

# Are You Ready to Apply for the Early Childhood Equity Grant?

## What is a Competitive Grant?

The Early Childhood Equity Grant is a competitive grant. That means that not everyone who applies will receive funding, even if they complete the application correctly and meet eligibility requirements. Applications will be selected based on prioritization and how well the proposed project meets the chosen goal.

During the last round, DCYF received 943 applications requesting over \$47 million. We were able to fund 65 applications using the \$3.4 million available. We have about three times the funding available for the 2024 Early Childhood Equity Grant, \$10.2 million, so we anticipate being able to fund significantly more applications.

## What Should I Consider Before Applying?

Please evaluate your ability to plan and execute a project before deciding whether or not to apply. You should answer the following questions to determine whether you are a good fit for this grant:

1. **Do you have an idea for a project that you want to carry out at your facility?** That is, do you have a specific, connected set of activities, with a beginning and an end, clear goals, and an estimated cost? You should be able to describe:
  - a. What your project will do
  - b. How your project will meet your goal
  - c. How you will know whether your project has met your goal. How will you evaluate your results?
2. **Does your project address one of the following outcomes, or are you able to describe an alternative outcome that meets the purpose of the grant:**
  - a. Preventing racial disparities in disciplinary action, such as suspension and expulsion
  - b. Increasing the use of research-informed social-emotional teaching practices
  - c. Increasing the use of culturally and linguistically responsive practices and decreasing bias in the classroom
  - d. Offering ongoing child assessment and developmental screening
  - e. Connecting families to services and supports that meet health, mental health, financial, or other needs
  - f. Or another project to incorporate inclusive practices, culturally and linguistically supportive and relevant practices, or both into early learning program design, delivery,



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education, training, and/or evaluation. You must describe the intended outcome of your project.

3. **Do you know how your project will integrate with your current programming? Do you have the resources you need to carry it out? What will you need funding to do? Is this grant an appropriate way to get that funding?**
4. **Is your facility able to save receipts and fill out follow-up reporting?** You should have:
  - a. A way to track expenses associated with the grant
  - b. A way to track what kinds of successes or challenges you have carrying out your project

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