Welcome to the Come Back Stronger Fund Informational Webinar.

- All attendees will be muted throughout the broadcast to ensure great audio quality and minimize background noise. We also ask that all attendees refrain from using the webcam function during the broadcast.

- All questions will be answered at the end of this webinar - please type your questions in the “Questions” box on the right-hand side of your screen.

- This webinar will be available to view within 24 hours after broadcast at www.earlylearningin.org/comebackstronger
COMEBACK STRONGER FUND

Early Learning Indiana

Supported by Lilly Endowment Inc.

Application Walkthrough & Grant-writing Tips Webinar
February 18, 2021
Agenda

- Fund Overview
- Application Walkthrough
- Tips for Grant-writing
- Opportunities for Support
- Q&A
WHAT WE DO: We educate and activate an ecosystem of stakeholders to create accessible, high-quality early education opportunities for children in our state.

Practicing What We Teach
Operate a network of premier community-based lab schools, advance the science of early learning, train the next generation of teachers, and instill essential skills.

Sharing What We Know
An expert partner enabling early learning partners and providers to build capacity, transform operations, and improve learning outcomes.

Driving System-Level Change
We drive system-level change to address barriers to accessible, affordable and high-quality early education.

Questions? Email stronger@earlylearningindiana.org
With the support of Lilly Endowment Inc., Early Learning Indiana is proud to present the Come Back Stronger Fund, which will award a total of $25 million in grants to reinforce Indiana’s supply of high-quality early learning opportunities and support providers across the state who are committed to serving vulnerable family populations.
Guest Speaker

Emily Nelson

Early Learning Indiana,
Manager of Donor Engagement and Grants
Grant Writing

Before You Apply

• **Step 1: Decide if this grant is right for you.**
  • The Come Back Stronger Fund is a $25 million fund designed to reinforce Indiana’s supply of high-quality early learning opportunities and support providers across the state who are committed to serving vulnerable family populations.
  • Questions to Ask:
    o Does the purpose of the grant match what you’re trying to do?
    o You’ve probably already have a plan to meet safety standards – what will this require of your program? What costs will be incurred? Can those things be covered by grant funds?
    o Does this site meet the eligibility requirements?
• **Step 2: Determine your plan and needs for continuing operations.**
  • Equipment, supplies and materials, staffing, physical environments, professional services, replacement supply and learning loss.

Questions? Email stronger@earlylearningindiana.org
Grant Writing

Starting Your Application

• Step One: Copy the questions over to a Word or Google document (ensuring you make note of word limits) and draft answers there.
• Allows you to:
  o Prep everything in advance, on your own schedule, and without the stress of being in the application itself.
  o Share with team members who can easily review and edit
  o Gather all necessary information and uploads before submitting
    o Ex: EIN Number, copy of site license or registration, organizational budget - in either a pdf or jpeg

Questions? Email stronger@earlylearningindiana.org
Come Back Stronger Fund 2021

With the support of Lilly Endowment Inc., Early Learning Indiana is proud to present a second round of the Come Back Stronger Fund, which will award up to $12 million in grants to reinforce Indiana’s supply of high-quality early learning opportunities and support providers across the state who are committed to serving vulnerable family populations.

Eligibility:
Application Contact

Please note that Early Learning Indiana will use the Submittable platform to send communications to applicants, including questions and notification of funding status. The individual who submits the application (Point of Contact) will receive communications, so applicants should monitor this email address.

When you submit, you will receive an email confirmation.

At the end of the application, applicants must enter the name and title of the person who has legal signatory authority for the organization, indicating that this individual has approved this application. This individual will be required to sign the grant contract should the application be approved for funding.

Point of Contact - Name *

Point of Contact - Title *
Organization Information

Enter the following information for your early learning site. Remember, if your organization has more than one location, you must submit a separate application for each individual site using their unique license or registration number. All information entered for your site should match their license or registration number.

Organization Name *

Street Address *

City *
EIN Number *

Enter your EIN number with no dashes.

Is your organization a tax-exempt entity? *

- No
- Yes

Tax-exempt entity verification *

Acceptable file types: pdf, jpg, jpeg.

Choose Files

Upload verification of your tax-exempt status.
No files have been attached yet.
Do you have an organizational budget? *

- Yes
- No

Organizational Budget

Complete a monthly budget for this site. If you need assistance, please join us for office hours on Fridays from 12-2 pm ET.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>2021 Monthly Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Revenue - Private Payers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Revenue - Government Payers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Site Narrative

Tell us about your early learning program. Ideal narratives are clear and concise, giving an accurate account of your organization’s unique features and how you serve the children and families of your community.

What is your organizational mission? *

Limit: 100 words

Describe your early learning program. *

Limit: 500 words
Explaining Your Program

Application Tip: For every question, refer back to the explanation within each section.

