

Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation



Building Environments That
Enhance Program Quality

Spring 2023

Children's Investment Fund Newsletter



*A renovated classroom at the Monument Square Center run by the Child Care of the Berkshires
(Photo: ©Damianos Photography)*

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

It is a promising time for early childhood education and care in Massachusetts, with meaningful funding increases proposed in the FY24 state budget. The increasing recognition of child care as a critical industry has kept it in the national conversation as well, although much more funding and attention are needed.

Not surprisingly, [other cities and states](#) are grappling with insufficient infrastructure for child care as we are. Project by project, we continue to ensure that more programs in Massachusetts operate out of high-quality, safe, and healthy facilities. In the calendar year 2022, we brought 26 projects to completion, impacting 3,000 children and 477 educators who work in these centers daily.

Thanks for your ongoing partnership!

Best,



Theresa Jordan
Director



Program News:

CDFI Fund "Equitable Recovery Program" Grant

On April 10th, the U.S. Treasury Department's CDFI Fund [awarded \\$986,991](#) to Children's Investment Fund as part of its Equitable Recovery Program. This program marks the first time in recent history that the CDFI Fund awarded funding to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) like CIF to be used as grants and not loan capital.

This funding will enable CIF to provide grants to early education and out-of-school time organizations experiencing funding gaps in their capital projects. We are excited to bring federal funding to Massachusetts for child care facilities through an innovative source and we thank the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation for supporting this important program.

Building Stronger Centers

In May, Children's Investment Fund hosted its signature training called the [Building Stronger Centers](#) Training Institute for early education and out-of-school time organizations planning major capital development projects. The training took place at the Wylie Conference Center at Endicott College and had not been held since 2018.

Twenty-five individuals from eight organizations attended four days of intensive workshops on facilitative leadership, capital financing, and high-quality design. The week ended with a trip to the Beverly Children's Learning Center to tour a successful renovation in person.



Executive Director Javier Bristol and Program Director Jessi Feiner of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Haverhill present their capital project concept to Adam Collier and Andy Hinterman of DW Arthur Associates Architecture during the training's "Design Charrette" event.



The CIF team outside of the Wylie Conference Center: Theresa Jordan, Amy O'Leary (CIF Board President), Kira Wilke, Bree Horwitz, and Cheyenne Griffin.

CEDAC Annual Report

Check out CEDAC's [2022 Annual Report](#), which features several Children's Investment Fund projects. The Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC) has been CIF's affiliate since 1997.



The Hattie B. Cooper Community Center's new vestibule, one of the projects funded by the EEOST Capital Fund and highlighted in CEDAC's 2022 Annual Report. (Photo: ©Damianos Photography)

Making Space Matter

Children's Investment Fund is a founding member of the [National Children's Facilities Network \(NCFN\)](#), a coalition of over 80 organizations focused on improving children's learning environments.

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and NCFN recently launched the "[Making Space Matter](#)" report on the importance of facility investment and a toolkit for partners interested in the work. Children's Investment Fund's Theresa Jordan and CIF board member Mike Lindstrom's firm, studio MLA Architects, are quoted in the report.

Project News:

Berkshire Family YMCA

On May 22nd, the Berkshire Family YMCA celebrated a ribbon cutting for the Pittsfield YMCA, an event attended by many dignitaries including Senator Ed Markey, Congressman Richard Neal, and EEC Commissioner Amy Kershaw. Expanding and improving child care services within the building was a driving factor for the \$12M renovation, and the organization received a \$1M EEOST Capital Grant in 2020. Read more about the event [here](#).



State Representative Farley Bouvier introduces EEC Commissioner Amy Kershaw at the Pittsfield YMCA's ribbon cutting event. (Photo Credit: iBerkshires.com)

Partner News:

Community Capital Fund

The Klarman Family Foundation has been a steadfast supporter of the Children's Investment Fund for over a decade. The foundation has just announced a new funding source for capital improvement projects for nonprofits.

The [Community Capital Fund](#) is a competitive grant program that will support discrete funding needs related to facilities and open space. Funding will be prioritized for projects located in or significantly engaging residents in the following Boston neighborhoods: Dorchester, East Boston, Mattapan, Roxbury, or the following cities: Brockton, Lynn, or Springfield. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and grant decisions will be made two times a year.

In the News

Strategies for Children profiles CIF and CEDAC board member [Sharon Scott-Chandler](#).

The impact of climate change on the child care sector is highlighted in several recent articles:

- [Flood Risks in NYC's Child Care System](#)
- [An Overlooked Climate Solution? Greener Playgrounds](#)
- [Planning for Resilient Early Care and Education: Addressing Climate Vulnerabilities](#)

Oregon is providing [child care subsidies to construction workers](#) in order to attract and retain talent.

Harvard Center on the Developing Child released a report called [Place Matters](#).

A [study](#) finds that poor ventilation in classrooms in the Netherlands is associated with lower student academic performance.

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