**Section 43.120 Early Childhood Construction Project Grants Eligibility Requirements**

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

a) Applicants must be willing to enter into the Uniform Grant Agreement required by GATA Rules (see 44 Ill. Adm. Code 7000.300) with the Board that outlines the roles, responsibilities and obligations of each party;

b) Applicants must be "qualified" to be an awardee on GATA implementation website for the State of Illinois as required by GATA Rules (see 44 Ill. Adm. Code 7000.70);

c) Applicants must demonstrate that the facility for which the Grant is sought will continue to be operated by the applicant as an Early Childhood Center for at least 10 years after completion of the capital Project;

d) Applicants must demonstrate that they have funding, or demonstrate and certify that they will have funding for any required match, plus any Project costs that will exceed the Grant amount and required match;

e) Applicants must demonstrate that the Early Childhood Center for which the Grant is sought addresses the needs of underserved populations of young children in the community;

f) Applicants must provide a narrative describing the proposed Project, including the following components:

1) General Project description and rationale;

2) New or expanded services/programs to be offered as a result of the Project, the number of children to be served by each, and the estimated date/year of completion;

3) Site analysis;

4) Funding sources and cost estimates for the Project;

5) Time schedule of major events; and

6) Impact, if any, on ability to meet licensing and/or accreditation standards;

g) Applicants must provide a description of the population to be served. The description shall include:

1) How the eligible population will be recruited;

2) The geographic area to be served;

3) The estimated number of children and/or families to be enrolled;

4) Population of children to be served by new/expanded programs, including the ages and percentage of underserved children;

5) Staff to child ratios for new/expanded programs and, if applicable, proposed changes to current staff to child ratios; and

6) Other proposed program improvements and components.

h) Applicants must provide any other documentation required by the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Grant program.

(Source: Amended at 45 Ill. Reg. 11564, effective September 3, 2021)