

## PRESCHOOL OPPORTUNITY FUND

### OVERVIEW

The Preschool Opportunity Fund (PSOF) provides funding support for childcare and kindergarten operators (who are not on the Anchor Operator [AOP] scheme) to offer holistic development activities to children from low-income families enrolled in their centres. These can include activities and enrichment classes which enhance one or more of the following key aspects of child development:

- i. Cognitive<sup>1</sup>
- ii. Aesthetic<sup>2</sup>
- iii. Moral<sup>3</sup>
- iv. Physical<sup>4</sup>
- v. Social and emotional<sup>5</sup>

Past projects have included learning journeys (excursions), speech and drama, as well as music programmes which typically incur additional costs (above general programme fees).

### TARGET GROUP

The PSOF is targeted at Singaporean Citizen children who are from low-income families or at risk and are currently enrolled in kindergartens or child care centres. Non-AOP preschools may apply for the PSOF to benefit the following groups of children:

- i. Children with gross household income (“HHI”) of \$4,500 or below or Per Capita Income (“PCI”) of \$1,125 or below; or
- ii. Children at risk<sup>6</sup> or potentially at risk children identified by their teachers or social services.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This grant is open to all preschool operators who are licensed with ECDA, with the exception of anchor operators (AOPs).

### FUNDING

Depending on the projects proposed, successful applicants can be given a grant of up to \$1,300 for each qualifying child for each project. Projects will be funded for a duration of up to one year.

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<sup>1</sup> This relates to developing the intellectual capability.

<sup>2</sup> An appreciation for music and arts.

<sup>3</sup> Develop sound values, positive attitudes and the moral compass to guide their actions.

<sup>4</sup> This relates to healthy lifestyle and healthy growth and development and may include looking into the food and nutrition of the children from low income families to ensure they grow well.

<sup>5</sup> The ability to manage self, relate to others and make sound decisions.

<sup>6</sup> Children who lack good family support or without conducive home conditions.

Projects which are receiving other sources of funding will not be funded under the Pre-school Opportunity Fund.

## **DELIVERABLES**

Recipients of the grant are to submit a Project Report<sup>7</sup> at the end of their project to detail the project outcome, evaluation and expenditure incurred.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **A. Submission of Project Proposal**

Application for the Preschool Opportunity Fund opens once a year. ECDA will keep the sector informed once application opens. Interested applicants have to submit a Project Proposal<sup>8</sup> which includes the following details:

- Objective(s) of the project;
- Background of the project (current challenges / needs)
- Project Outline
- Implementation Plan & Timeline
- Evaluation Plan
- Estimated Cost

The completed and endorsed Project Proposal must be mailed to:

Sector Funding - PSOF  
Early Childhood Development Agency  
51 Cuppage Road, #08-01  
Singapore 229469

### **B. Evaluation of Proposals**

An evaluation panel from ECDA will evaluate the project proposals.

The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| a. Quality        | • Effectiveness in addressing the challenges / needs of the identified children. |
| b. Sustainability | • Projects that are sustainable over time are preferred to one-off projects.     |
| c. Impact         | • Number of children who can potentially benefit from the project.               |

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<sup>7</sup> Template is available online (<https://www.ecda.gov.sg/Operators/Pages/Preschool-Opportunity-Fund.aspx>) as Annex 3 – Claim template.

<sup>8</sup> Template is available online (<https://www.ecda.gov.sg/Operators/Pages/Preschool-Opportunity-Fund.aspx>) as Annex 2 – Application template.

### **C. Outcome of Evaluation**

A Letter of Offer, indicating the grant approved for the project(s), will be issued to the successful applicants. To accept the grant offered, applicants will have to return the completed and endorsed Acceptance Form to ECDA within two weeks.

### **D. Reimbursement of Funds**

Recipients will be given four windows each year for the submission of the Project reports and claims, in April, July, October and January respectively. The grant will be disbursed to the recipients within approximately eight weeks from the submission deadline, upon the complete submission of all required documents and/or clarifications received, whichever is later, provided that the claims and its supporting documents are in order and all clarifications sought by ECDA have been fully addressed by the Centre. Recipients should refer to Expenditure Guidelines<sup>9</sup> provided.

### **E. Workflow Process**

A flowchart summarising the application process<sup>10</sup> can be found in Annex 1.

### **F. Contact**

For further clarification on the Preschool Opportunity Fund, please email [sector\\_funding@ecda.gov.sg](mailto:sector_funding@ecda.gov.sg).

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<sup>9</sup> Template is available online (<https://www.ecda.gov.sg/Operators/Pages/Preschool-Opportunity-Fund.aspx>) as Annex 4 – Expenditure Guidelines.

<sup>10</sup> Template is available online (<https://www.ecda.gov.sg/Operators/Pages/Preschool-Opportunity-Fund.aspx>) as Annex 1 – Application Process.