

# Raising Child Care Fund

## May 29<sup>th</sup> Grant Opportunities Webinar Q&A Highlights

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### How were Focus States selected for the Early Opportunities grant category?

In selecting states, the RCCF grant committee hope to balance two desired outcomes for these investments – one to help build new capacity to focus on child care issues, and the other to provide additional resources in states or communities that have taken some initial steps and there is potential to build momentum and see an early success.

The RCCF grant committee identified the “Early Opportunities” grant category and focus states in consultation with field experts in community organizing and traditional advocacy to identify states where opportunities are already emerging for making a meaningful difference early on in this RCCF process. These states were recommended for various reasons, including the potential of an existing child care initiative, capacity of groups in the states, bi-partisan interest among policy leaders, or conditions that offer some hope of early success.

The Challenge Matching grant is designed to fulfill the other desired outcome, to build new capacity. The Matching grant is also designed to facilitate partnerships with funders who are limited to funding in specific geographic areas by requiring a 1 to 1 match with such partners.

### Should applicants address all three RFP goals?

**Yes.** Applicants do need to address all three goals, as the RCCF is interested in seeing how applicants think the goals all connect. However, applicants are able to focus on a particular goal initially with intent to lay the ground work for other goals. Applicants should consider and describe how the three goals work best and where you think you can use this opportunity to build capacity now. You know your work and your community the best. However, the RCCF grant committee does believe Goal 1 is foundational to the opportunity as it involves those who are most affected by the child care crisis. Goal 2 is about coalition building, and Goal 3 means addressing what exactly you are organizing around. Be clear about the developmental stage of the work you would engage in the time period. So, for example, if your initial activity on Goal 3 is to take time to build consensus among a newly assembled group of parents on what your positions might be, that is an appropriate activity.

### Can grantees include a broad range of children, family members, and providers in their work?

**Is this only intended to work on child care for children birth to five?** – Although the RCCF is being sponsored by the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, the RCCF recognizes that families’ child care needs include children over 5, e.g. some families have multiple children of different ages, and parents often have difficulty making child care arrangements in summer and after school care for multiple ages. However, we hope that any proposals focused on parents, teachers or home-based providers would include and/or have a significant number of parents, teachers or home-based providers servicing children 0-5.

**Does RCCF include grandparents and other family members?** - Grantees can use the RCCF to bring forward the voices of many people directly affected by child care, including grandparents and other family members.

**What types of child care providers are included?** The RCCF is very intentional to include teachers AND home-based care providers because we know so many children are in home-based care. The RCCF wants to think broadly about who those affected are – not just those in centers or schools, but also those in home-based child care.

### Can we use this grant to fund direct services?

The RCCF will not provide funding for direct care of children, except in the scenario where parents or families engaging in your work (leadership development activities, advocacy, or other training activities) have child care needs in order to participate. In that limited case providing child care (and other considerations such as travel, compensation for time) are allowable.

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### Funding range, number of awards, coordination among applicants

#### **Can funding applied for be lower than the maximum grant size?**

Yes, applicants can apply for less than the maximum amount in the two grant categories.

#### **How many grants will be awarded?**

There is no pre-determined number of grants, however realistically the RCCF has limited funding, so grant awards will be competitive and will be limited. The hope was to be able to work in 5-8 states.

#### **How will grants flow if more than one organization applies from a state?**

RCCF is not limiting funding to one grant per state, however, the RFP encourages applicants in the same state to coordinate with each other. This means that while it is not required that the grant amounts be split among any applicants from a certain state, it is expected that applicants will be able to coordinate. A strong application has to be able to articulate who else is doing the work and knowledge of what other assets are in your community or state. Keep in mind that the RCCF funds are limited, so we are interested in hearing what you think makes the most sense of your state and the case you make for work proposed. It is also important to that applicants are having conversations about what other funding they can attract in their state.

#### **Can applicants subgrant?**

Yes.

### Challenge Matching Grants

#### **Does local match funding have to be a brand new funder to the organization?**

Local matching funds do not have to be new to your organization, although the way this grant is structured is to encourage partnerships with funders that may be new to our Grant Committee and to learn from those funders. If a funding partner is already committed to/funding your organization, they can provide matching funds as long as they are committed to, and aligned with the goals of the RCCF and the work you are proposing.

#### **Can match be counted if it comes from federal grants, e.g. the Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting program (MIECHV)?**

No. Matching cannot come from federal or state direct service program dollars. It should come from a private source that is in alignment with the goals of the RCCF.

#### **Can a local organization that serves as a backbone organization for a community, e.g. a Success By 6 Coalition, provide matching funds?**

Yes.

#### **If an organization already receives funding from an RCCF funder, can they still apply? Related: Can matching funds be provided by national funders?**

Technically you are still eligible to apply if you already receive funding from one of the RCCF funders, however the Challenge Matching grant category is intended to accommodate community and state-based funders that have limitations on where their dollars can go, and so they cannot participate in the pooled RCCF fund. Our hope is that if you are applying for a Challenge Matching grant, it would be with a funding partner that is geographically limited in their funding scope (i.e. they are interested in the RCCF goals but cannot contribute to the national pooled fund).

### Sustainability

In both categories of grants, sustainability is a concern (e.g. applicants would hesitate to hire an organizer for a one year project that they might have to let go at the end of the grant period). Realistically the RCCF is currently not equipped to fund long-term projects. This opportunity is really intended to be catalytic – to bringing new funders to this space, learning together and sparking new ideas. This opportunity is intended to help funders and their partners

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think about how these dollars can be used at local level to draw attention to needs, to pilot efforts, and build sustainability plans.

This is why the RCCF has a major focus on developing local funds/partnerships. Ideally, the RCCF hopes to work at the national funder level to bring more resources into the pooled fund, in the meantime applicants need to be aware of the need for and thinking about developing sustainability in their own communities .

### Timing of Grant Process

Letters of Intent for both the Early Opportunities and the Challenge Matching grants are due June 7<sup>th</sup>. They can be simple letters and what you describe in them is not binding.

Early Opportunities application deadline is June 28<sup>th</sup>, but the Challenge Matching grants are not due until August 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Grant Award Year will start in the last quarter of 2019.

### The RFP expressly prohibits use of RCCF funds for lobbying. What is considered lobbying vs. general advocacy?

The Alliance for Justice explains the term lobbying as follows: “An organization that wants to influence **specific legislation** can attempt to do so by going directly to a legislature or by urging the general public to contact the legislature. This activity is lobbying, whether it occurs at the federal, state, or local level. Generally, lobbying occurs when a person or group of people express an opinion to a legislator on a **specific piece of legislation or on a legislative proposal**. Lobbying also includes a communication that asks the public to speak to a legislator about specific legislation or a legislative proposal.”<sup>i</sup> Advocacy activities such as leadership training, training on how to lobby, commenting on regulations, providing technical assistance in response to a request, influencing the administration and implementation of a law already passed, participation in litigation, testifying before a special purpose board (e.g. housing or school board), and public education on social issues are not considered lobbying.

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<sup>i</sup> Alliance for Justice. *Investing in Change: A Funder’s Guide to Supporting Advocacy* (2004). Washington: DC. [https://www.bolderadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Investing\\_in\\_Change.pdf](https://www.bolderadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Investing_in_Change.pdf)