



COMMUNITY GRANT OPPORTUNITY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1. Is a Letter of Interest (LOI) required?

No, the letter of interest is optional but encouraged. This is an opportunity to introduce your proposed project and to participate in the feedback process that will help to achieve alignment with the current fiscal and programmatic scope of available funding.

2. Is the Accelerator grant from DCF grant or combined? Will they have the same application?

Accelerator grant is made up of DCF and SPARK funding. Both grants have been blended and braided into one. Applicants will complete and submit one application.

3. What is the timeline for spending the funds? Does it have to be spent by a certain date?

Yes, there will be certain dates to spend the funds, and the deadline to spend will depend on the specific project. The timeline dates are only approximate at this stage and will range from July 2024 to December 2025.

4. We would like to add a playground to an existing childcare center. Would this be an approved project through these funds?

No, if the plan is not to increase child care seats / capacity, then this would not qualify for the CCCA funds.

5. What type of community support is needed to apply for the Accelerator grant?

We are not defining what 'community support' looks like as it may be different in each community. It is up to the community to define. We recommend connecting with Child Care Aware of Kansas to learn about the coalitions in your area to develop partnerships and create a community-driven proposal.

6. Can this be used to fund a remodel or is it only new construction?

Communities will utilize the funding to build or make critical capital improvements that create additional licensed child care seats that align with health and safety requirements and address systematic challenges to sustaining those child care seats.

7. Can 2 child care centers apply for the grant as one?

We would need to understand the intent of the project. It depends on how you define community and will be working together in your submission. Goal is a net positive for your community.

8. Can a licensed provider, add on to an existing facility to increase their capacity and add more seats?

Yes, we also encourage connecting with community partners for a community-driven approach.



9. Are there any specifics on the reporting requirements? Would they include screenings, CLASS observations or DAISEY data entry?

Yes. We will be asking that there will be commitments to the quality improvement work and will be written in the RFP.

10. We have completed the major renovations needed to get open our day care center but start up operational costs have been a struggle because most of our donated funds/in kind was spent toward renovations. Are we able to apply for operational expenses to help us get back on track to sustain our non-profit and keep childcare seats open in our community/county?

If you are adding seats to your community and you need operational support, yes that is a good fit for this funding. Perfect example – yes absolutely – adding seats to build capacity in the community.

11. We will be making updates to our current child care program, but it won't add slots. Should we apply for the RFP?

No, the goal of the Child Care Accelerator funding is to build or make critical improvements that create additional licensed child care capacity that aligns with health and safety requirements and addresses systemic challenges to sustained child care capacity.

12. If we are putting together a plan for either expanding or starting a new program but won't have control of the land by the May deadline, are there additional programs like this that would have a bit longer before it's cutoff date?

Applicants are encouraged to reach out to the local city government to see if you can invigorate the process of obtaining land. If applicants submitted a Letter of Interest, Child Care Capacity Accelerator (CCCA) Team would be happy to discuss to see if your plan will be applicable for the CCCA grant or not.

13. Can you clarify the possible need for child care in each community?

When applying for the Child Care Capacity Accelerator grant be intentional of your need and transformative in your approach. For example, if you are adding 10 slots in a frontier community that would be transformational. If adding 10 slots in one of the bigger communities, that would not be transformative impact to the community.

14. If I submit this grant and find out I received one of the other grants, would I be able to use these funds to start the second location we are planning since this one will add a lot of spots but not all of them that we need? Could I include that possibility in with the application, so I have it as an option? Hedging against other funding coming in.

Child Care Capacity Accelerator is not flexible in how it can be used. It is a much more measured accountable form of funding. Other funding opportunities may be more flexible.

15. Can you explain the blueprint requirements?

If you are applying for capital funding, you will be required to show the building plan which demonstrates the details that are needed in the project. A licensed architect or engineer should provide you with two-dimensional and three-dimensional images (to scale) of the proposed building/facility design. The goal is to illustrate a lifelike experience of how a space or building will look like before it is built, accurately representing design intent. In the online application, you will see samples in the attachment tab of CommonApp.



