

Infant & Toddler Expansion Grant Information

I. Purpose

The Infant & Toddler Child Care Expansion Grants will support the addition of infant and toddler slots in Buncombe County. The Fund was established by a partnership between the Biltmore Company and Buncombe Partnership for Children. It responds to the well-documented shortage of child care slots for infants and toddlers. Funding can be used for staff hiring bonuses, capital improvements to infant/toddler spaces, furniture and equipment purchases, outdoor environments, and other costs associated with providing child care to infants and toddlers.

II. Funding

The Biltmore Company committed \$50,000 a year for three years (beginning July 2023 and ending June 2026). Other local businesses may also contribute to the fund. Funding will be awarded annually, with application processes open for 4 weeks beginning in August each year. Programs are asked to submit new applications for each funding cycle.

III. Priority

Funding will be awarded to programs that demonstrate ability and readiness to increase DCDEE licensed full-time child care slots for infants (ages 6 weeks – 12 months), followed by slots for 1-year-old toddlers. In response to the highest child care needs in our community, priorities for funding include a focus on slots for the youngest age groups, the timeline from award to slot availability, geographic location, and plans for staffing.

IV. Eligibility

To be eligible for a grant, the program and/or project must meet the following criteria:

- a. **Program:** Program must be licensed by the DCDEE to provide child care in Buncombe County. Proposed additional child care slots must be in Buncombe County.
- b. **Star Rating:** Programs must either hold a 4 or 5 star rated license with the DCDEE or show intent and ability to achieve a 4 or 5 star rating within 6 months of the application date.
- c. **Application:** Organizations must submit a complete grant application before the application deadline.

V. Timeline

August 15, 2023	Grant application opens
September 15, 2023	Applications due by 5:00 p.m.
September 16 – Oct. 1, 2023	Grant review by committee
October 2, 2023	Grant awards announced
January 15, 2024	First quarterly report due to BPFC indicating progress and number of slots created and filled

VI. Application Process

Applications are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, September 15, 2023. Application is available online at <https://buncombepfc.org/infanttoddlergrant>

Paper applications are available at and can be returned to Buncombe Partnership for Children, 102A 53 Asheland Ave Asheville NC 28801.

Child Care Resources Staff are available to answer questions and to provide basic one-on-one support to applicants. Please contact Jenny Vial for support – jenny@buncombepfc.org or 828.407.2062

VII. Review Process and Committee

Applications will be reviewed by a non-conflicting committee using a standardized, points-based system. The committee will consider:

- the application’s impact on community needs
- the age group served
- the number and sustainability of slots created
- program capacity

Reviews will be conducted independently by members of the committee, followed by group discussion to make final decisions. The committee will also consider county geographic area and timeline to slot creation.

VIII. Awards and Contracts

All grant awards will be administered via Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Awardee and Buncombe Partnership for Children. MOUs will include deliverables, reporting expectations, and supports available from BPFC.

Contracts will be for the period October 15, 2023 through October 15, 2024. All funds must be spent or returned by October 15, 2024. Requests for extensions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.