorily complete identified planning goals and have a fully vetted capital project before being eligible to receive capital grant funds. The average length of planning is typically 3-6 months.
5. Will I receive money for project planning? Each project will be eligible for planning services and pre-development support with final amounts to be determined based on provider and project need. The Fund will administer payments for organizational planning directly to consultants and predevelopment payments will be based on work completion.
6. Can the project include the renovation of an outdoor play space? The primary objective of these funds is to support the creation of additional seats for low-income children in Philadelphia. The inclusion of an outdoor play space to remain in compliance with regulatory requirements regarding play space will be considered on a project-by-project basis.
7. How long does the lease need to be for childcare facilities operating in leased buildings to meet the “long-term lease” requirement? Facilities operating in leased buildings will need to show at least a 5 year lease term for grant support (longer if considering a project in excess of \$300,000). Applicants will need to provide a copy of their lease agreement which should include provisions granting them the ability to make improvements to the space.
8. Will Fund for Quality actively support enrollment in the expansion sites by marketing the importance of high quality early education to parents? Fund for Quality will not implement a marketing campaign directed to parents. Awardees can utilize the services of a marketing consultant to develop a marketing and communications plan to address enrollment in expansion sites. These services may be particularly useful in targeting low-income families that are currently utilizing low-quality rated childcare facilities.
9. Is there a cap on the maximum project size? While there is not a defined limit to the amount of capital support available per project, providers will be vetted for financial viability to ensure expanded operations can be supported well into the future. Additionally, the proposed cost of each newly created slot will be evaluated. There is a maximum limit on the grant contribution that can be allocated per project.