16. Are there character/word limits in the common app? Is there a template that shows what questions are drop-downs and what ones require text only?

The online application only limits character/words on one question, which is the summary. It is limited to 200 words or less. All other application questions allow applicants to answer without restrictions. Applicants can print off a PDF of the application.

17. We are a church-based center who is wanting to expand to two more locations. Can the church who we are owned by be our community partner, or would we be considered one entity and need an outside community partner?

To have the most competitive application, it is recommended to have established community partnerships and coordinated community approach. This means having funding and collaboration partners supporting the work from a community perspective. We recommend connecting with the [Community Outreach and Engagement Team at Child Care Aware of Kansas](#) to learn about any existing child care coalitions in your area to get support in developing partnerships for a community-driven proposal.

18. Some grants like this have requirements such as 51% of the families using the childcare facility must be below the poverty level. Is this one of the requirements for this grant as well?

No, there are no specific requirements based on poverty level. We would like to see applications that are serving the diversity of each community.

19. Are there specific community partners that we could reach out to in the Wyandotte County area?

We recommend connecting with [Child Care Aware of Kansas](#) to see if there is a community coalition near you and for any other supports/suggestions that they may have for you to connecting with the community.

20. Can you clarify how you receive preliminary approval from the Fire Marshal on a project that is in the construction phase? Are they aware of this to collaborate/work together with local on this RFP?

The RFP details the process for the pre-construction phase. Additional reviews are required by OSFM at 50% and 100% completion. Refer to the RFP for Attachment #9 instructions. A sample "Plan Review Approval" letter is provided in the application resources.

21. I have worked on many childcare facilities from start to finish and Fire Marshal at the state normally doesn't sign off on childcare facilities until you are at inspection phase. Are they aware of this to collaborate/work together with local on this particular RFP?

This is not OSFM "signing off" or granting occupancy approval. Only the Plan Review Approval letter is required with the application. The RFP outlines the standard process required by OSFM. They are aware of the Accelerator funding opportunity for communities and stand ready to conduct plan reviews. Architects and Engineers can support applicants with the process. Visit the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) website to start the process.



22. Would the rural development be acceptable?

Yes, the CCCA grant will fund projects across the state in all regions that reflect the diversity of the state.

23. Funding was in place for our project (sponsored by our foundation) in which we are building a duplex facility and furnishing it with items needed to assist two new providers in getting off the group running. Once construction commenced, the contractor came back to us and said there was an increase in construction costs of \$45,000. That amount is essentially eating into our budget for fully furnishing our duplex units in order to make them turn key ready for two new private providers to lease from us. Would we qualify for funding from this grant to meet that gap?

Yes, if you are that close to being open, we encourage you to also include operational support to ensure you are fully staffed as well.

24. Also, we do not intend to hold the license as the foundation and owner of the facility. That will be the responsibility of the childcare providers. Are we still eligible to apply?

We encourage you to reach out to the CCCA have a conversation about your model. Questions and requests for accommodations may be submitted to ccaccelerator@ku.edu.

25. Our school and county are working on daycare projects, and we have been working cooperatively so far in our planning process. If we apply through a non-profit agency, is the fiscal agent the non-profit entity? Would we need the school and county fiscal information as well?

Each applicant is required to have a single fiscal agent regardless of how many partners are engaged in the project.

26. If we have a purchase agreement in place for a property to open another location but the closing on the property would be contingent on obtaining some of the grant funding for the down payment would that be sufficient for the May 15th deadline?

Your project would meet our baseline expectation for the application. If you are able to close prior to submitting the application, it would make your proposal a more competitive application.

27. Can you talk about some of the equity measures baked into the RFP?

Each applicant will need to demonstrate need. We are looking to fund projects in all portions of the state. We do know that there are needs in rural communities, infant/toddlers and innovative projects that serve parents and families.

