

Child Care Complex Needs Fund Fall 2022 Summary

Fast Facts for Round 2

- Round 2 application opened on September 26, 2022, and closed November 10, 2022.
- DCYF's budget for Round 2 was \$5.3 million.
- DCYF received 1,153 applications requesting more than \$149 million in funding.
- DCYF scored eligible applications using the Complex Needs Fund scoring rubric.
- DCYF created a review panel of subject matter experts to prioritize finalist applications to make funding determinations.
- The final funding determinations prioritized:
 - Applications from providers located in child care deserts and providers serving/located in marginalized, low-income communities.
 - Applications that had the highest total scores.
- Round 2 total grant awards will fund 101 applications (58 child care centers, 35 licensed family homes, 4 Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers, and 4 tribal programs) for a total of \$5.29 million.

Background

The purpose of the Child Care Complex Needs Fund is to promote inclusive and least-restrictive environments by supporting providers serving children with developmental delays, disabilities, behavioral needs, or other unique needs.

DCYF opened the Complex Needs Fund application on September 26, 2022. The application asked providers to explain any unique needs or behaviors of children in their care and describe their plan to support children with complex needs. Providers requested funding in the spend category that best suited their plan for children's needs.

Over the six-week application period, DCYF received an overwhelming response. Providers across the state submitted 1,153 applications requesting more than \$149 million. The need for support for children with complex needs remains clear.

Processing Applications

DCYF used a multi-step process to review applications. First, applications were screened for eligibility and completeness. Next, they were scored based on the scoring rubric. DCYF prioritized applications based on the factors described below and the review panel evaluated prioritized finalist applications to determine funding.

Screening Applications

DCYF screened all submitted applications for eligibility and completeness. A contractor translated applications submitted in languages other than English.

Providers had to meet the following criteria to move to the next step:

- Have an open license or certification
- Serve children with behavioral needs, developmental delays, disabilities, or other unique needs.

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- License-exempt Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers must have served at least one child on subsidy in four of the last six months or two of the last three months and claim for subsidy through the Social Service Payment System (SSPS) at time of application.

Reasons ineligible applications did not move forward included:

- Application was incomplete (missing information).
- Application total requested funding outside the minimum/maximum range by facility type.
 - Child care centers and licensed family homes could request between \$5,000 and \$100,000.
 - FFN providers could request between \$100 and \$2,000.
- Application from a facility that had access to Complex Needs Funds through their ECEAP Contractor, who had already received ECEAP Complex Needs Funding in the 2023 fiscal year.
- FFN Application did not meet the subsidy requirement listed in the eligibility criteria.
- Application stated no children with complex needs currently enrolled.
- Application for a provider whose license was closed at the time of application review.
- Application included requests for items or services that are not allowed. To review the guidelines for the spend categories, please visit the Complex Needs Fund manual [here](#).
- Application requested a funding amount that did not equal the itemized budget/spend plan.
- Application was from a provider who received the Complex Needs Fund award in Round 1.

The remaining eligible applications moved on to the next step of scoring.

Scoring Applications

A team of seven DCYF staff scored applications based solely on content and criteria in the [scoring rubric](#). DCYF published the scoring rubric with the application so providers would know exactly how their application was going to be scored.

Applications had to receive **nine points or higher** to move on to the prioritization phase.

Applications that received nine points or higher and had the following applicable criteria, were given five **Bonus Points** for each of the following:

- Provider located in an [Extreme Child Care Access Desert](#).
- Providers [serving or located in a marginalized, low-income community](#).

Prioritization

DCYF received over \$149 million in funding requests. With \$5.3 million available, DCYF prioritized eligible applications that received the highest total number of points. These finalists met either one or both of the bonus point criteria. Additionally, DCYF ensured that the list of finalists included eligible applications from each provider type.

The total numbers of points were calculated by averaging the applicants score for each spend category using the rubric criteria and adding bonus points as applicable.

$$\text{Average number of points} + \text{Any applicable Bonus Points} = \text{Total Score}$$

These finalists were presented to the review panel for funding determinations.

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Panel Review

DCYF created a review panel of subject matter experts to evaluate the finalist applications in order to make funding decisions.

The panel included experts from the following:

- Child Care Licensing
- Bilingual Language Access Specialists
- Tribal Early Learning
- Child Care Subsidy Program
- Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)
- Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health Program

The panel performed individual evaluations of each finalist application and prioritized applications to be awarded funding.

The panel reviewed and scored each finalist application based upon:

- A) Does the application fulfill the intent of the Child Care Complex Needs Fund?
- B) Out of these finalists, will this specific application produce the best impact for children with complex needs?

Applications that received the highest score from the panel's prioritization were granted an award.

Funding Decisions

DCYF was able to fund 101 applications! DCYF awarded \$5,290,975 to 58 child care centers, 35 licensed family homes, 4 FFN, and 4 tribal programs.

This award resulted in \$4.45 million for Adding Staff or Increasing Staff hours, \$140,948 for Therapeutic Services, \$183,092 for Facility Improvements to comply with ADA accessibility or Behavioral Needs and \$516,711 for Supportive and Adaptive Materials and Equipment.

Consistent with the first round of the Child Care Complex Needs Fund, staffing remains the most-requested funding category.

DCYF will open a new round of the Complex Needs Fund in fall 2023.