



Request for Letter of Intent: Innovative ways to increase access to quality child care and preschool in Monterey County

Problem Statement

In 2013, United Way Monterey County launched a collaborative process to identify shared aspirations and goals for the diverse population throughout the County. Impact Monterey County (IMC), an extensive assessment across the domains of education, economic self-sufficiency, health and safety was published in 2015 and has subsequently helped define a common agenda and improve coordination across collaborative efforts.

One of the community challenges identified through the IMC Assessment was access to quality and affordable child care. In Monterey County, there are 10,352 licensed child care slots for the 32,410 children birth through 5 of working parents. In a recent survey of Monterey County child care providers, 100% of respondents indicated that they were operating at capacity and had waiting lists. Reasons cited included lack available of classrooms. Increasing the number of child care facilities or expanding the capacity of existing preschools to increase the number of slots can help address this shortcoming.

Grant Opportunity

United Way Monterey County (UWMC) has established an Early Care and Education Innovation Fund to support creative strategies that increase and/or maintain the number of licensed child care slots in the County. The Fund will provide one-time grants for long lasting and sustainable solutions. Initial funding for the program is set for **\$25,000**. Applicants must be licensed child care providers. Letters of Intent (LOI) will be accepted within July 2020 to June 2020 or until funding is expended.

There are several types of grants available:

Classroom Expansion/Capital Grants:

Capital grants up to \$20,000 are available to support building or expansion of high-quality child care or preschool facilities. Funds may be used for building purchases, construction, renovation or equipment purchases that allow for an increase in the number of licensed child care slots.

Emergency Mitigation

Emergency grants up to \$5,000 are available to provide rapid solutions to emergencies that child care facilities may be experiencing that prevent them from remaining opened, such as repairs, supplies or equipment replacement due to fire, flood, or facilities degradation.

Planning/Research

Planning or research grants up to \$5,000 would be considered to assess the feasibility of child care expansion. Research projects that determine infill strategies; or examine other solutions to address the child care crisis would be considered.

Eligibility Criteria

Only licensed organizations that operate in Monterey County will be considered. Organizations must serve children birth through age 5 and fall into one of the following categories:

1. Nonprofits: Nonprofit organizations that plan to or currently serve children from birth through age 5 with a minimum of 60 percent of the children from households with incomes that are less than the self-sufficiency wage for Monterey County (see appendix: 2018 Real Cost Measure estimates for the income level required to meet basic needs in Monterey County).
2. Schools/School Districts: Publicly funded schools and/or school districts with a National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) ID
3. Private child care centers/Family child care homes: Private child care centers or family child care homes with an Employer Identification Number (EIN) that plan to or currently serve children from birth through age 5 and meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - A minimum of 60 percent of the children enrolled or to be enrolled in the child care or preschool program housed in the funded facility are from families with incomes that are less than the self-sufficiency wage for Monterey County (see appendix: 2018 Real Cost Measure estimates for the income level required to meet basic needs in Monterey County).
 - At least 85 percent of the care provided by the program is for the purpose of enabling individuals to be gainfully employed, and the services are provided to the general public

Private child care centers or family child care home applicants must also demonstrate that one of the following circumstances is present:

- The owner's current income does not meet 80 percent of 2018 Real Cost Measure salary estimates for self-sufficiency.
- The services are offered below market rate to families with incomes less than 80% Real Cost Measure salary estimates for self-sufficiency.

Programs must demonstrate how current or intended participation in Monterey County's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)¹ will achieve a tier 3 rating or above.

- Organizations must not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, citizenship status, creed, religion, religious affiliation, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran status or any other protected status under applicable law
- Organizations with religious affiliations will be considered for funding only if the proposal for which they seek support attempts to address the needs of the wider community without regard to religious beliefs.

What to include in the Letter of Intent:

The Letter of Intent should be brief and concise with no more than 500 words answering the following:

- Title of the proposed project
- Brief description of the specific project for which funding is sought
- Requested funding amount

¹<https://www.qualitymattersmonterey.org/>

- Description of how this project would contribute to the development, expansion or enhancement of high-quality child care and preschool facilities and increase the number of slots available for children 0 through age 5?
- Please complete the following table:

Current number of children served	
What are the ages of the children served in this project?	
How many additional children will this project serve?	

- Anything else you would like us to know?
- A primary contact for the organization (*This person will receive the reply via email*)

Supplemental materials cannot be submitted at this stage of the inquiry process.

Review and Selection Process

A committee of the Monterey County Early Childhood Development Advisory Group would be established to review Letters of Intent and recommend funding.

Applicant will be informed within 30 business days of submission of the status of their application.

Funding Priorities

- Increase the number of child care or preschool slots
- Demonstrate the ability to leverage funding from additional public and private sources

Application Process

- If an applicant is selected, a site visit to the proposed facility may be required.

Contact

Letter of Intent will only be accepted via email.

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