

CHILDREN FIRST COLLECTIVE SAN DIEGO



For more information about Children First Collective San Diego please contact:

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WITH ACCESS COMES OPPORTUNITY

[Children First Collective San Diego](#) is a group of caring organizations and individuals tackling the challenges of access to affordable, quality child care.

As one of many current campaigns to address the inequities of the child care sector, the advocacy collective is offering unprecedented local voluntary assistance for family child care providers and child care centers March 2022 to support applications to the CA Department of Social Services Facilities Repair and Renovations Grant.

Background

On July 23, 2021, the Legislature enacted the Child Care and Development Infrastructure Grant Program, detailed in [Welfare and Institutions Code section 10310](#), a \$250 million investment in the child care infrastructure across the State of California that is to be administered in the form of grants by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The CDSS will administer \$100 million in grants for minor construction, renovations, and repairs to address health and safety concerns. Additionally, the CDSS will administer \$150 million in grants for major construction of shovel-ready child care facilities. The CDSS will put out two (2) separate Request for Applications (RFAs) on a competitive basis for each funding source.

What Providers in San Diego Shared

San Diego child care providers were thrilled and grateful for the possibility that they may receive this state grant for renovations and repairs. However, an inspiring opportunity, Children First Collective heard from providers that navigating the process, the time commitment, and lack of technical assistance created a scenario where this opportunity was out of reach.

Children First Collective San Diego's Response

YMCA, Child Development Associates, SAY San Diego, MAAC Project, and many other **Children's** First Collective partners are excited to offer a series of technical assistance sessions to support local child care programs interested in the grant. This includes:

Four virtual sessions hosted by partners included basic information, how to navigate requirements, templates, and resource support in budgets and contracting. *500 providers registered for each session, with as high as 385 providers in attendance for a session.*

Fourteen virtual one-on-one review sessions scheduled to work individually with providers to review applications, and wish them luck before submitting their proposals to the state. *Nearly 100 providers have voiced interest in a review session.*

Timely email responses to *over 350 providers* with specific questions about the process.

Advocacy to the CA Department of Social Services requesting an adjustment to the fast approaching deadline to help more providers obtain the support they need.