

Grant Guidelines for Child Care Centers

Any child care center in Orleans Parish, whether non-profit or for-profit, is eligible to apply for an IMH Child Care Grant. To be considered, a center must meet the following requirements:

- have been open at least one year,
- have at least 30% of its children subsidized by DSS, and
- have attained at least one star from the Louisiana Quality Start Program.

IMH provides two types of child care grants, grants for materials and grants for curriculum and training. Eligible centers may apply for either type or for both.

I. Grants for Materials, Furniture, Equipment and Toys

- A center is eligible for a grant of up to \$100 for each licensed child care slot, but no more than \$10,000 total.
- All materials to be purchased with an IMH grant must be those determined to be appropriate by ITERS (Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale) or ECERS (Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale).
- IMH will give priority to the purchase of furniture, equipment, toys and materials that the center can demonstrate will improve its Quality Start rating.

II. Grants for Curriculum and Training

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for activities designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Purchase or add to a curriculum. A center may request funds to purchase curriculum materials and to train its staff in the use of the curriculum.
- Increase the knowledge of the center's staff. Centers may request funds to send staff members to conferences on early childhood development/education or to offer training to staff members on site. Any trainers that are being considered to conduct on-site trainings must have education and experience specific to young children. (Please note: IMH funds cannot be used to pay for training that is available through the Pathways Program.)

- Work with families. A center may apply for funds to offer special programming to involve families of children attending the center. For example, a center might sponsor a family literacy program to encourage reading more to children, or individual sessions on topics such as general parenting, the importance of talking to children, helping children cope with death and trauma, and so forth.

Please Call

Feel free to call Beverly Splane, Grants Manager, or Nancy Freeman, Executive Director, at (504) 566-1852 to ask questions or discuss program ideas you have for your center.

How to Apply

Please download the *Child Care Grant Application*, which includes instructions for applying.