



GREAT
START TO
Quality

Supporting Excellence in Early Education





Infant and Toddler Quality Improvement Grant

Laura Fuller, Senior Project Manager
October 2023





Purpose

- To increase equitable access to high quality infant and toddler childcare in the State of Michigan.
- To increase pay equity for those in the Infant and Toddler workforce.
- To improve quality in early learning using an equity lens.





Timeline



Important Dates

Date	Activity
November 6, 2023	Application Opens
November 17, 2023	Application Closes at 6pm Eastern
December 5, 2023	First Payment Issued
Starting January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly Reports are DUE on the 10th of the following month.• Payments issued monthly on or before the 5th.
September 30, 2024	Pilot Ends. All Funds must be Spent
October 10, 2024	Final Report Due



Payment Schedule

Grant Payment Date	Report Due
December 5, 2023	January 10, 2024
January 5, 2023	February 10, 2024
February 5, 2024	March 10, 2024
March 5, 2024	April 10, 2024
April 5, 2024	May 10, 2024
May 5, 2024	June 10, 2024
June 5, 2024	July 10, 2024
July 5, 2024	August 10, 2024
August 5, 2024	September 10, 2024
September 5, 2024	October 10, 2024



Application

- The application will be open from 11/6/23 to 11/17/23.
- Applications are License Specific. If you have more than one license, you will need to complete an application for each one.
- Licenses that meet minimum eligibility criteria and submitted an Interest Form will be emailed an invitation to apply.



Awards

- **Not all applications will be awarded a grant.**
- We have funding for a maximum of 2000 slots.
- Programs will be awarded based on ability to expand subsidy infant/toddler slots, location, and quality levels.



Funding Formula

- Funding will be based on your current full time Infant and Toddler enrollments.
- There are two funding levels, based on your current GSQ Quality Level NOT on license type.
- You will get additional funding for infants and toddlers in your care who are on an IFSP (must be documented by 1/10/24).
- You will get additional funding if you are able to add slots for infants/toddlers receiving CDC Subsidy (documentation required).
- You will receive additional funding for participating in GSRP (verified by MDE).



Wage Equity

Funding for this grant was driven by the wage disparity for early childhood educators.

To this end, the PRIMARY USE of these funds is intended to be bringing ECE Educators to parity with PK teachers.

We recognize that this is temporary funding, and so we encourage providers to use this money to pay Infant/Toddlers staff BONUSES to increase their wages or hiring BONUSES to attract qualified Infant/Toddler teachers



Eligible Staff

In order for funds to be spent on staff, they MUST:

- Care for Infants/Toddlers (birth to 35 months) that receive Child Development and Care Subsidy through MDE.
- Be legal employees. Legal employees are employees that receive a W-2 at the end of the year and that you, the employer, withhold payroll taxes for.
- Contract staff that receive a 1099 for their taxes CANNOT BE FUNDED WITH THIS GRANT.
- Staff hired through an agency that legally employs them (Edustaff, Robert Half, etc) can be paid with these funds. Your invoice from the agency would be your documentation.



Guidance for Spending

Grants should be used for:

- [Hiring bonuses for new staff](#)
- [Increase wages or bonuses for staff retention](#)
- Paid time for attending ECE coursework
- Improving staff wellness & workplace environments
- Business management supports & materials
- Infant/Toddler classroom furnishings & materials to increase capacity and improve quality
- Materials to support children with special needs



Reporting





Reporting Requirements

- There will be a separate training on reporting! These are just the highlights
- There will be a monthly report in GSQ that will be **DUE** on the 10th of the following month.
- Not submitting your report on time WILL delay your next grant payment.



Monthly Reporting

Each month you will report:

- Any additional subsidy slots you filled, documented with their subsidy enrollment form.
- How you spent funds.

If reporting isn't completed additional funding will not be paid!



Additional Reporting

The monthly report in March, June, and October will have additional questions.

- Staffing and wages
- ECE Credentials earned
- Impact Stories



Additional Requirements

- As a part of our provider support, ECIC staff will be expanded the referral process. Staff will communicate with providers via text message.
- Providers must agree to keep enrollment data up to date in Great Start to Quality to facilitate referrals.
- We strongly recommend that you provide us with a phone number that can receive text messages.
- We strongly recommend checking the GSQ website for resources and updates



Questions?

The bottom of the slide features decorative teal wavy lines that create a sense of movement and depth against the dark blue background.

FAQ

- An FAQ about the application will be loaded at www.Greatstarttoquality.org/grants. Please refer to it for questions.
- If you have additional questions, please contact the ITQI Team at ITQIGrants@ecic4kids.org. Be sure to include your license number!





Contact Information

Laura Fuller, Senior Project Manager

Email: itqigrants@ecic4kids.org



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GREAT
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Quality

Supporting Excellence in Early Education

A large teal graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, curved bands that sweep across the bottom of the page.

greatstarttoquality.org