CHILD CARE INNOVATION COMMUNITIES
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

1. What is the timeline for the funding opportunity?
- **Applications Due** May 15, 2023
- **Award announcements** Late June 2023
- **Project Period** July 2023 through June 2024
- **All projects must be completed** in June 2024

2. Will technical assistance be available to assist with the application process and questions?

Yes, technical assistance will be available. Specific resources include:
- Informational Webinar scheduled for April 12, 2023, from 12:00pm – 1:00pm. Learn more about how the Innovation Communities aligns with the Child Care Capacity Accelerator and the eligible innovation categories.
- Technical Assistance Portal – Please submit any questions online.
- The Community Data Dashboard provides key data points that deepen your understanding of your community's health, education, and employment needs to develop actionable plans and identify strong investments for children and families.

3. Is there funding associated with being an Innovation Community?

Each Accelerator grantee selected to be an Innovation Community will be awarded a maximum amount of $250,000 to support targeted and documented innovative strategies that increase licensed child care capacity.

4. Is this related to the Child Care Capacity Accelerator Community Grant?

Yes, the Innovation Communities opportunity is a competitive add-on to the Child Care Capacity Accelerator Community Grant. To be selected as an Innovation Community, applicants must meet the same requirements as outlined in the Child Care Capacity Accelerator grant RFP, as well as implement one strategy from select innovation categories (these are noted below).

5. Are there any requirements or obligations after being selected as an Innovation Community?

Innovation Community partners will be expected to actively participate in a 12-month Innovation Community cohort program running from July 2023 – June 2024. Participation will involve co-creation and peer learning sessions with other communities, regular data reporting, and monthly coaching sessions.

6. How many Innovation Communities will be selected?

We plan to select up to 12 Innovation Community partners across the state.

CHILD CARE CAPACITY
ACCELERATOR

7. What are the Innovation Approach Categories?

Innovation Community Applicants must implement a strategy within the following innovation approach categories. The categories are bolded in the overview document (e.g. Rural Child Care, Child Care Plus Models). Strategies are the examples listed within these categories. Applicants can select up to two categories from those noted and one strategy per category. Applicants may select the example strategies or propose their own unique strategy within their chosen Innovation Approach Category. It is expected that all strategies will align with overall Capacity Accelerator grant goals, specifically to increase licensed child care access. Strategies must be able to be implemented during the project period (by June 2024). Innovation Approach Categories include:

- Infant/Toddler Incentives
- Child Care Plus Models
- Non-Traditional Service Hours or Targeted Populations
- Rural Child Care
- Workforce Recruitment and Retention
- Public/Private Funding Partnerships

To learn more about these categories and examples of strategies, please view the Innovation Approach Categories.

8. What is the application process?

An additional tab will be added to the Child Care Capacity Accelerator online application in the Kansas CommonApp. If applicants are interested in the Innovation Communities opportunity, this tab must be completed. A separate Child Care Innovation Communities budget will be submitted, in addition to the CCCA budget. Innovation Community submissions will be scored and selected in conjunction with the CCCA applications.

9. What types of projects will be considered?

The primary goal of all projects should align with the CCCA goals and increase licensed child care capacity. We are looking to support projects that pilot new innovative strategies based on the needs of the local community and have both the interest and capacity to participate in an Innovation Cohort to document and share lessons learned with other communities.

10. Are there specific requirements for community collaboration?

It is strongly recommended that applicants identify current or future collaborative community partners in order to demonstrate a coordinated community approach to increasing licensed child care. Potential partners include, but are not limited to:

- Current or former licensed child care provider(s) - strongly recommended
- Local employers and business leaders
- Local government officials and staff
- Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and/or economic development groups
- Representatives from local school districts
- Local families with young children
- Representatives from community-based organizations such as social service providers