

Nonprofit Child Care Facilities

Question and Answers

1. Are there square footage requirements/recommended?

No, there are not minimum or maximum area requirements. Applicants should consider the extent of child accessible space that can improved with trees and associated activities.

2. Can grant funds be used to engage design consultants and other technical experts to develop plans for implantation?

Yes

3. Can you please elaborate on how a school site would be an eligible project, yet the TK-12 district school is not an eligible applicant?

This supplemental solicitation is for non-profit child care facilities receiving government funding. Applicants for Green Schoolyards projects on K-12 schools were already awarded.

4. Do you have resources for sustainable schoolyards that are also handicapped accessible?

Please refer to Appendix H of our Grant Guideline [grant-guidelines_green-schoolyards_child-care_09132023.pdf \(azureedge.net\)](#)

5. Will there be more Green Schoolyards project on K-12 schools in the future?

All Green Schoolyards project may be eligible for Urban and Community Forestry grants that will be funded by the inflation Reduction Act (IRA). IRA sub-grant applications are intended to be solicited this fall/winter.

6. Is WUCOLS integrated into the SelecTree Schoolyard Tree criteria, or would we be encouraged to supplement our selection with EUCOLS very low to moderate water usage for our area?

Yes, species selection criteria reference WUCOLS and other tools.

7. Can family child care apply for this grant?

Eligible applicants are non-profit childcare facilities receiving government funding and must be licensed.

8. Can you define urban area?

Urban areas and urban clusters of 2,500 people or more as defined by the US Census Bureau's latest population data.

9. Does Non-profit child care facility include k-12 schools?

No

10. Please clarify the match. If it is waived but encouraged, is there a match % requirement?

There is no required match. Matching contributions such as in-kind labor are encouraged and will be considered during the competitive selection process.

11. We are near downtown LA, we have a tree and some areas to add trees, not sure if we qualify because we are new to Downtown LA?

Yes, since downtown LA is an urban area and as long as the applicant is a city, county, qualifying district, or nonprofit organizations. Eligible Projects: Green Schoolyards projects at public child care facilities or nonprofit child care facilities receiving government funding.

12. Does a state funded preschool that is part of a K-8 district qualify for the grant?

Probably, if the applicant is eligible and meets requirements described in the grant guidelines.

13. Will applicants get feedback on their unsuccessful application such as their score in each area or why they were not awarded?

CAL FIRE can provide feedback on your application if requested.

14. What if we are in the process of receiving the child care license? Can we still be considered to be eligible?

No, unless the license is valid prior to submission of the application.

15. When do you anticipate a similar grant to include K-12 school districts?

You can submit a green schoolyard project for our Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program. We anticipate opening the application process in the near future.

16. Any prevailing wage requirements?

Prevailing wage may be required depending upon job classification. Consult legal counsel or request a response from pertinent state agencies such as the California Department of Industrial Relations.

17. Do the childcare facilities need to meet any specific criteria apart from them being in an urban area?

It must receive government funding, be non-profit, or public.

18. If a childcare facility is on the campus of a district that does not meet the free reduced lunch ration, the childcare center itself does, would it be worth the time to submit an application? The preschool is a private preschool ran by the school district who contracts with state preschool (CSPP). The site is 1.5 miles away from a low income qualifying district.

There are several factors that influence a decision on this question. Please contact your Regional Urban Forester for more information. Private preschool implies that the applicant is not a non-profit, therefore would not be eligible.

19. California funds school districts for California State Preschool Program on school sites. The guidelines say preschools are not eligible, but this is publicly funded for low income children. It could be considered "child care" or "day care". Are these eligible? Or only Head Start and CCTR (California Infant Toddler contracted programs)?

Please contact your Regional Urban Forester for more information. Specific information about the provider, facility, and students will determine eligibility.

20. Is the grant a minimum of \$200,000? No smaller grants are given right?

Yes

21. Can the scoring can be increased with in kind or fiscal match?

Yes. Note, there is no ratio of points to dollars or hours. Matching contributions should show inputs and ownership by the applicant and partners.

22. We are a nonprofit ECE Center who wants to apply. Do you have recommendations of consultants or other organizations who are experts in this area that we could partner with?

No. CAL FIRE does not recommend vendors. You may contact organizations such as [Green Schoolyards America](#) to engage with the [community of practice](#).

23. Do you know if the HIGH desert region (Victorville, Hesperia) is an urban area? We are a state funded program in a community college.

Victorville, Hesperia is an urban area.

24. We are state funded and non profit program. Do we qualify to apply for the grant?

Yes, assuming compliance with grant guidelines.

25. Our YMCA accepts health and human services vouchers for childcare and is a non profit, would we qualify?

Yes, a non-profit facility receiving government is an eligible applicant.

26. Will there be another green schoolyard grant available next year as well? There was one in March of this year.

No, however Green Schoolyards applicants may apply to the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program in the fall of 2023. Note, the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program includes multiple activities in addition to Green Schoolyards and will have different funding limits and requirements.

27. Our non-profit childcare facility is located inside a California State University Campus. Can we apply for funds? Are there any requirements for the backyard to have? Like must have play yards or X number of trees?

