



Infant Capacity Grants Available



The first three years of a child's life are the most critical. Strong, positive early attachments and responsive caregiving are vital to the social, emotional and academic success of all children. This is even more critical for at-risk children served by the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of Pinellas County. A high-quality, educated workforce is needed to meet the needs of this special population. **To help fill the gap, ELC is excited to offer grants of up to \$15,000 for contracted family child care homes and up to \$15,000 per room for contracted child care centers to expand their infant capacity.** Funding will also be available for toddler rooms in Pinellas County.

Eligibility Process and Requirements:

- Infant Capacity Grants will be awarded based on need.
- Grant applicants will receive consultation from an ELC staff member.
- Infant /Toddler/Two's program staff must participate in Professional Development training. The training is at no cost for the instructors or child care center selected. **ELC will also provide tuition assistance, as funding allows, for the following Professional Development Paths:**
 1. Quest Training Program is part of the Professional Development Institute (PDI) at ELC of Pinellas County. This program helps participants prepare for the National CDA with an Infant Toddler Endorsement to meet the 120-hr. training requirement.
 2. Infant Toddler Specialization Certificate at St. Petersburg College
 3. ELC approved coursework for an Associate, Bachelor's, or Master's Degree.
 4. Other professional development opportunities identified on the ELC's Professional Development Institute (PDI) menu of infant toddler training options, including TA/Coaching options.
- Selected participants will receive ongoing technical assistance/coaching and other supports designed to enhance their teaching practice.

How to Apply

Please send applications to Zoe Turner at zturner@elcpinellas.org or call 727-400-4420 for more information.

Application Deadline

Application period is extended until February 18, 2022.



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