

PROVIDER PATH

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE

Home Daycare Grant Readiness and Funding Tracker

Find suitable opportunities, prepare a clear application,
and track funded work from award to closeout

PROVIDER GUIDE AND WORKING TOOLS



FUNDING READINESS AND PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT

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Provider Path

October 2026 edition

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CHAPTER 2

Find opportunities and verify eligibility

Use leads to find the official notice, then test the applicant, project, and dates against its actual terms.

Search close to the place that administers the money

Begin with the state or territory child care agency, your local child care resource and referral agency, and the named administrators of quality-improvement or business-support programs. Ask whether a current opportunity serves family child care homes, what provider status it requires, and where the complete notice is posted. A community foundation, local government, or business-support organization may offer another route. Each has its own purposes and applicant categories.

Treat social posts, newsletters, grant directories, and search results as leads. Follow the lead to the funder's official page; check the publication or round date, attachments, amendments, and current deadline. A page still appearing in search may describe an expired round. Record the official link and the date you checked it. If no application window is open, record that status rather than inventing a deadline or presenting a past award as available now.

Read applicant and project eligibility separately

A heading saying child care does not establish that a home-based sole proprietor can apply. Check entity type, location, license or exemption category, operating history, enrollment conditions, quality-system participation, prior funding, and other requirements actually named in the notice. Then check whether the proposed activity, costs, and project dates qualify. A business may be an eligible applicant while its preferred purchase is outside the permitted project.

Grants.gov explains that the notice of funding opportunity defines federal eligibility and that applicant categories are not interchangeable.[2] For a local award, use that program's own instructions. Keep three separate conclusions: verified eligible, verified ineligible, and unresolved. The funder makes the final determination; your screen records the evidence supporting a decision to invest time in an application.

Ask one answerable question and protect the response

If a requirement is unclear, quote its short identifying phrase or section and state the relevant program fact. Ask whether that fact meets the condition. Keep the response with the notice and identify who answered and when. A favorable informal reply should not be expanded into permission for a different cost, a larger project, or a later funding round. If the official text and reply appear inconsistent, request clarification before relying on them.

Be cautious with unsolicited award messages, guaranteed approval, and requests to pay to release federal grant money. Federal grant applications do not carry an application fee; a separate paid

consultant is a different service and is not required merely because a message says so.[3] Reach the funder through an independently verified official contact. Enter financial or identity information only through the verified process, and avoid sending sensitive records with an initial eligibility question.

WORKED EXAMPLE

Nina records a narrow eligibility answer

In the fictional County Early Learning Space Fund used throughout this book, the current notice includes licensed family child care businesses operating within the funder's service area. Nina checks her program's legal applicant name, current license, and address against those conditions. She separately asks whether low open storage and an outdoor learning container are allowed equipment costs. None of these example terms describes a real grant.

Her completed clarification reads: 'I am reviewing the current County Early Learning Space Fund notice, equipment section. Our applicant is a licensed family child care sole proprietorship in the stated service area. Does the equipment category permit low open storage and an outdoor learning container used by the enrolled group? Please identify any purchasing or approval conditions.' The reply confirms those categories subject to the written award. Nina stores it as eligibility evidence, not as an award or authorization to buy.

Opportunity and eligibility screen

Use the official current notice. Reference the source safely; do not put passwords or sensitive identifiers on this page.

Opportunity name and official source checked on

Current deadline and time zone

Exact eligibility conditions and my supporting facts

Opportunity and eligibility screen continued

Project or cost restrictions and unresolved questions

Official clarification received and evidence location

Decision and next action with responsible person and date
