



WASHINGTON AREA
**WOMEN'S
FOUNDATION**



Early Care & Education Funders
COLLABORATIVE

2023 Giving Priority and Grant Cycle Process

Priority Area

The Early Care and Education Funders Collaborative (ECEFC), housed at Washington Area Women's Foundation, will prioritize its funding in 2022 to organizations working to advance systems change in the area of early care and education workforce in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. Specifically, the ECEFC seeks to fund advocacy or grassroots organizing organizations, partnerships, or coalition models whose work will ultimately improve working conditions, well-being, and respect of those in the early care and education field, as defined by the needs and recommendations of early educators themselves.

Strong proposals will address one or more of the following goals:

- Aid in the reconstruction of early care and education systems during and after the pandemic in a way that demonstrates value for early childhood educators;
- Advance initiatives that will lead to increased public funding of local early care and education systems;
- Center the lived experience and voices of early childhood educators in decision-making processes and lift up family child care providers as critical contributors to early care and education systems; and
- Elevate the early care and education workforce through regional partnerships or systems work that contribute to their well-being, professional development, and technical assistance.

The ECEFC seeks to partner with organizations who work to ensure gender, race, culture, religion, class, and ability equity across early education systems.

Giving Cycle Process and Organization Eligibility

The ECEFC seeks to award a total of \$370,000 in grants this giving cycle to multiple organizations or partnerships across the Washington, DC metropolitan region. While there is no minimum or maximum amount that applicants can request, please keep in mind that it is most common for the ECEFC to award grants in the range of \$10,000 to \$40,000.

Grants awarded through this process will be issued as general operating grants to the applicant organization for the period of 13 months. The grant period of awards made will be December 2022 through December of 2023.

To launch the grant cycle, ECEFC staff will reach out to current and recent Grantee Partners and other applicable nonprofit organizations in the region to inquire about their work's alignment with the ECEFC's giving priority and current capacity. Organizations that meet eligibility criteria and are aligned with the ECEFC's priorities, mission, and commitment to equity will be invited to submit a short interest statement to the ECEFC for consideration. The ECEFC will invite only eligible organizations whose interest statements appropriately match the ECEFC's funding goals, outlined above, to submit a full application. Applicants will have the support of ECEFC staff in completing their applications and throughout the grant cycle process.

Please direct all inquiries of eligibility to ECEFC Program Officer, Abriana Kimbrough (akimbrough@wawf.org) before the September 23rd interest statement collection deadline (see timeline below).

Grant Cycle Timeline:

Interest Statement Collection Complete	September 23, 2022
Invitations to Organizations to Apply for Funding Released	October 7, 2022
Applications Due	October 27, 2021
Applicant Follow Up Calls with ECEFC Members	November 1 – November 23, 2022
Applicant Award Notification	December, 2021

About The Early Care and Education Funders Collaborative

The ECEFC launched in 2008 as a multi-year collective investment effort. Its mission is to increase the quality and capacity of, and access to, early care and education in the Washington, DC region, with the goal of reducing school readiness gaps among populations of our youngest children. The ECEFC believes that the quality and well-being of the early care and education workforce is central to the quality of early care and education systems.

The ECEFC is comprised of corporate funders, local and national foundations and family funds. Our target geographic area includes Washington, DC; Arlington and Fairfax Counties, as well as the City of Alexandria in Virginia; and Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties in Maryland.

About Washington Area Women’s Foundation

Washington Area Women’s Foundation is a community-supported foundation that invests in the power of women and girls of color in the Washington, DC region. We ignite change in our community by investing intentionally in women and girls of color; promoting philanthropy that addresses the needs at the intersections of race, gender, and wealth; and advocating for the dismantling of sexist and racist systems. The Women’s Foundation is proud to be a founding member, as well as the home, of the ECEFC.