- The question “Describe your early learning program” is in the Site Narrative section, and the overview for this section says “Tell us about your early learning program. Ideal narratives are clear and concise giving an accurate account of your organization’s unique features and how you serve the children and families of your community.” These questions have small word limits, so be sure to give the most important details and focus your answers.

- It can be easy to lose focus and answer a question like this broadly, but answer the question based on what makes your program UNIQUE, and HOW you serve your community’s children and families.
  - Think about: what special attention do you bring to your work?
  - Who are your community’s FAMILIES and CHILDREN, and how do you ensure that your program is helping them live better lives?
  - How do you describe your program to new families?

Questions? Email stronger@earlylearningindiana.org
Eligibility

All providers must demonstrate that they meet the following criteria:

- A licensed or registered center, ministry or family child care home in the state of Indiana and in good standing

- Operating as a Paths to QUALITY™ Level 3 or 4, or as a Paths to QUALITY™ Level 2 with a demonstrated commitment to achieving a higher level of program quality

- An approved CCDF provider or a provider that otherwise serves children from vulnerable family populations, defined as households at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level

- Serving children ages 0-5

Questions? Email stronger@earlylearningindiana.org
Child care license or registration number *

Please enter number exactly as it appears in your child care license or registration.

Include all numbers, dashes and letters.
Examples:
RM-11111
RM-11111-A
123456
50-1234

Child care license or registration number verification *

Acceptable file types: pdf, jpg, jpeg, png.

Choose Files

Upload verification of your child care license or registration number.
No files have been attached yet.
Current Paths to QUALITY™ level *

- Level 2
- Level 3
- Level 4

Eligible providers must be operating as a Paths to QUALITY™ Level 3 or 4, or as a Paths to QUALITY™ Level 2 with a recently demonstrated commitment to achieving a higher level of program quality.

Program Development Plan *

Acceptable file types: pdf, jpg, jpeg.

Upload your Program Development Plan.

Commitments to achieving a higher level of quality are defined by the organization’s response to the Indiana Self-Assessment Tool (I-SAT) and completion of related prerequisite training(s).

Select up to 4 files to attach. No files have been attached yet.
Enter enrollment information as of January 4, 2021.

Total number of children enrolled ages 0-5 who are not in kindergarten.

Is your site eligible to accept CCDF or OMWPK vouchers?

- Yes
- No

Total number of children ages 0-5 who are not in kindergarten attending with active CCDF or OMWPK vouchers

*Providers may be asked to provide an enrollment roster to verify enrollment. CCDF and On My Way Pre-K numbers are also subject to audit.
Key Eligibility Question

This fund is designed to support high-quality child care for families with household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty level. Describe how your organization serves this audience.

This may include serving children using:

• *CCDF funds*
• *OMWPK funds*
• *A tiered tuition system or scholarship program based on income.*

*This system must have been in place prior to January 4, 2021.*
Grant Narrative

The Come Back Stronger Fund is intended to help providers offset new expenses to safely operate and deliver quality early learning experiences. Granted funds should support the accessibility of child care for low-income families in Indiana. Successful applicants must demonstrate how they will use grant funds in furtherance of this purpose by:

- Serving children in households at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, or families receiving CCDF or OMWPK subsidies; and/or

- Operating in low-capacity areas with known shortages of Paths to QUALITY™ Level 2, 3 and 4 early learning capacity.
Grant Details

<20 children enrolled
Eligible To Receive:
$1,800
*$900

20-50 children enrolled
Eligible To Receive:
$9,000
*$4,500

51-100 children enrolled
Eligible To Receive:
$18,000
*$6,750

>100 children enrolled
Eligible To Receive:
$27,000
*$9,000

Questions? Email stronger@earlylearningindiana.org
Come Back Stronger Fund grants will help offset new expenses incurred by providers to safely operate during the pandemic and continue delivering high-quality early learning experiences. Eligible organizations may request funding to support the following:

- Purchasing equipment, supplies and materials
- Increased staffing needs
- Modifying physical environments
- Obtaining professional services
- Expanding enrollment to meet community needs
- Designing and implementing activities to combat learning loss

Questions? Email stronger@earlylearningindiana.org
Purpose: replenish previously existing supplies or offset new supply needs that are required to adhere to social distancing guidelines and safely serve children and families.

Examples of allowable expenses: personal protective equipment, individual learning supplies, meal preparation and packaging, cleaning supplies.
Purpose: make short-term investments to support environmental improvements to enable social distancing or accommodations to allow providers to safely care for children amid regulatory capacity limits.

Examples of allowable expenses: ventilation equipment, temporary space rentals, physical barriers to separate spaces, necessary modifications to entryways
Purpose: pay substitute teachers or transitional staff costs related to accommodating limited group sizes and supporting COVID-related recruitment and retention expenses.

