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Children's Investment Fund (CIF) Releases Report on *Building Quality* Capital Fund, Highlights Importance of Investing in Child Care Facilities

Recommends increased funding, training, and integration of best practices to ensure high-quality environments for children

BOSTON (September 30, 2021) – Today, the Children's Investment Fund (CIF), an affiliate of the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC), released its report, [*Building Quality: Transforming Early Learning Environments in Massachusetts*](#). The report reflects on the organization's 30 years of work and highlights the Early Education and Out of School Time (EEOST) Capital Fund, which the report re-brands as the *Building Quality* Capital Fund. The Capital Fund was created in 2013 through the state's Housing Bond Bill and is co-managed by the Department of Early Education and Care and CIF. Since its inception, the *Building Quality* Capital Fund has invested a total of \$39.2M in dozens of child care facilities across Massachusetts, including \$7.5M in [additional grants announced this summer](#) to address emergency, COVID-related needs.

The nation's child care system has lacked adequate funding for decades. The sector's infrastructure has suffered, as evidenced by a 2011 report by Children's Investment Fund, which found that many centers struggle with challenges like poor indoor air quality and a lack of sinks in classrooms for handwashing. The *Building Quality* Capital Fund was created to address these challenges and has improved learning environments for over 9,000 children, more than 80 percent of whom live in low-income households.

"We are incredibly proud of the changes we have been able to bring to child care centers throughout Massachusetts, especially through the *Building Quality* Capital Fund," said Theresa Jordan, Children's Investment Fund's director. "We will continue to support these organizations with funding, resources, and training as they strive to update and enrich their centers. Now more than ever, we know that investing in child care is essential to ensuring safe, healthy environments for children."

Over the past three decades, CIF has become a training and technical assistance partner to support child care centers focused on quality, not just expansion. In that time, 577 facility projects for which CIF has provided funding and technical assistance have been completed,

32,000 early education/afterschool child care slots have been created or improved, and \$80 million has been provided in loans allowing for \$170 million in additional public and private funding. Based on experience and research, CIF has learned that teacher-child interactions increase when buildings incorporate spacious classrooms, a bathroom in each room, natural light, indoor and outdoor play areas, and proper ventilation.

Looking ahead, CIF is supportive of providing opportunities for focused and sustained investments. CIF recommends increasing federal and state capital financing for child care programs, pairing funding with technical assistance and training, promoting flexible design based on the needs of families and providers, and promoting best practices for high-quality environments through policy change.

“High-quality child care is vital to the economy, which has never been more apparent than it is now in the wake of the COVID pandemic,” said Roger Herzog, CEDAC’s executive director. “CIF continues to push the envelope, raising the bar for standards and supporting organizations as they seek to revitalize their spaces and provide high-quality learning environments for children. In 30 years, they have already made an incredible mark on the Commonwealth, helping to improve the physical infrastructure for child care.”

To view the full *Building Quality: Transforming Early Learning Environments in Massachusetts*, visit: https://cedac.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/CIF_Report_spreads.pdf.

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About CEDAC

CEDAC is a public-private community development finance institution that provides financial resources and technical expertise for community-based and other non-profit organizations engaged in effective community development in Massachusetts. CEDAC’s work supports two key building blocks of community development: affordable housing and early care and education. CEDAC is also active in state and national housing preservation policy research and development and is widely recognized as a leader in the non-profit community development industry. For additional information on CEDAC and its current projects, please visit www.cedac.org.

About Children’s Investment Fund

Children’s Investment Fund’s (CIF) mission is to improve the quality of and expand access to early childhood education and out-of-school-time programs for children from low- and moderate-income families. In order to broaden the impact of its work, CIF also seeks to support affordable housing for low-income families through place-based, two-generation, and other strategies that result in safer, healthier, and more stable environments in which to raise young children. The organization is affiliated with the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC). For additional information on CIF, please visit www.cedac.org/cif.