28. Can we request funds to develop endowment fund(s) to support childcare initiatives long-term (as part of our sustainability efforts)?

No, the CCCA grant opportunity is supported by federal money that needs to be spent. Invoices would need to be provided to be reimbursed.



29. How is KDHE supposed to approve it if construction isn't done? Do they approve the architectural drawings?

KDHE does not need the construction to be completed to give the level of approval that we are asking to see for this application. There is an example of this on the online application. The RFP outlines the standard process required by OSFM. Visit the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) website to start the process. Refer to the RFP for Attachment #9 instructions. A sample "Plan Review Approval" letter is provided in the application resources.

30. Can you please expand on the "in-kind" allowances with examples of what would qualify. Do you consider real estate in kind or "cash" per your local match guidelines. It states a 10% cap on in kind.

If the real estate was purchased recently at Fair Market Value, it could be cash. However, generally real estate will be in-kind.

31. Would construction that we have already done on the project count as the in-kind?

Yes, well-documented recently completely construction could count towards an in-kind donation.

32. I live in a small rural area. How do I go about finding community investment partners?

We suggest connecting with local community foundations, banks, and city government for additional information and/or other recommendations.

33. Can we request operational funding to assist a school daycare we also helped come online as of October 2022? They decided additional staffing was needed and so we are continuing to try to assist them in finding funds to help or is that now considered a "past" project in your grant timeline?

Operation funds are for these types of projects that include expanding staffing to serve more children.

34. Can we also request funding to make available to new private providers as sub-recipients as operational startup assistance grants?

No, the CCCA grant funding is not set up to be re-awarded out to other sub-recipients.

35. We submitted Letter of Intent and have not received any feedback. Should I reach back out about feedback for letter of intention?

If you have questions whether your project aligns with the RFP, please reach out if you have questions about your project that is unique if you are not sure if it aligns or need additional feedback.

36. The LOI had more emphasis on expanding staff and utilizing operational cost, but it seems that the RFP is more focused on construction. Can you clarify?

Yes, the CCCA grant can support construction, operational or both. Our intention was to be very clear on the construction aspect of the RFP as construction can be a more complex process.



37. The RFP stated funding would be considered between \$250,000 and \$2,000,000. Will smaller projects be considered as well?

For this grant application we are looking statewide and wanting to spend the money across the state anticipating that there would be projects in the higher ranges. There may be consideration in smaller projects depending on the objectives and goals. Please reach out to the Lucas via the [Technical Assistance Portal](#).

38. As a small community we are not sure what is required financially. We have a lot of community support but not financial.

It doesn't have to be financial support. That is not a baseline requirement of the grant application. Our hope is that the community is engaged in your project to increase sustainability. We recommend letters of support from community institutions (e.g., city/county government, large employers, hospital, school districts, [Communities in Action](#), etc.). We anticipate the most competitive applications will have the community support.

39. We are in a very small town where two small towns make up one school district. We have a lot of community support but do not have a community coalition. Is a coalition necessary to move forward with the grant?

The hope is to have more communities go through a [Community in Action](#) process. Contact your local resource and referral entity as well, they can be helpful in navigating community support. If you are not aware of who that would be, you can contact Child Care Aware directly.

40. Is there an approximate timeline for when applications will be awarded?

Grant awards will be announced at the end of June 2023.

41. What is the match for the grant?

The CCCA is a 25% minimum match.

42. Will this grant fund a rail / concrete getting to replace as a home provider?

The RFP threshold for this grant is increasing additional child care capacity. Competitive grants will need to provide detailed information on the increased capacity.

43. Clarification on cost estimates or bids when we put out the floor plans to construction companies. If we had hard bids would that make our application any more competitive? What would happen if we had overages and had to decrease our footage, would we be going against our grant?

A Firm estimate is required for the RFP application. The goal of this grant is to accelerate projects for increased capacity and laying the foundation for future investments in child care capacity.



