

Children's Investment Fund Newsletter



A classroom at the newly-renovated Barnes School operated by the East Boston Social Centers has wave-shaped acoustic tiles in the toddler classroom to help to buffer sound and diffuse light throughout the space. Poor acoustics in classrooms (due to high ceilings) can make it difficult for young children to hear each other and their educators, at a time when their language skills are rapidly developing. (Photo: Lynne Damianos)

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

It is a challenging time for the early childhood education and out-of-school time field, with winter viruses surging and continued staffing challenges. Programs are doing their best to provide safe, healthy care and they deserve well-designed buildings that support their educational goals. We know that many child care buildings in the state lack adequate heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, which are critical to the well-being of children and staff. Since 2021, we have supported 26 HVAC-related improvement projects with \$5.4 million in funding, thanks to the Early Education and Out of School Time Capital Fund. We hope to fund more projects like these in the current FY23 round. Applications were due December 8th and we are busy reviewing the projects and preparing our recommendations.

Wishing you a healthy and productive new year!

Best,



Theresa Jordan
Director



Program News:

FY23 EEOST Capital Fund Round

Applications for the upcoming [Early Education and Out of School Time \(EEOST\) Capital Fund](#) round were due on December 8th. The EEOST Capital Fund is a competitive capital grant program for non-profit, center-based programs in Massachusetts. This year, there is over \$6 million available to award -- the largest annual amount in the program's history. Grants between \$200,000 and \$500,000 will be awarded by the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) by the summer.

Looking to improve your facility?

Children's Investment Fund can help you along your journey to renovate space, newly construct a building or addition, and/or acquire property. CIF offers financing, training, and technical assistance to support the creation of high-quality educational space.

We will be offering our signature training called [Building Stronger Centers](#) from May 22 - 25, 2023. Reach out to Theresa Jordan by emailing tjordan@childrensinvestmentfundma.org if you'd like to learn more.

Project News and Events:

South Shore Stars

In October, South Shore Stars [broke ground](#) on an outdoor play space improvement project in Randolph. The FY22 EEOST Capital Fund round awarded the organization \$250,000 to fully renovate an outdoor play area currently used by 73 children. Today, there are two separate outdoor play areas with a sparse amount of play equipment. Stars plans to join the two into one larger 8,000 square-foot natural playground that will incorporate local history of the indigenous Massachusetts Ponkapoag people. The space will honor Ponkapoag storytelling traditions and agricultural practices through its garden and dramatic play features.

The new space will include new shade structures and lighting, storage, various new kinds of hard and soft surfacing, and different areas including water play, dramatic play, raised planters, fruit trees, science areas, places to climb, a "fossil dig" area, and places to ride trikes. All areas are designed to be fully-accessible and inclusive for persons with disabilities and special needs. The new space will allow Stars to use its outdoor area much more intensively than it currently does, which will be beneficial especially during continued COVID-era precautions.

Congratulations to South Shore Stars!



South Shore Stars Executive Director Jennifer Curtis, CIF's Theresa Jordan, Representative William Driscoll, and Senator Walter Timilty participate in the groundbreaking celebration with children from the South Shore Stars program in Randolph.

Roxbury YMCA

On January 12, the YMCA of Greater Boston hosted its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast at the Roxbury YMCA, followed by a ribbon cutting celebrating a new outdoor pavilion funded by the EEOST Capital Fund. A \$221,000 EEOST Capital Fund grant enabled the Roxbury YMCA to create a new outdoor pavilion that will allow for additional learning space year-round. It also helped fund the replacement of four inoperable windows, new HVAC rooftop units, and new sound-dampening acoustic tiles in one pre-k classroom.

Celebrating these important facility improvements as part of the annual breakfast highlighted the role of the built environment in racial justice and educational equity in Boston. Every young child in the city deserves access to outdoor space, clean air, and nurturing educational facilities. Children's Investment Fund is proud to be a partner of the YMCA of Greater Boston and so many other organizations that provide high-quality spaces for children.



CIF's Theresa Jordan and Department of Early Education and Care Commissioner Amy Kershaw join the Roxbury YMCA team, children, and Reverend Dr. Willie Bodrick II for the ribbon cutting event.



A Roxbury YMCA preschooler participates in the ribbon cutting.

In the News:

A new look at [Rethinking Outdoor Space for High-Quality Early Learning](#) from New America

An interview with Eliot Haspel about climate change and early ed - [Early Childhood and Climate Change Are Connected in More Ways Than You Might Think](#)

A [new paper](#) on conducting nation-wide facilities needs assessments

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