

Ortonville Child Care New Provider Grant

The Ortonville Economic Development Authority recently received a grant from First Children's Finance to support the creation of new childcare slots in Ortonville. The program will work with soon-to-be licensed providers in purchasing items or making improvements that are required by licensing or are critical to the start-up of the business.

Eligible Applicants

Any recently licensed (as of May 2023) or soon to be licensed child care provider located in Ortonville serving children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 11 years old.

Eligible Activities

Programs may apply for funds to support the start-up of child care services through the categories listed on page 3.

These grants can be used to cover the cost of materials for outdoor play area fencing or other minor construction projects as required by licensing to ensure child safety or meet other program standards. All materials must be new and must be purchased from a retail store, not a private party. The grant will cover material and labor costs. Funds cannot be used for major renovations, construction, or purchase of property.

These grants can be used for technology and software to create, enhance, and maintain business management systems. This includes costs associated with accessing the internet, such as installation or equipment, and website costs for start-up. Ongoing subscription fees, monthly payments, and maintenance are not eligible.

In addition, grants are not allowed to be spent on items considered to be part of the cost of doing business, including but not limited to:

- Accounting and legal fees
- Advertising
- Monthly/annual subscription fees for websites, internet, software, etc. Only startup costs are eligible.
- Banking service charges
- Cleaning
- Food
- Insurance
- Licenses
- Taxes
- Rent or mortgage
- Salaries
- Transportation
- Utilities

Grant Guidelines

New providers can apply for a Start-Up Grant and are only eligible for one grant award. The limit for Start-Up Grants is \$5,000. Actual awards may be less than this amount depending on the number of applicants for project funding. All funds are paid on a reimbursement basis after the provider provides receipts/documentation of expenses. All funds must be expended by November 1, 2023. Priority will be given to providers that serve all age groups and those that serve high need areas such as infant care or evening care. Childcare providers must agree to make services available to families regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, public assistance, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or familial status. Upon opening, new provider(s) must provide care for children for a minimum of 2 years and must maintain a license in good standing, failure to do so will result in repayment of grant funds. Childcare providers must also agree to participate in any requested surveys and report forms related to funding awards.

Providers cannot request funds for projects/items that are already being paid by another grant program.

Grant Application Review Process. Once the application is submitted, it will be reviewed for completeness. A denial or award letter will be sent to you via email or U.S mail. The Ortonville Economic Development Authority reserves the right to deny any application.

Submitting Your Application

Fill out the application form completely in ink. The application should be neat and easy to read and stapled together in order.

1. Send in one complete packet, including the application with all required attachments stapled to it.
2. Keep one copy of the completed application form and all required attachments for your records. You will need to refer back to your application if you are awarded a grant.
3. Mail or email the original completed application packet to:

Ortonville EDA
PO Box 223
Ortonville, MN 56278
lisa@dsi-services.com

Checklist

Your application packet must include:

- The application form with all questions completed.
- Copy of your current child care license, if applicable. Also include any documentation from your licensor if the items in your grant application are needed to meet licensing requirements. If you are in the process of obtaining your child care license please provide proof of completion of background study.
- Building permit (*if applicable*). If your project requires a building permit please attach.
- Estimate or bid (*if applicable*). This is required for the installation of fences, windows, or construction, as required by licensing, or equipment assembly projects. This bid must be from a licensed and bonded contractor.
- Pictures (*if applicable*). A picture from a catalog or online is recommended.
- W-9 Form.

Eligible Expenses

This is not an exhaustive list of eligible items, but provides some guidance to providers on the type of expenses typically eligible for the grant funds.

Household alarms and detectors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoke alarms Carbon monoxide alarms Radon detectors Lead content detectors (for toys and other child items which could be put in the mouth) Items required by Fire Marshal or Licensing regulations 		Transportation safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate child restraint systems for the ages of the children in care Safety helmets for children riding bicycles or tricycles Strollers that meet safety specifications Double/multiple kid strollers 	
Household Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire extinguishers Choke tubes (for gauging choking potential of small objects) Disaster kits Fireplace, heater and wood-burning stove screen covers Safety latches or locks for doors and cabinets Safety gates Appliance locks First aid items 		Child safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cribs, mattresses that meet safety standards Cots, mats and linens for sleeping Highchairs that meet safety standards Changing tables Shock-absorbent or loose material such as sand under outdoor climbing equipment Outdoor play equipment that meets safety standards Audio/visual monitoring equipment 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical outlet covers Refrigerator thermometer Hot liquids thermometer Window blind and curtain cord tension or tie-down devices Air purifiers, humidifiers, dehumidifiers Light fixtures containing shielded or shatterproof bulb 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground safety surfacing Large outdoor umbrella Sandbox covers Infant bucket swings for outdoor playground swing sets Swings with soft or flexible seats Fencing Replacement of wooden barriers that contain creosote or arsenic Guardrails on stairs 	
Facilities and operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egress windows Lead-free environment Facility improvements such as repairing steps, installing railing if flagged by licensing Gates Training costs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antibacterial wall dispensers Secured garbage cans and wastebaskets, hands-free covered waste disposal cans Computer and software for financial management and other necessary functions of business. Printer 	
Room equipment and furniture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tables Chairs Coat, cubby units Storage units Centers (book, listening, writing) Computer table 		Active Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cots or mats Classroom activity carpets Activity mats and gyms Classroom displays 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicycles, Tricycles, Wagons Scooters, scooter boards Balance beams Tumbling mats Play tunnels or hoops Basketball hoops, balls Sensory items 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground equipment (climbers, swing sets, slides) Large unit blocks Rocking boats Parachutes Large motor games (such as bean bag, ring toss) STEM materials 	

GRANT APPLICATION

Provider Name	
Mailing Address	
Phone	
Email	
Are you a family provider or childcare center?	
Please provide an estimate for licensure and opening?	
Please describe why you need grant funds?	
Please include other grants and loans already received or grant and loan applications submitted.	
Please include a detailed list of improvements or items you wish to purchase with grant with a cost estimate for each item.	

By signing below, I certify that the information provided in this application is true and accurate:
