

Quality Facilities for All
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)
May 2021

What is Quality Facilities for All?

Quality Facilities for All is an IFF Initiative dedicated to the expansion, enhancement, and stabilization of infant and toddler programs in high-need communities across Illinois. QFA is currently focused on Aurora, Champaign, Chicago, East St Louis, and Rockford.

What is the goal of Quality Facilities for All?

Quality Facilities for All is committed to expanding and improving access to infant and toddler care across Illinois by addressing facility quality concerns related to indoor air quality, temperature, ventilation, noise, lighting, classroom furnishing, and outdoor play areas. These factors contribute to high-quality learning environments, which are proven to positively impact infants' and toddlers' learning, development, and well-being.



~ continued on next page ~

How can Quality Facilities for All support providers of infant and toddler programs?

This initiative has three components:

1. **Grants** – Eligible center-based and family child care home providers can apply for grants ranging in size from \$5,000 to \$50,000. These funds will help providers to expand infant-toddler capacity and/or enhance facility quality in these key areas: indoor air quality, temperature, ventilation, noise reduction, optimal lighting, and quality classroom furniture.
2. **Leadership & Professional Development Opportunities** – Opportunities are available for center-based and family child care home providers to: enhance knowledge on creating and maintaining high-quality facilities; elevate understanding of sustainable financial practices needed to effectively manage early childhood care and education programs; and gain knowledge on how to apply to various federal and state capital grant opportunities, including the Illinois Early Childhood Capital Grant.
3. **Technical Assistance (Coming Soon)** – IFF will soon support agencies with facility-related expertise when applying for state and federal construction grant programs, such as the Illinois Childhood Capital Grant. Support can include preparing a development budget, timeline, and space needs, as well as supporting site review, architect engagement to develop a concept design, and cost estimating.

Who is eligible for the Quality Facilities for All grants?

Both center-based and family child care home providers are eligible to apply for the QFA grant program if they meet the specific criteria listed on our website at www.iff.org/qfa. In 2021, the grants program will focus specifically on these high-need community areas in Chicago: Englewood, South Lawndale and Roseland.

What is the application process for a Quality Facilities for All grant?

Current application links and deadlines will always be posted to www.iff.org/qfa. Once you apply, here's what happens:

1. **Eligibility Review** – First, IFF will determine if each applicant meets the specific QFA eligibility criteria posted to our webpage.
2. **Application Review** – For those who meet the eligibility criteria, IFF will then assess if their request meets the goals of the QFA grant program and rank the applicant's level of need.
3. **Site Visit** – IFF will conduct an initial site visit to further assess need, determine possible scope of project, and ensure request is aligned with QFA goals.
4. **Final Review** – Based on the scoring from the site visit coupled with the scoring from the application review, awardees will be determined and announced. Applicants will hear back from IFF within two weeks.

How can I find out more information about Quality Facilities for All?

IFF may periodically host informational sessions about this program. To see what events are currently available and to RSVP, please visit our webpage: www.iff.org/qfa. Additional questions may be sent via email to qfa@iff.org.

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.