

## Town of Bedford EDA – Workforce Assistance Policy – Childcare Provider Incentive

The Town of Bedford Economic Development Authority (EDA) created a new program to address childcare as an economic development issue. The purpose of the Childcare Provider Incentive is to strengthen the workforce in the Town of Bedford by assisting child care centers that provide a critical service that allows workers to remain productive in their jobs. This incentive is available town-wide with the objective of increasing the availability of childcare options for working parents in the Town of Bedford and surrounding communities. Incentives may apply to new or established businesses already operating within the town boundaries.

This grant is designed to provide qualifying participants with monetary assistance related to capital equipment purchases, infrastructure improvement expenses, and other targeted childcare startup costs. The focus of the funds is on capital investment by the provider for capital improvements that are tangible and directly related to the care being provided. The amount of an incentive will be calculated on a case-by-case basis with consideration for the following criteria at the sole discretion of the Town EDA.

1. The childcare facility must be located within the Town of Bedford boundary.
2. \$15,000 limit per request
3. Reimbursement basis
4. Dollar for dollar match from the recipient, up to \$15,000 based on receipts and proof of payment for reimbursement
5. Restricted to pre-school and after school facilities and/ or programs. Funds will not apply to private schools as educational facilities.
6. Must be State licensed or certified as a Religiously Exempt Child Care Center through Child Care VA to be eligible for a grant (info included below for explanation).
7. Applicant can be a Child Day Center, Family Day Homes or Family Day System as defined by ChildCareVA ([www.childcare.virginia.gov](http://www.childcare.virginia.gov))
8. Expenses can include State licensing expenses.
9. Expenses such as building improvements, equipment, supplies, etc., all apply whether the provider owns the physical facility or is a tenant.
10. Targeting new start up facilities or expansion of existing operations
11. Payroll related expenses do not qualify.
12. Rent and utility payments do not qualify.
13. If within 24 months from the date of the payment by the EDA, a recipient ceases providing the eligible service, loses applicable licensure, or sells or otherwise disposes of a significant portion of the asset or benefit that was funded by the grant, the EDA is entitled to recoup the amount of the payment on a pro rata basis based on the amount of time the asset or benefit was in use for the twenty-four (24) month period.
14. Awards would be considered and made at the sole discretion of the EDA.
15. Disbursements are limited to available funds per fiscal year budget appropriation.

*Adopted May 10, 2024*

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### Religiously Exempt certification

The Code of Virginia § [22.1-289.031](#) exempts from licensure a child day center operated or conducted under the auspices of a religious institution if the religious institution meets [certain requirements](#) and files certain documentation with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) prior to opening and annually thereafter.

The VDOE Office of Child Care Health and Safety will conduct inspections to monitor the RECDC's compliance with Code requirements, investigate complaints of alleged noncompliance with Code requirements, and, if a program participates in subsidy, monitor compliance with subsidy health and safety inspection requirements. Initial and annual filings for religious institutions involve filing a statement of intent and the documents listed below:

- Certification that the center has disclosed to parents or guardians in writing that the center is exempt from licensure, and has posted such information in a visible location on the premises (see [model disclosure form](#));
- Certification that employees meet the required professional qualifications and are in good health required to provide care for children (see [model form for staff health report](#));
- Evidence of tax-exempt status under § 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, or that the real property owned and exclusively occupied by the religious institution is exempt from local taxation;
- [Local health department](#) and fire marshal inspection results;
- Certification that the center meets certain staff-child ratio requirements ([model form](#)); and
- Certification that the center is aware of and will abide by the basic health and safety requirements in § [22.1-289.031](#).

<https://www.childcare.virginia.gov/providers/program-types/religiously-exempt-child-day-centers#:~:text=Local%20health%20department%20and%20fire,requirements%20in%20%20%20%A7%2022.1%2D289.031>