



EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION CAPITAL FUND INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction

All children deserve high-quality, developmentally appropriate learning environments that are designed to keep them safe, healthy, and support their physical, behavioral and cognitive development. Equitable access to a high-quality early learning experience is essential to providing children with a strong pathway in school and life. That is why, in the March 2021 special election, Rhode Islanders overwhelmingly voted in support of the Early Childhood Care and Education Capital Fund, providing thirteen million dollars (\$13,000,000) in grant funding for physical improvements to and development of licensed early childhood care and education facilities to help close achievement gaps, support our working families, and better prepare our workforce of tomorrow. Funding will be available over a period of three years to begin in Fiscal Year 2022.

Through the establishment of this capital fund, Rhode Island is taking the necessary steps to expand quality early learning facilities within a mixed delivery system by providing funding that capitalizes on existing spaces, facilitates innovative partnerships, and provides technical support in order to build a strong pipeline of new construction projects. These funds will support greater access to safe, high-quality early learning opportunities for Rhode Island's families.