44. Our project is going to add nearly 50 infant/toddler spots to be up and running Aug/September 2023. Can you provide insight on the reimbursement part or is there any other additional information that we need to know?

If you are looking at being operational in August, we recommend your application be more focused on the operational end. We recognize that you may have planned expenses in the next 30 days. You will need to have invoice documentation that you have a specific need. The need must be post-award.

45. Would the expenses occur after the ground breaking, qualify?

It could. The difficulty would be that invoices would need to be submitted after July 1st. Consider the operational side as well to support the work. Business plan documentation. We would be able to support your project operationally.

46. Is there a percentage that can go to construction and operations?

No, the RFP is not set up that way. Communities can apply for construction, operations, or both. Operations must be liquidated by September 2024. Reason for this is the DCF / ARPA money cannot be used for construction. Recovery Office/SPARK can use funding for both construction and operations.

47. Can operational dollars be dropped into successful models just coming online? Does it still need to be the \$250,000 minimum? We are expanding by 10 children in our area. We will be asking for the smaller amount, but the project would make a huge impact in our community.

There is not a minimum; projects in smaller communities that show in a compelling way that they are making a transformational impact are anticipated to be funded.

48. What was the Letters of Interest total funding request?

We do not have that distinction as we did not require budgets to be submitted. Some communities submitted \$95 million in overall projects and about \$40 million in requests we received. We are using this information to try to push for additional funding resources. We also know that many communities did not submit a LOI who are planning to apply for the CCCA funding.

49. What would qualify as operational expenses?

Examples of operational expenses would be child care, staffing costs (to an extent), training, furniture, equipment, playground equipment, etc.

50. The grant portal mentions a cap of around \$2 million, is that cap only for construction? Could you ask for 2 million in construction and additional money for operational dollars?

It really depends. We anticipate awarding between \$250,000 and 2 million for each project. Funding needs to be proportional to your project and your community's needs.

51. The RFP requires a Community Champion for the project. Is grant funding allowed to support this position?

No, all the projects' costs have to be direct costs.



52. Where are the documentation samples located?

The samples are on the attachment tab inside the CommonApp online application.

53. Can grant money be used to purchase land for an expanded playground space?

We are open to hearing about your project model. It is not a firm no, but we would need to have more information about the land purchase and project plan. If you do not have the land, the process will be more difficult. We are conducting a blind review and will be a competitive process with an application that already has ownership of the land vs. one that does not.

54. For a community proposing multiple expansion efforts within the county, is support for coaching and consultation support for these new program start-ups an allowable expense?

Possibly, as long as it is direct training or service related to increasing project child care capacity.

55. Are the matching funds the things that you have in hand like cash in hand or pending grant applications?

Matching funds for the CCCA grant needs to be grant money that has been awarded or contingent grant funding. It cannot be pending grant funding applications that are unsecured.

56. Can the startup and building loans count as match for this project?

Yes, this type of cash supporting the project is acceptable as cash-match.

57. The project that we are hoping to get funded has been partially funded. We want to reopen and return to the capacity that we had prior to COVID. Current classrooms decreased capacity. We hope to use this grant to onboard and train staff to recruit and retain qualified staff. Is this an allowable cost.

Yes, funding for restaffing onboarding and training is an allowable expense.

58. We were hoping to open a 3rd location in one of the towns that have a lack of child care. Could one agency apply multiple times for multiple locations?

We recommend rolling the application into one to have a more competitive application.

59. We already own a building, but only occupy 50%. We are remodeling the other 50% to add 5 classrooms. As far as operating expenses, can we only apply for 50% of the remodel portions for operating expenses or for the full 100% of the building for operating expenses for 12-18 months?

In terms of the most competitive application, it would be the 50% that you are adding. Be generous with ask as to how you allocated the costs of being a bigger organization.



60. If the Fire Marshal can take up to 30 days, can we submit our initial plans to the Fire Marshal and make minor changes after? I am asking because I have done this several times and I know that I often make changes several times and the architect process can take 30 or more days as well.

