



Rhode Island Child Care Early Learning Facilities Fund *Fast Facts*

Securing an Architect for your Project

You can access a list of licensed architects in the State of Rhode Island at www.riccelff.org/resources/selecting-professionals/ - if they are not licensed in the State of Rhode Island you should generally not use them for your project! (Note that there may be some exceptions to this – in some cases out of state architects with specialized expertise, such as those who specialize in child care / educational design may partner with local architects with in---state licensing/local expertise.)

Here are some additional steps to take to find the right architect for your project:

- Ask other child care / early education programs who have undertaken construction/renovation project for their recommendations
- Check with other similar businesses (adult care facilities, health facilities, schools, etc.) for recommendations on talented architects they have used
- Talk to board members, parents and others who may have community connections and may be able to help steer you to an architect who will be a good fit for your project
- Contact the RICCELFF for a list of architects who have submitted their qualifications and demonstrated knowledge and expertise in child care / early learning facility design, we also maintain a list of architecture firms whose staff have attended RICCELFF sponsored training events

When selecting an architect here are some important considerations:

- Be sure they carry appropriate licensure and insurance
- Ask about projects they have done that are similar in size and scope to your project --- Check references!
- Ask to see photos of spaces they have designed to ensure that their vision for space matches your vision
- Be sure that they understand the budget that you have for the project and that they are comfortable designing within any budgetary limitations

Child care design is a very specific art. Ideally you want an architect who has successfully designed high quality child care and early learning environments as part of their portfolio. If the architect you select has limited or no experience in this specific industry, the RICCELFF may be able to offer the services of a consulting architect to assist you and your architect with the project. Contact us riccelff@lisc.org for additional information.

For some projects, especially those that are smaller in scale, you may want to consider a design:build model. In the design---build model, a single company combines the design and construction services in one agreement and manages all aspects of the project from early design through construction. There are benefits to design---build in that it simplifies the project for an organization without prior real estate development experience. With a carefully negotiated contract, design---build can be a cost---effective means of carrying out your project. The primary downside is that you can lose control over many of the day---to---day decisions that are made, some of which may involve trade---offs between cost and quality.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROCESS OF PUTTING TOGETHER YOUR REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT TEAM, READ [CHILD CARE FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING](#) PUBLISHED BY LISC AND AVAILABE IN OUR [RESOURCE LIBRARY](#).