**Would roof replacement be allowable?**

DHS would consider this request as a health and safety need. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate.

**Is moving to a bigger place to establish a bigger daycare possible?**

Yes

**We have tile floors that need replaced due to cracking in the floors and not able to be waxed anymore. Can we use this DHS grant for the replacement of the floors with new?**

DHS would consider this request as a health and safety need. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate.

**Would grading the back yard and retaining wall be covered?**

This would not be covered under DHS funding. This could potentially be considered with the IWD matching funding, however a question would be whether this provides the opportunity for expanded child care slots, as this is the priority for the funds.

**What about architecture expenses?**

This is not an allowable expenditure under DHS. This is an allowable cost under the IWD matching grant.

**Please provide a definition of an approved feasibility study?**

While there is not a formal definition of a feasibility study, key features of a feasibility study include assessment of current community need for child care compared to current child care options in the community to determine if a new child care program will be viable. Important points to consider when assessing current need include what ages of children need care and what types of care do families in the community prefer to use.

**Will the DHS portion be similar to the IICC with the 35% reimbursement rate for Child Development Home Providers?**

For items not fully dedicated to the child care space, a 35% reimbursement rate would be applied.

**Is there a format for the budget worksheet portion of the application and what must be included?**

There is an excel budget template on the grant website and provided in Iowagrants.gov.

**We need to take out plastered walls and replaced with dry wall, so somewhat minor remodeling in the play area.**

DHS would consider this request as a health and safety need. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate.

**Can playgrounds or the purchase of transportation by covered by either?**

If the playground is related to health and safety needs, DHS may consider this an allowable expense. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate.

Transportation expenses may be covered if it increases capacity of children served or maintains your ability to maintain current operations.

**Can land donation be used as matching value/funds?**

Yes, however matching in kind donations need to be a reasonably-related timeline.

**Does this cover parking lot if you need to expand?**

This is not an allowable expense under DHS funds. This is an allowable expense under the IWD matching grant.

**If you have applied previously can I copy the same application for the narrative information and update the amounts needed?**

No

**What about replacing doors and windows for new handicap accessible**

Yes

**Does any of this cover any cost of low income because your state pay is so high and I had to increase employee pay to keep them?**

Ongoing operational expenses is not an allowable expense

**My foundation wall is cracked and needs replaced, will that be covered?**

This likely falls under “major renovation” and not eligible under DHS. The IWD matching grant can cover major renovation if related to the expansion of child care slots.

**Breaking ground on a new facility in the spring but won’t be done and open to finish licensing until fall. Can I still use these grants even though my license won’t be approved until after July 15th?**

Yes that is a possibility.

**Replacing a driveway?**

Driveway replacement would not be an eligible expense however driveway repair could be considered if it was related to a health and safety need. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate. This is an eligible expense under the IWD matching grant if it relates to increasing childcare slots.

**What “program of interest” do I select when registering on Iowagrants.gov**

Future Ready Iowa

**If we are doing an addition and large-scale renovation, can we request some expenses from DHS (i.e. fire alarm, appliances) and construction from IWD?**

Yes

**If we want to update our rooms and get a playground would this be covered by the grant?**

Grant eligibility is related to increasing the number of children to be served or a health and safety need that impacts your ability to safely operate.

**Do we have to own the space being remodeled to qualify for the funding?**

No

**Can we apply for help on a loan for an existing project as well as health and safety furniture for existing/new center? Can we apply for both of these on the same grant application?**

DHS funding cannot be used for loan payoff however program may be eligible for equipment for the facility. Yes you can apply for both on the same application.

**If I operate multiple programs under one company, do I need to submit different applications for each location or just one application overall?**

One application if you can clearly define and separate distinct center needs. Either is fine.

**I have a current retaining wall that needs to be replaced for safety of our playground area, would these be covered.**

DHS would consider this request as a health and safety need. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate.

**Can I pay 50% of purchase a ADA vehicle for school/field trip transportation and receive reimbursement for the other 50%?**

No, because the 50% must be spent before the matching funds can be added.

DHS funding may be used for a vehicle to take children to and from school and may reimburse a portion of the amount if related to increasing the capacity of children served.

**Can you save the grant application on the website and come back to it later before submitting it?**

Yes

**As a child care home in a community I believe is a child care desert, how many employers do we need to partner with Child Care Challenge?**

One

**How do we contact any of you?**

Iowa DHS: [rpage@dhs.state.ia.us](mailto:rpage@dhs.state.ia.us):

IWD Kathy.legggett@iwd.iowa.gov

**Can you make the grant budget form PDF fillable please?**

In Iowagrants.gov you will find a fillable budget template, please contact [Kathy.leggett@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:Kathy.leggett@iwd.iowa.gov) if you cannot locate it.