Examples of allowable expenses: substitutes or temp services to cover additional classroom staffing to meet current enrollment needs, staff costs to have someone taking temperatures at check-in.
Purpose: invest in reopening planning efforts, support for family communications highlighting safety practices, mental health supports, or other related professional services.

Examples of allowable expenses: consultants to create communication or recruitment plans, contracted mental health services for staff, children and/or families.
Purpose: expand to serve more children within existing and new locations in response to a depletion in community supply. This could include expanding operating hours, opening new seats, expanding to new sites or building networks that support other providers.

Examples of allowable expenses: staffing for expanded hours, capital improvements at new locations related to licensing or registration, start-up materials for new locations.
LEARNING LOSS

Purpose: Design and implement developmentally appropriate activities to compensate for children’s time spent outside of stimulating, educational environments as a result of the pandemic.

Examples of allowable expenses: new or expanded curriculum, individual learning supplies for children and families, training for staff to implement family engagement programming, family engagement opportunities targeting learning loss.
Briefly describe how the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted your program.

Our facility was forced to close due to a reported case among staff. We have since been able to reopen under limited enrollment. This has negatively impacted our income and created anxiety and stress among our staff and families. We have lost 2 enrollment spots and one staff member. We now face new incurred expenses due to rehiring and training along with advertisement in hiring and enrollment replacement.

Limit: 500 words

How will you use grant funds to effectively and safely continue or resume operations? Please be specific.

This grant funding will be used to purchase the necessary personal protective equipment needed to care for our children and keep the environment safe. Such items needed include but not limited to disposable gloves, masks, hand sanitizers, cleaning solution, thermometers, outdoor table station, disposable towels and cleaning wipes.

We will also use the funding to provide each child with their own supply of learning equipment. These items will include but will not be limited to crayons, markers, paper, pencils, glue, paint, kidnex sand, playdoh, and Individual packages of kleenex.

Also funding will be used to aid in the preparation of the 2 daily meals served and the 2 daily snacks provided. This will include but not limited to paper sacks, individually packaged fruit and snack containers, along with individual disposable plastic serving utensils, serving containers, and cups.
How will grant funds meet a need otherwise unmet for this site?

Presently we are very limited in our personal protective equipment. We are finding it very difficult to acquire the adequate amount needed on a daily basis. Also, we are finding the cost is becoming an issue in providing all of the necessary individual items needed per child on a daily basis without children needing to share and hand off learning items to their classmates when finished. Many of these items in particular are very difficult to clean and also difficult to keep up with who has used them last.

As far as food preparation, having the availability to allow each child to open all of their own contained food items and daily throw out all used items and utensils decreases the risk of contamination through others. This grant will also allow us to have the proper station upon entrance outside of our facility for temperature checks and daily evaluations of children.

Why is this grant so important for your organization?

If grant is awarded this will allow our facility to provide the cleanest and safest site we can possibly operate within. We will not have to continue to share many of the items which I have previously listed above. This will allow us more time and less anxieties in working and nurturing the children within our care.
Grant Writing

Justifying Your Plan

Grant Narrative: This section gives an opportunity to give more detail around what funding you need and why.

Tips:

• Be sure the answers you write in this section align with the funding categories you’ve chosen.

• Use the resources made available by the funders.

Questions? Email stronger@earlylearningindiana.org
Signature

By submitting this application, you agree that information submitted is accurate. You also agree to Early Learning Indiana reviewing this application for funding consideration and using any components of your application. If asked, you agree to provide verification or additional information.

To submit the application, applicants must enter the name and title of the person who has legal signatory authority for the organization, indicating that this individual has approved this application. This individual will be required to sign the grant contract should the application be approved for funding.

Signatory Name *

Signatory Title *
Grant Writing

Before You Submit

Last Step: Final Considerations

• Walk away once the draft is finished and read through it again later – this can help you review with a fresher perspective.
• At the very end, if you’ve drafted answers in a separate document, double check that you have stayed within the word limits for each question. You don’t want to have to cut down answers when you are inputting answers into the application.
• Spellcheck everything.
• Ask a coworker to read it through.
• Read it out loud to make sure it sounds clear.

Questions? Email stronger@earlylearningindiana.org
Opportunities for Support

❤ **Office Hours**
Questions? Join the grant team for office hours every Friday from 12-2 pm ET.

✔ **Resources for Grantees – English and Spanish**
Allowable Expenses and Awardee Highlights

[https://earlylearningin.org/comebackstronger/](https://earlylearningin.org/comebackstronger/)

❖ **Additional Technical Assistance**
Please send additional requests for technical assistance to

[stronger@earlylearningindiana.org](mailto:stronger@earlylearningindiana.org)

❖ **Asistencia Técnica Disponible en Español**
Comuníquese con [stronger@earlylearningindiana.org](mailto:stronger@earlylearningindiana.org) con cualquier pregunta e indique que prefiere una respuesta en español.

Questions? Email stronger@earlylearningindiana.org