

NUMBERS OF APPLICANTS/STATES THAT MAY BE SELECTED

HOW MANY TOTAL APPLICANTS DO YOU HAVE?

We have 42 organizations that have submitted Letters of Intent, representing 20 states.

HOW MANY GRANTS DO YOU INTEND TO MAKE IN THE 8 EARLY OPPORTUNITY STATES?

This will depend on resources available relative to solid high-scoring proposals, so we cannot answer this concretely right now.

WILL YOU FUND ALL 8 STATES IF A 'GOOD' GRANT IS SUBMITTED OR IS IT COMPETITIVE BETWEEN THE STATES?

At this point, we don't have the resources to fund every group that is interested, so this will be a competitive process. However, we are looking for additional resources to contribute to the national pool and we are hoping to leverage the resources that are in the national pool by placing so much emphasis on the Matching Funds from states and communities.

HOW MANY CHALLENGE MATCHING GRANTS MAY BE AWARDED IN NON-EARLY OPPORTUNITIES STATES?

This is a difficult question to answer right now given we don't know how many high scoring applications we will receive. However, we want to emphasize the Matching Grant opportunity for those outside of the 8 states. We have two goals for the Matching Grant:

1. To expand this RCCF funding pool to be able to reach more areas of the country.
2. To engage more state and local funders that may not be able to participate in the national pooled fund because their charters or boards limit funding to certain geographic areas.

If you're not in one of the Early Opportunities states, we encourage you to use the Challenge Matching grant as a chance to talk to potential state and local funders to encourage them to join this effort in collaboration with national funders. We want to bring funders together to try this and learn together to do this. Feel free to have them funders get in touch with Rachel Schumacher, Project Manager, at raisingchildcare@ecfunders.org, or Shannon Rudisill, Executive Director of ECFC, at Shannon.rudisill@ecfunders.org.

APPLICATION AND PROCESS

DO I NEED AN INVITATION TO APPLY, NOW THAT I SENT A LETTER OF INTENT?

No, you do not need an invitation to apply. We thank you for submitting your letter of intent, but please do not wait on further communication from us before assembling and submitting your application.

DO THE LETTERS OF SUPPORT COUNT TOWARDS THE 15-PAGE LIMIT OF THE APPLICATION?

No. The 15-page limit is intended for the narrative portion of your application. Financial documentation and letters of support should be separate attachments, and do not count towards your page limit.

WHO SHOULD LETTERS OF SUPPORT BE ADDRESSED TO AND HOW SHOULD THEY BE SUBMITTED?

Letters of support should be addressed to the Raising Child Care Fund Grant Committee, and either emailed directly to raisingchildcare@ecfunders.org or included as an attachment to your grant application package.

IF WE ARE AN ORGANIZATION APPLYING AS THE LEAD ON A COALITION HOW SHOULD WE APPROACH ANSWERING QUESTION #5 (ORGANIZATION'S BACKGROUND, I.E. MISSION, LEADERSHIP, RACE/ECONOMIC JUSTICE PRIORITIES)?

We would want to know more about how the coalition as a whole is made up and how different parts of the group help address the application questions. For example, if you have certain coalition members who are going

to play a leading role, then you should help us understand the make-up of the coalition, who the leading players are, why they are the leading players, and anything else you think we ought to know about them. You do not have to do an in-depth description of all the members.

In addition, if you are a coalition that has worked on other campaigns in the past (related or unrelated to the goals of the current grant opportunity), please share those details.

WHAT KIND OF MEASURES OF PROGRESS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR DURING THE GRANT TERM IN THE 3 AREAS OUTLINED IN THE RFP?

We recognize that quantifying and measuring progress with this kind of work is difficult, and we have provided some resources in the appendix of the RFP to give you some guidance. However, the goal of the founding funders of this project was to give the power to the applicants and those working on-the-ground to decide what the appropriate measures are in order to make progress toward those clearly outlined goals.

We invite you to have ambitious—yet realistic—goals and be able to describe your measures of success in a way that we can translate to the investors of this fund, as well as to report to the field on the lessons learned from this undertaking.

IN THE BUDGET, DO WE NEED TO SPECIFY IF THE "OTHER SOURCES" OF FUNDING ARE PLANNED, SUBMITTED, OR SECURED?

Yes. We'd like to know what you're working on, what you can count on, and where you are in the process.

To the extent that you have another funder coming in to the work with you, we would need to see solid indication that these are reliable funds backed by their commitment to you (via a letter or some formal documentation). This is particularly important for the Matching Grants opportunity.

Additionally—and this is not a prerequisite to your submitting an application—we would also like to be in touch with those funders directly and discuss whether they would like to officially be part of our coalition and how we can include them in the learning opportunities of the RCCF and ECFC. Please feel free to refer them to Rachel Schumacher (raisingchildcare@ecfunders.org) and Shannon Rudisill (Shannon.rudisill@ecfunders.org) if they have additional questions.

HOW SHOULD APPLICANTS BUDGET FOR THE ONE REQUIRED GRANTEE CONVENING?

We suggest applicants budget \$1,000 per person for the required convening.

HOW MANY LETTERS OF SUPPORT ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE SUBMIT?

There is no limit, but we want you to think strategically about what you include. You may want to include some letters of support from funders, partners, and anyone who can testify to the effectiveness of the partnership and coalition-building you've done in the past, as well as any groups that you mention in your proposal.

CAN WE INCLUDE QUOTES FROM OUR PARTNERS IN ADDITION TO LETTERS OF SUPPORT?

Yes. You can include these quotes in your narrative. We would prefer to see a letter of support on the organization's letterhead, but you are not disallowed from providing quotes.

IS THERE A MAX SUGGESTED FOR THE CHALLENGE GRANT?

