

PRE-SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY FUND

OVERVIEW

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

- i. Cognitive¹
- ii. Aesthetic²
- iii. Moral³
- iv. Physical⁴
- v. Social and emotional⁵

Past projects have included learning journeys (excursions) and optional enrichment programmes (e.g. speech and drama, music programmes etc.). These programmes typically incur additional costs above general programme fees.

Holiday camps or workshops (of a duration of 4 to 6.5 hours over 1 to 2 days) are also eligible for PSOF funding. These activities must comprise activities from one of the 5 key aspects of child development.

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 childcare 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. at risk⁶ or potentially at risk children identified by their teachers or social services.

¹ This relates to developing the intellectual capability, which can include but is not limited to language and numeracy activities.

² An appreciation for music and arts, which can include but is not limited to creative play.

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

⁴ This relates to healthy lifestyle and healthy growth and development and may include looking into the food and nutrition of the less advantaged children to ensure they grow well.

⁵ The ability to manage self, relate to others and make sound decisions.

⁶ Children who lack good family support or without conducive home conditions and typically, characterized by low academic performance, poor social skills or disengagement in school. Possible examples include children from the financially challenged background, children from divorced / single parent families, children who lack effective parental control etc.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This grant is open to all pre-school operators who are registered or 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.

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 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 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

Operators may apply for PSOF funding via the [FormSG](#) link. Operators may also scan the QR code below to access the application form. Please note that you will need your SingPass (Corporate) to access and submit the application form.



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 ⁷ | • Number of children who can potentially benefit from the project. |

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. Disbursement 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 Guidelines⁸ provided.

E. Contact

For further clarification on the Pre-school Opportunity Fund, kindly send your email to ecda_psof@ecda.gov.sg. Alternatively, you may wish to contact our hotline at 67359213.

⁷ This will not be considered as a key criterion to ensure deserving children enrolled in centres with fewer qualifying children will not be disadvantaged. Instead, it will be applied as a second-order criteria and considered in the event that there is insufficient funds to support all deserving project proposals received.

⁸ Template is available online (<https://www.ecda.gov.sg/operators/support-schemes/preschool-opportunity-fund>) as Annex 4 – Expenditure Guidelines.