Yes, it is a rare project through goes all the way through the full process without having any changes. The request being made to the Fire Marshall is a high-level ask so any changes should not impact what has been requested. [Fire Marshall Review Example](#)

61. If the grant is awarded, will we have to pay taxes on the amount received?

Our anticipation is that if you are for-profit entity, you will likely be taxed on the grant awarded.

62. When is there a date that the funds need to be expended to submit invoices?

Operations is September 2024. Capacity is September 30, 2026. It is likely that the award agreement will back up 30 days from that.

63. We have started our construction, should we halt / slow down our project so that the funds that we receive would cover the costs of our construction?

That is a personal decision that you would need to make. We cannot reimburse for things that have been invoiced before an award. Another approach would be to shift to operations request rather than the construction.

64. If we have an estimate for a new building, what will happen if the cost increases during construction? If awarded what happens between submission and actual construction.

We do not anticipate that the award amount would change. We recommend building that the risk in your overall budget and having other plans available as well.

65. If we have already hired an architect and contractor, but have not started construction but would use part of the grant funds to pay for either, how do we navigate 2 CFR part 200 regarding procurement and the RFP / RFQ or hard bid process?

If we are not paying for the architect fee, that is not an issue. We are asking that you have a solid plan and can explain the process, articulate that in your application.

66. If we want to build a building, do we need the plan drawn out to apply for capital funding?

Yes, plans need to be completed and sent to KDHE and Fire Marshall prior to submitting the application

67. What is the role of the Community Champion?

The intent of the Community Champion is to further and deepen conversations inside the community, however it is defined, to garner ongoing support. Intended to be collaborative and help establish sustainability.



68. Do we need to show proof of getting estimates from several contractors or if we already have one for a project that we trust, can we use them and just get one estimate?

It is a federal procurement requirement to have multiple bids for any federal funding.

69. My husband is my contractor, and he built my first building. Do I still need to get bids?

Yes, under federal procurement standards are set up to prevent from using a spouse/relative.

70. Will applications be awarded the full amount requested or is it possible to be awarded a partial amount?

It will depend on the application. If it is clear that your project only works with the full amount requested but is a really solid project, we would probably not do a partial project. If it is operational, there may be a higher chance of partial funding.

71. If I have several projects, would it be better to have several applications?

If you are in the same region or neighboring counties, having one application would make sense. We recommend taking into consideration who your fiscal agent is and if have one fiscal agent, it is better for the Cabinet to make one award rather than multiple smaller awards.

72. If you currently rent but the owners want to sell can these funds be used for that, with the plan to extend the building?

It is required to show ownership of the land. Plan to extend the building needs to be a part of the RFP request as each application must add capacity.

73. If we add slots to the community and cannot find staff to keep the slots open, what will happen?

Funding will not be revoked. There is a lot of work being done in communities across the state and at the state level regarding staffing.

74. Can you expand on the Project Organizational Chart?

The Project Organizational Chart provides a visual representation of who is on your project team. When there are larger projects, it is important to see the different levels and structure of the team. Single applicants will look differently than larger collaboration entities.

75. We have lots that have been donated for our Early Learning Center to be built upon. We have attached the Quit Claim Deed. How do we get the dollar amount for the In-Kind Donation amount?

We recommend contacting your county assessor and ask how you can access the assessed value for each lot.



76. Does an application get more “points” if they enroll DCF families and use the child & adult care food programs?

Yes, we are looking for projects that are doing everything possible to serve families in your community and taking advantage of existing that make childcare attainable for more families.

77. Can ARPA dollars be used for match dollars?

Yes, we want you to leverage other funding that you receive. One exception, if you are counting anything coming out of sustainability grants from DCF because the Accelerator is also using DCF funds. We cannot duplicate funding.

Email

Applicant communities may ask questions by emailing ccaccelerator@ku.edu.