

IFF Learning Spaces

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is IFF Learning Spaces?

IFF Learning Spaces is a program designed to increase capacity and improve access to quality early childhood education (ECE) across the tri-county area (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb). Participating ECE providers receive:

- **Grants** of up to \$50,000 to improve facility quality
- **Real estate consulting services** to identify facility quality priorities
- **Technical assistance training** on facility best practices and other issues related to ECE quality

Who can apply for grants?

Providers are eligible if they have a three-star rating or higher in the Great Start to Quality rating system, have no current licensing infractions, have been in operation for a minimum of 2 years, and are interested in improving their program and facility quality.

How do I apply?

Current application processes and deadlines will be posted to www.iff.org/learningspaces. You will hear back from an IFF representative within two weeks. The timing of the complete process varies, but the average is 4-6 months.

Who is funding this?

In 2015, The Kresge Foundation backed an initial pilot program. Since then, the program has received additional support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation, and Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, as well as PNC Bank.

Who is IFF?

IFF is a mission-driven lender, real estate consultant, and developer that helps communities thrive by creating opportunities for low-income populations and individuals with disabilities. Working closely with clients from every sector, IFF offers affordable, flexible financing; full-scale real estate consulting; and community development services. IFF has a long history of expanding early education by identifying the need for as well as designing, financing, and building quality facilities in the Midwest.