



Early Learning Stabilization Grant: Frequently Asked Questions

The Early Learning Stabilization Grant is a year-long grant program that provides operational support to Child Development Homes in Washington D.C., alongside a robust, provider-led business coaching program.

Learn more at our [website](#) and reach out with any question to ELSG@reinvestment.com

I. [Eligibility and General Questions](#)

Eligibility Requirements

- **Licensed Child Development Home (including Expanded) located in Washington D.C.**
- **Must be currently open and serving children.**
- **Must be willing to actively participate in a year-long coaching program, with one required meeting per month with Reinvestment Fund staff.**

1. What is the award amount?
 - a. The award total is \$28,800, this award will be broken into four payments of \$7,200. These payments will be paid quarterly to grantees.
2. What are important dates?
 - a. The application opens on April 4th, 2024 and the deadline is April 29th, 2024. Decisions will be sent out on May 10th, 2024. The first payment will be made in mid-June of 2024. All coaching sessions will be scheduled after grantees are determined.
3. How can I apply?
 - a. All applications are online through Reinvestment Fund's grant platform: reinvestmentfund.smartsimple.com. You will need to create a free account (if you do not have a preexisting one with Reinvestment Fund) and then you can complete the application on any internet accessible device.
Please note this website works best on laptop or desktop computers.
4. I went to the website and could not see the application?
 - a. To access this application you will need to create an account on reinvestmentfund.smartsimple.com this website does not support login information from other grant opportunities through other organizations. If you have not used our platform before, you will need to register. After registering the application is located under "Available Opportunities" there may be other opportunities listed that are not relevant to your program, this grant is titled "Early Learning Stabilization Grant".
5. Are translation services available?
 - a. Yes, we are offering live translation services for applicants who need support in Spanish or Amharic. To access these supports please contact us via email.
6. How can grant funds be used?

- a. These grants are only allowed to be used for expenses in three categories: industry recognized and holistic quality standards; business efficiency and sustainability, and increased family affordability and enrollment. A full list of the eligible expenses is located on our website which can be found [HERE](#).
 - b. You may have heard that grant dollars can be used for student scholarships, this is true however there are some guidelines on how to use grant dollars for student scholarships. Please see the scholarship document available on our website.
7. Is the award open to district Child Care Centers?
- a. This grant is only open to Child Development Homes and Child Development Homes Expanded.
8. How many awards are available?
- a. There are 40 awards available.
9. How are applications scored?
- a. Applications are being scored based on priorities found in the study: [*Assessing Child Care Access: Measuring Supply, Demand, Quality, and Shortages in the District of Columbia*](#) published in January 2024. These priorities include:
 - i. Programs challenged with low enrollment
 - ii. Programs offering non-traditional hours of care
 - iii. Programs serving low-income families and those serving special populations
 - iv. Programs with articulated business goals that want to be supported through coaching
 - v. Programs not served by previous ARPA grants in the District
 - vi. Programs that have been open for two years or longer
10. When will I be notified of my application status?
- a. Award decisions will be announced on May 10th, 2024
11. Will there be grantee reporting?
- a. Yes, this grant will have a mid-point report in the Fall of 2024 and a final report in early-2025.
12. Does this award have tax implications?
- a. Grants are taxable income and are taxed based on your company structure and business-type. Additionally, some grantees may see an impact in their taxes or their eligibility for public benefits. This impact will vary on a case-by-case basis and interested applicants are encouraged to assess potential impact and contact financial experts if you have concerns. If awarded, grantees can request tax education technical assistance to receive strategies to address potential impacts.

II. Coaching Questions

All grantees can take part in [Coaching to Success](#) which will be facilitated by Sharon Neilson, Program Manager Community Engagement and TA and a contracted consultant with expertise in ECE business models. Coaching to Success is a monthly peer learning group

convened to connect providers to sustainable resources to manage and run an effective childcare business for the long-term. Meeting topics will be designed and selected based upon feedback from the grantees. Attendance to the monthly, virtual, sessions will be highly encouraged but not required. Additionally, grantees can access a limited number of one-on-one consultant hours to receive business and financial TA to help meet your goals.