

PRE-SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY FUND

OVERVIEW

The Pre-school Opportunity Fund provides funding support for operators on a per-project basis to offer enriching experiences and holistic development opportunities to less advantaged children. These may include targeted programmes, partnerships with stakeholders or customised in-house projects. Projects should address one or more of the following key aspects of child development:

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

TARGET GROUP

The Pre-school Opportunity Fund is targeted at Singaporean Citizen children who are less advantaged or at risk and are currently enrolled in kindergartens or child care centres. Pre-school operators will be given flexibility to propose which of their children should qualify for the fund, taking reference from ECDA's broad guidelines below. Applicants will need to indicate their method of identification in the Project Proposal and justify why the identified children require further assistance.

As a guide, the target group of children identified by the operator could be:

- i. from the bottom 40% of households in terms of gross household income (currently about \$4,500 or below or per capita income of \$1,125 or below); **or**

¹ This relates to developing the intellectual capability.

² An appreciation for music and arts.

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.

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

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 project proposed, successful applicants can be given a grant of up to \$1,300 for each qualifying child for each project. Deserving projects can be awarded more than this amount on a case-by-case basis. Projects will be funded for a duration of up to one year. Renewal of support will be subject to ECDA's assessment of project outcomes.

Projects which are currently funded under other schemes administered by ECDA (e.g. Innovation Grant) and other sources will not be funded under the Pre-school Opportunity Fund.

DELIVERABLES

Recipients of the grant are to submit a Project Report⁷ at the end of their project to detail the project outcome, evaluation and expenditure incurred.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A. Submission of Project Proposal

The two windows for application are March - April and September - October each year. For each window, applicants are given eight weeks to put up their applications.

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.

⁷ Template is available online (<http://www.ecda.gov.sg/PressReleases/Pages/support-for-operators-with-a-social-mission.aspx>) as Annex 3 – Project Report template.

11. Interested applicants have to submit a Project Proposal⁸ 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
 - Target Group of Children

The completed and endorsed Project Proposal must be mailed to:

Sector Funding

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. **Impact⁹**
 - Number of children who can potentially benefit from the project.

⁸ Template is available online (<http://www.ecda.gov.sg/PressReleases/Pages/support-for-operators-with-a-social-mission.aspx>) as Annex 2 – Project Report template.

⁹ 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.

C. Outcome of Evaluation

The outcome of the evaluation will be announced in June and December respectively. A Letter of Acceptance, 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 two windows each year for the submission of the Project reports and claims, in February and August respectively. The grant will be disbursed to the recipients 30 days after the submission period, upon receipt of the Project Report and full supporting details of the expenditure (such as receipts, quotes etc.). Recipients should refer to Expenditure Guidelines¹⁰ provided.

E. Workflow Process

A flowchart summarising the application process¹¹ can be found in Annex 1.

F. Contact

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

¹⁰ Template is available online (<http://www.ecda.gov.sg/PressReleases/Pages/support-for-operators-with-a-social-mission.aspx>) as Annex 4 – Expenditure Guidelines.

¹¹ Template is available online (<http://www.ecda.gov.sg/PressReleases/Pages/support-for-operators-with-a-social-mission.aspx>) as Annex 1 – Application Process.