



## ECIC Child Care Innovation Fund – Regional Child Care Planning Grants

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

*If you have any additional questions or inquiries, please contact [grants@ecic4kids.org](mailto:grants@ecic4kids.org).*

#### 1. Who is an eligible lead grantee?

The lead grantee must be a public or private non-profit, nonprofit, or government legal entity or agency. *Lead grantees must have prior experience working in collaboration with others in regional planning and economic development.*

Examples of eligible lead grantees would include: Michigan's 20 Economic Development Organizations (EDOs), the Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!, the convener of the U.P. Child Care Task Force or a Tribe.

#### 2. What is an eligible Coalition?

Any Coalition of regional partners is eligible if it includes the required partners. Eligible regional coalitions must include, at a minimum, individuals representing:

- the economic development sector, specifically the pertinent regional Economic Development Organizations (EDOs)
- local government, with local zoning knowledge and expertise
- the child care sector, including child care programs which are licensed by the State of Michigan or Tribes.
- and parents of young children, with expertise in seeking and utilizing high quality child care for children from birth to six.

#### 3. Do I need to have all coalition members confirmed in order to apply?

The strongest applications will have all required coalition members confirmed prior to application. Strong Coalitions will have organizational members from the diverse organizations and business communities in their region. Strong Coalitions will be composed of individuals and organizations who are actively engaged in creating a more equitable and resilient regional economy for all families.

#### 4. Are child care providers eligible lead grantees?

This funding opportunity is NOT intended to benefit child care providers or businesses. For the latest on grant opportunities intended for child care providers and businesses please go to <https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/cclb/caring-for-mi-future> to learn more about funding opportunities that specifically target new or existing child care businesses.

While a child care provider may not serve as a lead grantee for this opportunity, child care providers are required members for all Regional Child Care Planning Coalitions. If you are interested in connecting with a regional coalition, please fill out this [FORM](#) to share your information. We will use this information to connect you to a relevant Regional Child Care Planning Coalition.

#### 5. Should the coalition already be formed? Or can this be a newly formed coalition?

*The Regional Child Care Planning Grant is supported by funding provided from the Michigan Department of Education utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, from the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.*

Coalitions can be already in existence, or newly formed for the purposes of this project. However, all coalitions **MUST** include all the required members noted above in the response to question 1. This stipulation may require adding new members to already existing coalitions.

**6. How many grants will be awarded?**

The Child Care Innovation Fund anticipates awarding up to 25 grants of up to \$150,000 each for the purposes of this project. Selected grantees will receive robust technical assistance through a learning community format where coalitions across the state will connect to brainstorm, design, and implement innovative, out-of-the-box solutions to child care issues to meet the needs of working families in their respective regions.

**7. How can the Regional Child Care Planning grants be used?**

Regional Child Care Planning grants may be used for a variety of activities including, but not limited to, developing new partnerships, convening the Regional Child Care Planning Coalition, assessing and understanding regional child care needs, and developing and implementing an *innovative* regional child care action plan that addresses the needs and preferences of working families.

**8. When are applications due?**

Applications are due by 5:00pm EST on October 31, 2022. No late applications will be accepted.

**9. What is the funding period?**

The funding period will be January 2, 2023 – June 30, 2024.