

Children's Investment Fund Newsletter



Lt. Governor Karyn Polito talks with children at East Boston Social Centers during the July 20th announcement event for this year's EEOST Capital Fund awards.

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

We are hopeful this summer, as a groundswell of support for early childhood education and out-of-school time continues to grow. There's federal funding in the pipeline and the field is putting its best foot forward to envision a way to restructure and improve the financing and programmatic model for the sector.

In July, we were thrilled with the [Lt. Governor's announcement of this year's Early Education and Out of School Time \(EEOST\) Capital Fund awards](#) at East Boston Social Centers. Alongside CEDAC and EEC, we awarded \$7.5 million in capital funding to 36 child care organizations throughout the state. These grants are funding health and safety upgrades critical to the well-being of staff and children.

We look forward to the important discussions of the [Early Education and Care Economic Review Commission](#), a special legislative commission established in 2021 to consider and recommend opportunities to sustain the child care sector in Massachusetts. Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy designated Roger Herzog, CEDAC Executive Director, to serve on his behalf. We are grateful for the opportunity to provide input during this process and thank the Commission co-chairs Representative Alice Peisch and Senator Jason Lewis for their leadership of this effort.

Best,



Program News:

FY21 EEOST Capital Fund Awards

On July 20, [Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced \\$7.5 million in grants to 36 organizations](#) as part of the Early Education and Out of School Time (EEOST) Capital Fund's FY21 grant round. [East Boston Social Centers](#) hosted the event-- a grantee that received a \$227,000 award this year to upgrade its boiler system, install touchless plumbing fixtures, add an intercom system to facilitate social distancing, and complete other health and safety improvements at its Central Square site. EEC Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy spoke and accompanied the Lt. Governor on a tour of the facility. Watch a [recording of the press conference here](#).

In June, Governor Baker also released the [FY22 Capital Budget](#), which includes a \$4M allocation for the upcoming EEOST Capital Fund round (FY22), to launch this fall. Many thanks to the Baker-Polito Administration for its support of healthy learning environments for children!



EEC Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy at East Boston Social Centers for the announcement of the EEOST Capital Fund FY21 awards.



East Boston Social Centers Executive Director Justin Pasquariello offers opening remarks at the July 20th announcement event, followed by Lt. Governor Polito and EEC Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy.

CIF is Hiring!

CEDAC and Children's Investment Fund (CIF) seek a Project Manager to join a diverse team of twenty-five employees, including a three-member child care team. Please share with your networks and [read about the position here!](#) Responses are requested by September 13th, but earlier applications are strongly encouraged.

Facility Needs Survey - 2021

Many thanks to the provider community for responding to our annual Facility Needs Survey. The survey was targeted to non-profit, center-based programs in Massachusetts. While results are not necessarily representative of all providers in the state, we received important and timely feedback on current capital planning activities including:

- 60% of responding centers are still making COVID-19-related modifications to their spaces
- 59% are planning outdoor play space improvements and upgrades
- 42% of centers are still operating with a Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning system (HVAC) that is outdated and/or not in good working condition

The survey demonstrates a continued need for smaller-scale health and safety facility improvements. We use the results to inform our upcoming work and to communicate the physical infrastructure needs of the field to partners.

CIF Training for Providers

In May, we hosted two online workshops for a group of twelve organizations planning medium- to large-scale capital projects. [Felice Silverman](#), a design professional specializing in child care space, facilitated a workshop on best practices in design that arose from the COVID-19 pandemic. The [Interaction Institute for Social Change](#) facilitated the second workshop, focused on facilitative leadership for child care nonprofits.

Over the next year, we hope to return to our in-person [Building Stronger Centers](#) training, which is the 4-day intensive training we offer to early childhood education and out-of-school time programs planning major capital projects.

If you or anyone in your network is interested in technical assistance or training, please reach out to us at CIF@childrensinvestmentfundma.org.

Project News:

It has been a busy season for in-person and virtual project events. Three are highlighted below.

Horizons for Homeless Children

Horizons for Homeless Children hosted a virtual event on April 29th to celebrate the completion of its new, beautiful center in Roxbury that has the capacity to serve 225 children. The center received an EEOST Capital Fund award of \$1 million in 2019.

[We love this video](#) of teachers seeing the new space! Check out other videos on the [Horizons webpage](#) for the new building.



The new hands-on STEM room at the Edgerley Family Horizons Center, photo courtesy of studioMLA



One of the many playspaces on Horizons' terraces, photo courtesy of studioMLA

YWCA of Central Massachusetts

On June 23, YWCA of Central Massachusetts hosted a ribbon-cutting event to unveil its new \$24M renovation and celebrate the 30-year career of retiring Executive Director Linda Cavaioli. The downtown Worcester site renovated its early childhood education classrooms, increasing capacity and improving access to outdoor play space and natural light. The organization received an EEOST Capital Fund award of \$1 million in 2019.

The organization hired an all-women-led construction management team for the renovation. [Half of the construction workers were Worcester residents and 30% were people of color](#), exceeding the goals that the Y set out to achieve when it made a commitment to hiring diverse talent for the project. The YWCA sets a great example for other nonprofits striving to impact racial, gender, and economic equity by hiring women-owned and minority-owned businesses, which is also a central focus of CIF's and CEDAC's work.



The YWCA of Central Massachusetts' building in Worcester, which was renovated in 2019-2020 to improve its transitional housing units as well as its early childhood education and care center.

Cape Ann YMCA

On June 24, the Cape Ann YMCA celebrated its new Glenn T. McLeod YMCA in Gloucester. The newly-constructed building features an early childhood education program for up to 64 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, doubling the Y's capacity to serve young children from its previous site.

EEC Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy spoke and toured the facility. The center received an EEOST Capital Fund award of \$1 million in 2019.



Commissioner Aigner-Treworgy speaking at the event, with the Y's new splashpad in the background.



One of the Cape Ann YMCA's five new classrooms.

Partnership News:

In June, we received good news from the U.S. Treasury Department's CDFI Fund. At a White House event, Vice-President Harris announced that [\\$1.25 billion in COVID relief funds through the CDFI Rapid Response Program](#) were awarded to 863 CDFI's and Minority Depository Institutions. CIF applied for and received a \$580,000 grant that will be used for technical assistance activities and lending over two years.



We were also pleased to receive contributions this year from the Rockland Trust - Blue Hills Charitable Foundation (\$15,000) and the People's United Bank Foundation (\$5,000). We are grateful for this local support!



Blue Hills Charitable Foundation



In the News:

[WBUR](#) recaps the Lt. Governor's announcement of \$7.5 million in capital funding for Massachusetts providers

The National Children's Facilities Network, CLASP, and several other partners released [a brief on using federal relief dollars for child care facility needs](#)

CommonWealth Magazine discusses the [Early Education and Care Economic Review Commission in Massachusetts](#), on which CEDAC Executive Director Roger Herzog serves

Linda Smith of the Bipartisan Policy Center continues to raise the issue of [facility investment](#) nationally. [This BPC report](#) on quality standards for early childhood education facilities is worth checking out!

CIF Board member Leslie Reid is profiled by [NeighborWorks America](#)

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