



2024 GIVING PRIORITY AND GRANT CYCLE PROCESS

Early Care and Education Funders Collaborative

Overview

The Early Care and Education Funders Collaborative (ECEFC), housed at Washington Area Women's Foundation, will prioritize its funding in 2024 to organizations working to advance systems change in the area of early care and education in the Washington, DC, metropolitan region. Specifically, the ECEFC seeks to fund advocacy organizations, grassroots organizing partnerships, or coalition models whose work will ultimately improve working conditions, well-being, and respect of those in the early care and education field while simultaneously closing achievement gaps amongst the region's youngest and most vulnerable learners.

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

- Facilitate the advancement of Early Care and Education issues to enhance support and recognition for early childhood educators, fostering a valued and sustainable Early Care and Education Workforce.
- Advance initiatives for increased public funding to support capacity building and pay equity across Early Care and Education systems.
- Center the experience and voices of family and center-based early childhood educators in decision-making processes and uplift providers as critical contributors through partnerships that contribute to their well-being, professional development, and business expansion.
- Leverage data tracking and research to yield actionable insights for policy enhancements and identify and address gender-based disparities and barriers to equitable early care across the region.

Eligibility

The ECEFC seeks to partner with organizations that ensure gender, race, culture, religion, class, and ability equity across early education systems and are led by individuals reflective of the communities they aim to serve.



Giving Cycle Process

Grants awarded through this process will be issued as general operating grants to the applicant organization for 13 months. The grant period of awards made will be from December 2023 through December 2024. While there is no minimum or maximum amount that applicants can request, please remember that it is common for the ECEFC to award grants in the range of \$10,000 to \$40,000.

To launch the grant cycle, 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 only invite eligible organizations whose interest statements appropriately match the ECEFC's funding goals, outlined above, to submit a complete application. Applicants will have the support of ECEFC staff in completing their applications and throughout the grant cycle process.

Grant Cycle Timeline

SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

Last day to submit interest statements.

OCTOBER 13, 2023

All Applications are due.

DECEMBER 22, 2023

Applicants receive award notification, and fund disbursements begin.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Select organizations are invited to complete full application for funding.

NOVEMBER 13 - NOVEMBER 24, 2023

ECEFC conducts site visits/follow-up calls with applicants.



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 metropolitan region to reduce 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 comprises 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 metropolitan 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.

Interested in learning more about the ECEFC?

Scan the QR code below!



Please direct all eligibility inquiries to:
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