Non-profit childcare facilities receiving government funding are eligible to apply regardless of where the facility is located. An MOU between the owner and the childcare provider must be submitted with the application. There are no required activities or number of trees, however projects are preferred that provide the greatest benefits of trees (shade) and nature to students in outdoor areas that they use most often.

28. If the state-funded preschool site is located on a public k-8 school campus, is it then ineligible due to the location and fact that the school would be included?

A state-funded preschool is not a non-profit, therefore not eligible to apply.

29. What are the requirements for the backyard renovation? Are you looking for something in particular?

Please review to the grant guidelines found online [grant-guidelines_green-schoolyards_child-care_09132023.pdf \(azureedge.net\)](#)

30. Our agency is a 501(c) 3 with two state contracts, CCTR and CSPP, and we serve infants, toddlers, preschoolers and After School care for eligible families. My question is, will all ages be considered as eligible or is it only 0-5 year old programs that are eligible for project funding?

There are no age limits.

31. Will a nonprofit private preschool in Berkley, CA qualify?

Non-profit childcare facilities receiving government funding are eligible, regardless of which city they are located in. Cities such as Berkeley may have fewer facilities that are eligible than those with more disadvantaged and low-income census tracts.

32. To be considered Urban you have to have more than 2500 in the city/town?

The project must be in an urban area or immediately adjacent to an urban area in California. Urban areas, for the purposes of these guidelines, are “urban areas” and “urban clusters” of 2,500 people or more per the United States Census Bureau’s latest population data.

33. Would school yard lighting at a facility being newly built be an eligible cost? During winter, some lighting is anticipated to be needed for maintenance activities.

Certain infrastructure improvements such as lighting that may be needed for maintenance are eligible costs. The necessity of these costs should be described.

34. Can the funds be used to pay garden/environmental literacy teacher?

Yes. Education staff expenses can be part of a project to increase student use and enjoyment of the trees and natural elements that are installed.

35. Can you describe post maintenance? Ex. If we plan for staff how does that work past March 2026?

Post-grant maintenance can extend for up to two cycles (about 2-3 years) past the final invoice.

36. Is there a minimum facility capacity needed to meet for impact thresholds related to eligibility? For example, our state licensed, state-funded preschool has 48 3-4 year old students. Is that a “big enough” impact? The same facility also provides an after-school program for 350 K-12th grade students, but that program is state-funded even though it’s the same 20,000 sq ft facility.

There is not a minimum student population. This is a competitive process so small facilities will be more competitive with small budget proposals. Financial and co-benefits are scored by reviewers.

37. If we have a plan in place and have ordered materials could this project potentially reimburse us?

No expense outside the term of the grant will be reimbursed. Expenses are not eligible until a fully executed grant agreement is signed by the applicant and CAL FIRE.

38. If we have received some funds for a nature classroom from our city, but it is not enough to do everything we want to do, and construction/implementation will not start until Summer 2024, can we apply to these funds to support the other costs to the project that won't be covered by city-funded grant?

Probably yes, as long as the costs proposed are eligible and the applicant meets other requirements in the grant guidelines. Contributions should be fully described so that the requested CAL FIRE share is clear.

39. For how long is the monitoring post completion of the facility enhancement with the grants?

Evidence of adequate long-term care for all project trees must be shown in the grant application regardless of whether post-grant maintenance funding is requested. Post grant tree maintenance can be requested for up to three years after the grant expires.

40. If you are a current recipient of a school yard greening "planning grant" are you eligible for this implementation supplemental opportunity?

Yes

41. How much is the total grant value available?

\$200,000-\$6,000,000 per applicant and no more than \$1,000,000 per facility.

42. Is there a minimum or maximum square footage of the projects themselves. What type of play yard play equipment are able to be implemented in the grant project?

No minimum or maximum square footage is required. Play equipment is an eligible cost if it assists the students to enjoy the trees and natural aspects of the project. Play equipment's should not be the focus of the project.

43. Do you want actual proposals from contractors/vendors with the grant?

Proposals/quotes/estimates should be acquired to help you create your budget.

44. Based on the requirements this is for Licensed child care facilities. Could an unlicensed building out a new child facility apply?

A licensed non-profit childcare provider receiving government funding is an eligible applicant. The facility does not need to be owned by the provider, but a memorandum of understanding and copy of the lease would be needed from the facility owner.

45. Can this project involve several different areas in the child care facility? Or does it all have to be in one area. In our school we have several courtyards and a few smaller play areas.

Yes, it is encouraged to consider all child accessible areas.

46. We are a non-profit state funded child care after school on a school campus. Are we eligible to apply?

Maybe. This solicitation is not for after school care for K-12 students on public school campus. It is for non-profit child care facilities receiving government funding.

47. What is the Match % expected for the grant funding?

Applicants are encouraged to make a cost share (matching) contribution to the project at a recommended rate of 25% of the project budget. Matching contributions can be made with in-kind activities (e.g. staff or volunteer time) or materials related to the project, as well as with any State funding source related to the project that is not the same as the State source of funding awarded by CAL FIRE. Applicants must state in their application whether they will contribute matching dollars or request a waiver for any match contribution.

48. If we are a for profit center but receive state funding, do we qualify?

You must be a public child care facility or nonprofit child care facility receiving government funding.