**Can a building or land count as the match for the IWD funds?**

Documentation of the purchase or donation of a building or land within the grant timeline can be used as a match.

**On the budget spreadsheet Column E, is this an amount or type of funds, IWD or DHS?**

Amount

**Can the DHS grant be used to replace unsafe center playground fencing? Replace unsafe center parking lot?**

DHS would consider this request as a health and safety need. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate. Parking lot repair may be an allowable expense.

**Can we purchase property for our licensed child care that is also used by a homeschool co-op that we are affiliated with?**

No, not if the property that would be used with the daycare would also be used for other purposes.

**We have a current center with an unfinished basement. It will need a separate entrance and egress windows, is that eligible for DHS funding?**

Entrance and egress windows may be an allowable expense, however completion of the unfinished basement would not by covered by DHS funds. If completion of the basement will increase the capacity of child care slots this would be eligible under the IWD matching grant.

**If you are an in-home provider and looking to move into a center to expand business, which grant would you think was best?**

You are encouraged to apply for either or both grants if you feel you are eligible

**Would a permanent shade structure for a playground be allowed for DHS grant.**

DHS would consider this request as a health and safety need. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate.

**If we are planning an outdoor space, are there things that are not covered? We have no equipment at the moment.**

DHS funding could cover a majority of outdoor equipment that is developmentally appropriate for the children served. If not related to expansion, DHS would consider this request as a health and safety need. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate.

**Your slides used the phrase private/employer. Does that mean the private partners in the consortium, would they fill the role of a private entity?**

Yes

**As an in-home day care provider, what would my options for being able to purchase transportation for my school age kids? I am the only one running this daycare and all kids are preschool age and older.**

Vehicle costs are not an eligible expense for child development homes.

**DHS said that health and safety is a priority right? Can we put in a new play surface to increase the safety of our childcare students? This will not necessarily increase slots.**

DHS would consider this request as a health and safety need. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate.

**What is a private match? Can we use our own savings?**

The private match is private dollars or documented in-kind expense that will be put into the project. Yes you can use your own savings.

**Adding a bathroom and small kitchen to basement where the play area is?**

If this does not require major renovation and is related to increasing available capacity, DHS may consider this as an approved expenditure.

**Would Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) funds from local ECI board be eligible match?**

The IWD required match cannot be state or federal dollars.

**Does adding bathrooms in classes to ensure health and safety considered allowable?**

DHS would consider this request as a health and safety need. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate.

**If the local match contributions are mostly in-kind, how do you show that those private matches have been spent before requesting state funding?**

If awarded the awardee must turn in documentation from those companies providing in-kind work that documents the value they assign to the work and that the work has been completed.

**How can a child development home indicate they have 1500 square feet of exclusive space of child care for the DHS portion?**

There is no requirement in this grant application that indicates this need.

**I purchased a small home to turn into a center but it needs an additional space added. Is this allowed?**

Major renovation is not allowed with DHS funding. This is allowable under the IWD matching grant if it increases child care slot capacity.

**Do we need to have everything set in stone prior to application? Cost, estimates, etc?**

Provide estimates to the best of your ability at the time. These are not expected to be exact.

**I have 2 large display areas in the front of the child care. By turning it into useable space, I could add more children. I do not have matching funds? How can I do this?**

This depends on how the space must be transformed to be usable. If minor, DHS funds may be applied for.

**If we are adding on to increase our capacity, will the DHS fund application be okay if we are in the process of building?**

DHS will consider applications received, however before funding can be dispersed, a program must be actively licensed or registered or in the process of completion.

**We use shelving to divide classroom areas, if we put up non-load bearing walls, would this be covered by DHS?**

The request would have to be tied to health and safety needs or expansion of capacity

**We own a facility and would like to build a new facility. Can we apply for health and safety category for our existing and for new construction for the new at the same time? Can we submit one application for work in both our existing and new facilities?**

If the intent is to move to the new location, DHS would consider this one funding opportunity with a maximum allowance of $750,000. Funding for health and safety must be an immediate need to consider funding if the program is moving in the near future.

If the intent is to open a second location, these would be two separate applications.

**You want employers partnerships for this funding so going to our Development Corp be the logical partnerships?**

Yes

**Can I put a roof over my deck so daycare kids can play outside in bad weather?**

No. This request does not appear to associate to a health and safety need that affects the ability to safely operate.

**Can I use the grant to replace carpet?**

Carpet is not an allowable expense.

**We do not have an approved developmentally appropriate playground for our recently added classroom. Would DHS funds apply?**

DHS would consider this request as a health and safety need. Please articulate why the need impacts your ability to safely operate.