



ARPA Webinar Q&A

The questions and answers below are derived from the ELC Big Bend provider webinar, held on November 20, 2023. Please refer to the webinar presentation for more information regarding each grant and eligibility criteria. Once we obtain additional guidance regarding questions that have “DEL Inquiry” next to the answers, we will communicate them.

Q: If we are "adding" a curriculum and not replacing it, do we still need to amend our contract?

A: Yes, adding curriculums will require an amendment. Please contact Provider Relations to amend, providerrelations@elcbigbend.org

Q: Is there a minimum/maximum dollar amount that we can request [for the Curriculum grant]?

A: No; grants will be approved based on the curriculum chosen, and they vary in price. Please note: curriculums cited in the application must be an approved DEL curriculum. [You can view the full list by clicking here.](#)

Q: What is the months reimbursement for?

A: For the Curriculum Reimbursement, purchases are covered by the program between April 1, 2023 - December 8, 2023.

For the Curriculum Mini-Grant, if the curriculum comes with a subscription, programs can request up to two years of subscriptions with their purchase.

Q: The class has to be taken after July 1, 2023 or the person has to be HIRED after July 1, 2023?

A: Eligible staff must be hired on or after July 01, 2023 and taken a course after July 1, 2023 for funding.

Q: Is there anything in the portal that would stop the employee from skipping the director and signing it themselves?

A: The system will not allow staff to submit without a signature from their director. In addition to the signature, we require all staff to have a Verification of Employment for approval.

Q: We have an employee that was hired in November 2022. The employee recently completed all of the 45 hours training requirements. Would this employee be eligible for the retain bonus?

A: if the staff did not receive a Retain stipend last fiscal year, we will review the application and make the determination for approval.



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Q: [Expanding Child Care Grant] - 2nd locations also included?

A: Yes, however, it has to be a completely new center. The funding allocated for the Increase/Build the Supply of Child Care program is intended to cover the start-up costs of a brand new child care facility. It is important to note that existing child care providers are not eligible for this funding, and neither are providers who relocated to a new address.

If a child care center continues to operate under the same name and tax ID number, but with a change in address, it will be considered a “move” rather than a new childcare center for the Early Learning Coalition.

Q: If your a license home child care center can you still apply for grants?

A: Yes, all ELC Big Bend contracted child care providers can apply to grants applicable to them and their staff.

Q: If employee was hired prior to July 1 but completed classes after July 1?

A: Yes. This staff may apply for stipends under the Workforce Initiatives.

Q: If you were a previous recipient of the workforce initiatives but did not receive anything for the CLASS bonuses, would you qualify this round if they take the classes.

A. As long as you did not receive funding for the CLASS bonuses in program year 2022-23, you can apply.

Q: For field trips, do they have to be offsite?

A: No, field trips can also be offered on-site.

Q: What would be examples beyond a generator that would fall under safety equipment and materials to prepare for a Natural Disaster?

A: Additional items may include tarps, first aid kits, gloves, battery-operated/solar/hand-crank radios, batteries, wind-resistant aluminum shutters for windows, etc. Non-perishable food and water do not qualify.

Q. Just asking, can old employees still get paid for the classroom courses through Kathy?

A. Yes. Staff may apply and receive a stipend for courses that have not been previously completed.



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Q: Is there a grant for those impacted by the latest hurricane?

A: Yes. If you wish to be considered for funding, you must complete the application provided [here](#). Please note that all funding has been prioritized for providers who completed the survey and have demonstrated an immediate need for financial support. For your application to be considered for approval, you must submit images, quotes, invoices, and any other supporting documentation for processing. Please be aware that due to limited funding, the ELC may not be able to provide the full amount requested.

Q: If a teacher applied for the workforce grants earlier this year but was denied for certain classes can they go back and apply and get accepted now.

A: If the staff did not receive a stipend last fiscal year, but meets the criteria this year, ELC Big Bend will review the application and make the determination for approval.

Q: For the mini grants for start ups, can this include existing contracted providers that add a new classroom and increase their capacity?

A: No. The funding allocated for the Increase/Build the Supply of Child Care program is intended to cover the start-up costs of a brand new child care facility. It is important to note that existing child care providers are not eligible for this funding, and neither are providers who relocated to a new address. This provider will benefit from applying for the “Equipment/Supply” mini-grant found in the provider’s Webauthor portal.

Q: Can we apply for this material grant if we applied and received the mini material and technology grant a few months ago? And are these available for registered home daycares.

A: Yes; all ELC Big Bend contracted SR/VPK child care facilities are eligible to participate in this funding opportunity.

Q: Due to conference reimbursement being limited to 50 [recipients], should we seek pre-approval prior to registration?

A: Yes. If you would like to receive funding for Conference reimbursements, please submit your application as soon as possible for review and approval.



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Q: If I am in the middle of moving to a new location and go ahead and apply will I still receive funds

A: Yes. If your program is moving and your contract is not terminated for cause, you are still eligible for funding. If you are going to be closed for an extended period of time, applications are subject to denial.

Q: Please resend the info regarding the relief for those impacted by the latest hurricane to all providers in those impacted areas. The providers that I know of have not received the email previously mentioned. Thank you

A: Yes. If you wish to be considered for funding, you must complete the application provided [here](#). Please note that all funding has been prioritized for providers who completed the survey and have demonstrated an immediate need for financial support. For your application to be considered for approval, you must submit images, quotes, invoices, and any other supporting documentation for processing. Please be aware that due to limited funding, the ELC may not be able to provide the full amount requested.

