

Learning Spaces: Grants for Early Childhood Education Facilities Improvements

Learning Spaces is a program that seeks to transform early childhood education (ECE) spaces into safe and inspiring learning environments. By funding upgrades to ECE providers' facilities, this grant program is designed to couple high-quality ECE programming with high-quality learning spaces, deepening the foundation for positive early childhood experiences for all children.

We are inviting center-based ECE providers in southwest Detroit, Mich., and home-based providers in southeast Grand Rapids, Mich., to apply for our free one-year program designed to increase providers' capacity and improve public access to quality early childhood education.

About the Program:

Learning Spaces is a one-year program that helps ECE providers access capital for facilities renovations and upgrades; identify priorities for renovations and upgrades through technical support; and receive consultation on and management over the construction process. Working hand-in-hand with providers, IFF aims to support facilities improvements in areas that contribute to high-quality learning environments, such as: indoor air quality, temperature, ventilation, noise, lighting, classroom furnishing, and outdoor play areas. Improving these aspects of an ECE facility has been proven to positively impact young children's learning, development, and well-being.

The Program Includes:

Participants in this free one-year program will receive all of the following:

- Funding for facility improvements
- Technical assistance
- Construction consulting services
- Grant toward construction cost

General Eligibility:

To qualify for this program, ECE providers must have all of the following:

- Ownership over their facility or a valid lease agreement

- Quality rating of Enhancing Quality (formerly 3 star rating) or higher in the Great Start to Quality rating system
- No major current licensing infractions
- Been in operation for at least 2 years
- Interest in improving their program and facility quality

Specific Geographic Eligibility:

For eligibility in southwest Detroit:

Providers must be center-based and located in or serving families from the following southwest Detroit zip codes: 48217, 48208, 48209, 48210, and 48216.

For eligibility in southeast Grand Rapids:

Providers can be center- or home based, and they must be located in the zip code 49507 or in immediately surrounding areas in southeast Grand Rapids.