The same two categories are available: Developing (up to \$75,000); and Strategic Expansion (up to \$150,000). However, an applicant would need to secure a 1 to 1 match to get to that limit. So, you can either apply for the max of half of \$75k or half of \$150K. You are also welcome to apply for less if you can only secure less.

IS THERE GOING TO BE A WAY TO SHARE THE WORK OF THOSE CHOSEN FOR THE GRANTS?

Yes. We want to capture lessons learned and share the work of our grantees at in-person convenings as well as through our partners and via presentations on the national circuit. For example, we are partnering with the ECE Organizing Network and hope to be able to spotlight our grantees' work on their website. We hope to work with the grantees to build peer to peer support and connect them to others outside our grantee list that are engaged in this work.

MODELS OF ORGANIZING

WHAT MODELS FOR ORGANIZING CONSTITUENTS AND ALLY VOICES WOULD YOU POINT TO AS SUCCESSFUL?

This question is in reference to goal #1 of the RFP, which states: "Lift parent, child care teacher, home-based child care provider, caregiver and ally voices and increase their participation in crafting policy solutions in states and/or communities."

Here are some links to the webpage featuring work affiliated with the Early Childhood Education Organizing Network <https://movementforchildcare.org/index.html>. The network has national organizations with local partners and some real-life examples of various campaigns around the country that have worked to engage parents and providers. In addition, you may wish to visit the United Parent Leadership Action Network site, representing a network of parent led groups <http://unitedparentleaders.org/>.

ARE YOU SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN ONE LEVEL OF ORGANIZING (CITY, STATE, FEDERAL) OVER THE OTHERS?

We are mostly interested in the activity and focus of your funded work being at the community and/or state level, however we would expect you may be connected to federal efforts.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING CHILD CARE WORKERS IN GUILD, ASSOCIATIONAL, OR UNION FORMATS IN ORDER TO ENABLE THEM TO HAVE VOICE AND POWER?

Yes--If this is a strategy that will work best for your state, then we will leave it up to you to detail the partners and players in your state who are committed to the same goal and who will work together to enable progress towards that goal over the long-term. We will not *directly* fund a union, but we will consider applications that take this approach to work towards the goal of empowering the voices of child care workers in particular.

HOW ARE YOU DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN ORGANIZING/POWER BUILDING AND ADVOCACY? SHOULDN'T GROUPS HAVE AN ANALYSIS IN PLACE AND DEMONSTRATED EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE COMMITTED TO SHIFTING THE POWER IMBALANCE AND HOW THOSE DIRECTLY IMPACTED ARE IN/WILL BE IN REAL DECISION MAKING, DRIVING THE AGENDA?

Yes, they should. This RFP is meant to encourage community organizing, deep engagement and developing the power of parents and providers. This is not a grant focused on more traditional advocacy by paid staff, but rather building a big constituency for child care and early education.

PARTNERING WITHIN A STATE

WHEN YOU ARE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP, HOW DO YOU WANT THE LEAD GROUP CHOSEN IN THE GRANT WRITING PROCESS?

The decision about who to designate the 'lead group' is up to those submitting the application. However, we would ask you to be mindful that this is not a general professional advocacy grant—it is specifically about organizing parent, family (i.e. grandparents), family child care provider, and teacher voices to tell their stories and how they have been impacted. Therefore, we can not designate the lead group for you, and generally speaking, we want everyone to understand the main goal and then try to play to their strengths in their coalition/collaboration.

CAN YOU SAY MORE ABOUT APPLICANTS WHO COLLABORATE WITH EACH OTHER? HOW INTERESTED ARE YOU IN SEEING PROPOSALS THAT REFLECT A CLOSE, COLLABORATIVE PLAN BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS VS. ORGANIZATIONS THAT COORDINATE AND OCCASIONALLY WORK CLOSELY ON A PARTICULAR PROJECT? WILL WE BE COMPETING AGAINST OTHER PEOPLE IN THE SAME STATE?

Multiple applicants from the same state are allowed to submit separate proposals and are also allowed to submit one proposal on behalf of a coalition of organizations in the same state.

The reason we are connecting groups that have submitted an LOI from the same state is to give you an opportunity to touch base and understand each other's work in the same space so you are not working at cross purposes. We don't necessarily require groups to be lock step with one another, but in your proposal, we want to see you acknowledge other organizations in your state who are doing work in this area and provide a rationale for if and how you would be working together. You may want to build a coalition, or you may choose to coordinate behind the scenes. You are welcome to discuss what you think is the most useful way of deploying different constituencies in your application, because we recognize that different groups specialize in working constituencies that may be different from your own.

IF WE ARE IN A STATE, AND DID NOT RECEIVE A NOTICE THAT OTHERS HAVE APPLIED FROM OUR SPECIFIC STATE, COULD WE STILL THINK OF COLLABORATING IF WE KNOW OF OTHERS WORKING ON THE ISSUE?

Yes, you can.

COULD TWO ORGANIZATIONS COME TOGETHER AND SUBMIT ONE APPLICATION AND APPLY FOR THE SUM TOTAL OF A DEVELOPING AND AN EXPANSION GRANT?

No. The grant ceilings hold so the grant amount cannot go up if you combine multiple organizations.

COULD A STATEWIDE ORGANIZATION WITH PRESENCE ACROSS MULTIPLE LOCATIONS APPLY FOR \$150,000 FOR ONE CONCENTRATED AREA WHILE AN AFFILIATE APPLIES FOR THE SAME IN A DIFFERENT AREA?

If you are going to submit two different proposals, and you are affiliates, then you should make the case that one group is working in a different region that is either substantially different or substantially geographically apart (e.g. California) and serving a different group. We will take into account particular factors such as geography and diversity of constituents/communities served.