Q: For the conference grant, what is the daily meal allowance and mileage allowance

A: Travel Expenses are approved on a case-by-case scenario, not all meals will be reimbursed. ELC has a process in place to ensure reimbursements do not exceed allowable amounts.

Q: Can providers purchase from two different curricula publishers?

A: Yes, as long as it is a curriculum that is on the DEL approved list.

Q: Can a center purchase additional copies and resources to their current curriculum?

A: Yes, as long as it is a curriculum that is on the DEL approved list.

Q. What is the min and max that can be awarded for each application?

A. The amounts vary by each grant available. If the applicant meets the criteria of the grant, the applicant may receive the amount approved.



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Q: Since a fence can serve various purposes to assist in the case of a natural disaster, providing both proactive and reactive benefits. We are looking to install a fence which should fall under the Natural Disaster criteria.

Windbreak and Debris Control:

A sturdy fence can act as a windbreak, helping to reduce the impact of strong winds on the property during a storm or hurricane.

It can also help control debris, preventing loose objects from becoming projectiles that can cause damage during high winds, and prevent objects from entering the yard.

Also, a fence can help in controlling access to our property, which is essential during emergencies; it will and can prevent looting or unauthorized entry during evacuation periods too.

A: Funding can be used to cover any payments made for the space where the program is located. These can be related to rent or mortgage costs, maintenance, or minor improvements to the facility.

Q: Do you have to spend the money first and get reimbursed or can we get funding before hand and then contract and get the equipment

A: ELC is offering mini-grants for Equipment/Supplies. If you wish to apply, please provide quotes and justifications for purchase inside your application for review/approval. Receipts are required after funding is received.

Q: Are there any resources for retention for our long term employees?

A: Yes. Eligible staff may apply for Retain bonuses, as long as they did not received a stipend in the 22-23 Building a World Class grant. Staff may also apply for ELC Distance Learning stipends.

Q: So if a classroom participates in a WFSU PBS KIDS Family and Community Learning Workshop, books and supplies can be reimbursed?

<https://florida.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/ready-to-learn/home/>

A: Funds may be used for reimbursements to provide resources and materials to families, providers, and educators to support this initiative.

Q: Could [Supplies Grant] be used on playground equipment?

A: Yes. Playground equipment is allowable.



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Q: Can this be used to expand our capacity, ie adding a new building/classrooms?

A: No. The funding allocated for the Increase/Build the Supply of Child Care program is intended to cover the start-up costs of a brand new child care facility. It is important to note that existing child care providers are not eligible for this funding, and neither are providers who relocated to a new address. This provider will benefit from applying for the “Equipment/Supply” mini-grant found in the provider’s Webauthor portal.

Q: Is there an approved list for field trip locations that can be reimbursed? Or can centers/schools select on their own?

A: Providers may submit a request for prior approval to determine if the requested field trip would be allowable.

Q: Again, can we apply for the 10.000 equipment grant before we make the purchase as long as we provide proof of purchase after we get the funding?

A: Yes. ELC is offering mini-grants for Equipment/Supplies. If you wish to apply, please provide invoices and justifications for purchase inside your application for review/approval. Receipts are required after funding is received.

Q: Would you be able to repair a fence with the Playground equipment grant if it is the fence on the playground?

A: Funding can be used to cover any payments made for the space where the program is located. These can be related to rent or mortgage costs, maintenance, or minor improvements to the facility.

Q: We currently have FunShine, how far back can we apply for funding and for how long can we receive funding.

A: You can apply to April 1, 2023, and then up to 2-year subscription, but all curriculums must be purchased by December 15, 2023.

Q: Can you get the funding for a new center when you are having a owner change with a new co name?

A: No. The funding allocated for the Increase/Build the Supply of Child Care program is intended to cover the start-up costs of a brand new child care facility. It is important to note that existing child care providers are not eligible for this funding, and neither are providers who relocated to a new address. This provider will benefit from applying for the “Equipment/Supply” mini-grant found in the provider’s Webauthor portal.



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Q: We did some repairs to our playground fence, but if we want to totally replace the fence this time, can we use part of the \$10,000 to totally replace the fence? We did some repairs. but ideally we would like to replace it

A: Funding can be used to cover any payments made for the space where the program is located. These can be related to rent or mortgage costs, maintenance, or minor improvements to the facility.

Q: Is there any new grants for our teachers besides the [professional development] one?

A: No, not at this time. Please continue to monitor our website for future funding opportunities.

Q: For the curriculum application, what is the max that can be awarded?

A: Grants will be approved based on the curriculum chosen, and they vary in price. Please note: curriculums cited in the application must be an approved DEL curriculum. [You can view the full list by clicking here.](#) Funding is provided on a first-come, first-served basis and will be awarded to eligible applicants until depleted.

Q: If you were a previous recipient but not for things like the CLASS bonuses, can you qualify for those stipends if you take them this year?

A: Yes, you can apply this year as long as it is not for the same grant(s) you received in program year 2022-23.

Q: When will funding be available?

A: ELC Funding for the 23-24 fiscal year has started and will continue through June 2024. Approved applicants will receive an email alerting them of anticipated funding. Applicants can check the status of their applications for any grant by visiting their WebAuthor account.



Early Learning
Coalition of the
Big Bend Region

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