

BEST BEGINNINGS QUALITY INITIATIVES

CHILD CARE 7 – 4a

Mini-Grants

Supersedes: Child Care 7-3 (4/9/16)

References: 45 CFR Part 98.51(b)(2)(ii)

General Information

The Best Beginnings Mini Grants are administered by each Resource and Referral agency for their service delivery area and are funded by Best Beginnings Quality dollars. Mini grants are offered when funds are available.

Mini Grant Use

Mini grants are intended to allow for localized application and to ensure flexibility in awarding amounts consistent with the needs of providers. Generally, mini grants should be used for the purposes of:

- ❑ New providers to become registered/licensed;
- ❑ Licensing compliance such as balance of funds needed for full year of insurance, egress windows, play equipment, etc.; Professional Development, particularly courses taken in preparation to meet STAR One requirements and to assist with year one professional development plans, etc.;
- ❑ Practitioner Registry fees for caregiver not in STARS to Quality;
- ❑ Assistance for providers affected by natural disasters;
- ❑ Business equipment such as a computer to manage CACFP claims and customer billing;
- ❑ To assist in continual quality improvement or to meet additional requirements; and
- ❑ It is a reasonable expectation that purchases including shipping and handling are covered as part of the awarded funds; or
- ❑ Meet regulatory requirements for caring of infants and toddlers, e.g. install sink next to diaper changing area.

Mini Grant Limitations

Mini grants are not to be used for programs formally enrolled in STARS to Quality for incentives because STARS to Quality incentives monies can be used for like purposes. Providers who are no longer enrolled in STARS to Quality will have to wait one year from the end date of STARS to Quality participation to apply for a mini grant.

Providers who have been disqualified with cause from the CACFP (Child and Adult Care Food Program) or if they or anyone related to the business have had 3 strikes in the Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarship Program due to fraud may not receive Mini Grants. Each CCR&R can develop additional requirements that do not compromise the intent mentioned in the RFP (Request for Proposal) and shall maintain a review team and determine the appropriate

review/scoring process, keeping in mind there should not be a perceived or real sense of favoritism and/or conflict of interest.

Mini Grant Awards

Mini grants are available in a single grant award for a total not to exceed \$2,000 for a group/family provider and \$3,000 for a center provider. Providers must be in business for the duration of the grant, or will refund the State in full. A provider is eligible to receive another mini grant only after an existing grant period (1 year) comes to an end. They must wait until their previous grant end date passes until they are eligible to apply again. CCR&R agencies have the flexibility to determine the frequency they will award and process applications. Allocations of funding will be made quarterly to the CCR&R agencies from the State.

Mini Grant Form

CCR&R agencies will use the mini grant application form and information page as posted on Early Childhood Services Bureau web site making it available to providers electronically and on paper – whichever the provider prefers. CCR&R agencies may still provide technical assistance to providers in completing the forms, but the individual/department providing technical assistance should not be part of the mini grant review team.

See the ECSB Procedure Handbook for processing.