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## Children's Investment Fund Newsletter

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*Children at Belchertown Day School celebrate Election Day.*

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Fall has come with many challenges for early education and out-of-school time providers, parents, and children. The provider community has risen to the challenge, as it always does, and has done its best to manage socially-distanced care, remote schooling, and the continued instability of operations.

We are pleased to announce funding to support capital needs faced by the early education sector in Massachusetts through a special [FY21 Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund round](#). As with the technical assistance initiative we created in the spring to help providers apply for the Paycheck Protection Program, we pivoted again to offer this important source of funding to best meet the health and safety needs of the field. Many thanks to our partners at the Department of Early Education and Care, the Executive Office of Education, and the Governor's office for allocating \$3.7M in capital bond funds this year through the EEOST Capital Fund, which has existed since 2013.

We are also happy to announce a change in leadership on our Board of Directors. Mike Lindstrom, Principal at StudioMLA Architects, is our new Board Chair. Amy O'Leary, Director of Strategies for Children's Early Education for All Campaign, is now Vice President of the Board. Many thanks to the venerable Peg Sprague for her years of service as Board Chair.

Wishing you a happy and healthy fall.

Best,



Theresa Jordan  
Director

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## Early Education and Out of School Time (EEOST) Capital Fund - FY21 Special Round

Funding is available for center-based nonprofit early education and out-of-school time organizations through the EEOST Capital Fund, with [this year's round](#) modified specifically to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Grants this year are smaller, between \$100,000 - \$250,000, and prioritize facility modifications that address health and safety issues facing programs throughout the state.

CIF surveyed early education and out-of-school time centers in July and found that, among responding nonprofit organizations,

- **90%** are making COVID-19-related modifications to their centers in order to meet Health & Safety Guidelines
- **43%** of responding centers do not have at least one sink in every classroom
- **42%** are operating with Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems that are outdated and/or not in good working condition
- **53%** lack laundry machines in their centers

Applications are due December 10, 2020. All materials are posted on [COMMBUYS](#). Applicants must be nonprofit, center-based organizations serving low-income children. The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and Children's Investment Fund are hosting two online information sessions:

[November 10th - view the recording here](#)

[November 16th, 6:30PM - 7:30PM](#)

For more information, email our team at [EEOST@childrensinvestmentfundma.org](mailto:EEOST@childrensinvestmentfundma.org).

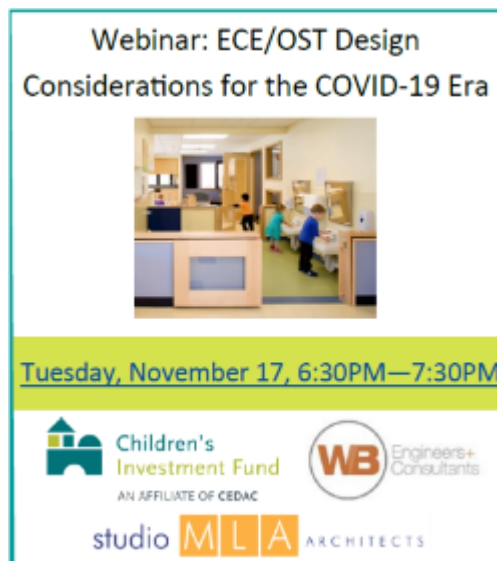
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## Webinar Trainings on Design Considerations for COVID-19

CIF is also hosting webinars this fall on facility design considerations for ECE/OST settings to address capital improvements related to the public health emergency. The first was offered on October 20th and a second will be held on [November 17th at 6:30PM](#).

The architectural firm [StudioMLA](#), founded by CIF Board Chair Mike Lindstrom, will share information about design modifications in child care space that address health and safety concerns during COVID-19. [WB Engineers + Consultants](#), an engineering firm with expertise in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC), will present on maximizing healthy, fresh air for children and staff.

To attend on November 17th, sign up [here](#)!



The poster features a central photograph of a bright, modern child care classroom with children at tables. Above the photo, the text reads "Webinar: ECE/OST Design Considerations for the COVID-19 Era". Below the photo, a green banner contains the date and time: "Tuesday, November 17, 6:30PM—7:30PM". At the bottom, logos for Children's Investment Fund (an affiliate of CEDAC), WB Engineers+Consultants, and studioMLA ARCHITECTS are displayed.

## Early Education and Out of School Time (EEOST) Capital Fund - FY20 Awards Announced

This week, EEC formally announced \$6.5M in grants awarded in the previous round of the EEOST Capital Fund (FY20). Read more about the seven grantees and their projects in [CEDAC's blog](#), [INSITES](#).

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### Small Business Grant Opportunity - Deadline 11/17

On October 22, Governor Baker announced a small business grant program in response to the economic impact of COVID-19. For-profit entities, including family child care businesses, are eligible to apply.

Small businesses with 5 or fewer employees are eligible for up to \$25K in grants, and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees are eligible for up to \$75K in grants. Details, including specific eligibility rules, can be found on the [Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation website](#).

LISC Boston and a coalition of partners is offering technical assistance in multiple languages to help businesses apply. [Click here](#) to request assistance.

The application deadline has been extended to **Tuesday, November 17 at 11:59PM**.

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### Project News:

#### Belchertown Day School

Belchertown's brand-new early education center opened in September. The [Belchertown Day School](#) (BDS) utilized an array of CIF financing and a \$1M EEOST grant to purchase property in a redeveloped area of Belchertown and construct a new building for its early education and out-of-school time programming. CIF began providing technical assistance in 2014 when BDS learned it would have to leave its previous site. BDS attended CIF's week-long Building Stronger Centers training that same year and benefited from predevelopment loans and grants to begin work with a real estate development team. In December 2019, BDS closed on \$1.98M in construction financing through a joint loan from CIF and BlueHub Capital.

The building has the capacity to serve 110 children, with 25% of the slots reserved for low-income families. Congrats to the families, children, and educators who have access to this beautiful, bright, and welcoming space!

Read more about the project in the [local news](#).



*Belchertown Day School's new center opened its doors to toddlers, preschoolers, and school-age children in September. CIF provided early-stage financing, a construction loan, and technical assistance throughout the over three years it took for the project to finish.*

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### Partnership News:

The federal Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund awarded Children's Investment Fund with a \$400,000 award in September-- the largest award CIF has received since it was certified in 2018.

CIF was one of [357 CDFIs in the country receiving a combined \\$187M](#) in funds in FY2020, but one of only a handful of CDFIs committed to the early education and out-of-school time sector.



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Children's Investment Fund was also awarded a [\\$100,000 grant from the Opportunity Finance Network \(OFN\)](#) through generous support from Morgan Stanley. This fall, CIF became a member of OFN, joining a network of CDFIs across the country. Check out our member profile [here!](#)



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### In the News:

Early Learning Nation includes [Children's Investment Fund as one of three promising solutions](#) for the nation in terms of improving early education facilities

[This video compilation](#) from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation features testimonies from early education providers throughout the nation highlighting their dedication to children despite the challenges of the pandemic

[Insufficient ventilation](#) challenges K-12 schools just as it does early education and out-of-school time centers.

The Bipartisan Policy Center blogs about the Paycheck Protection Program and the [vulnerability of many child care providers](#) as they enter the loan forgiveness phase.

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## Donate



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