



# **MONTANA EARLY CHILDHOOD ACCOUNT BOARD QUALITY INCENTIVE: INFANT AND TODDLER CAPACITY EXPANSION GRANT**

## **PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE**

The Quality Incentives Subcommittee recommends establishing an Infant and Toddler Capacity Expansion Grant to increase access to licensed infant and toddler care across Montana. The project would support providers in meeting infant and toddler state licensing standards while reducing barriers related to facility readiness, and program stabilization.

Applications will be submitted and awarded through the Submittable platform on a first-come, first-served basis until all funds are awarded. The maximum award amount is \$10,000 per provider.

## **EXPECTED IMPACT**

This investment is expected to increase Montana's infant and toddler care capacity by reducing start-up costs, supporting new providers through licensing requirements, and expanding access to quality care for families with young children.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Eligible applicants include:

- Currently licensed child care providers seeking to expand infant and toddler capacity.
- Existing providers converting classrooms to infant and toddler care.
- New child care programs establishing infant and toddler services.
- Non-licensed infant and toddler providers who demonstrate willingness and documentation of intent to become licensed by the state.

## **ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS**

Grant funds may be used for start-up, conversion, and expansion costs necessary to establish or increase infant and toddler care capacity. Funds will be used for asset investments only. Allowable uses include:

- **Sleep Area:** Cribs, crib mattresses, and crib sheets
- **Diapering Area:** Changing tables, diaper storage, diaper pails, sanitation supplies, and dispensers
- **Feeding Area:** Highchairs, small feeding tables, bottle warmers, mini fridge, and storage bins



- **Play and Development:** Soft floor mats, activity centers, toys and sensory items, bouncers and swings, wall mirrors
- **Safety and Setup:** Safety gates, childproofing supplies, lockable storage, and air purifiers
- **Storage:** Low shelving, cubbies, and organization supplies
- **Miscellaneous Program Needs:** Cleaning supplies and set-up materials, and staff seating (Rocking chair or glider)