

Program Description

Childcare is essential to a thriving community, supporting families, employers, and economic growth. Valdez faces a childcare shortage that limits workforce participation and strains families. To address this, the City of Valdez is launching the Childcare Start-Up Grant program, providing reimbursement-based funding to help establish sustainable childcare businesses. By expanding capacity and improving access, this initiative aims to strengthen the workforce and foster long-term economic development, ensuring families have the resources they need to thrive.

Program Goals

- Increase the availability of licensed childcare options in Valdez to meet the needs of families.
- Support the community's economic stability by enabling parents to enter or remain in the workforce.
- Foster sustainable childcare businesses that enhance Valdez's long-term economic and social vitality.

Eligible Participants

Individuals or entities looking to establish new childcare facilities or programs within the City of Valdez.

Grant Amounts

Grants between \$25,000 and \$50,000 per applicant will support eligible project costs as reimbursements. **Please note:** Depending on available funding for the grant program, the grants awarded may be less than the amount requested in the project application.

Eligible Costs

Grant funds may be used to reimburse costs associated with starting a licensed childcare program. Some examples include Licensing and regulatory fees, Staff training and certification, Equipment, and furniture for childcare spaces, Facility renovations to meet fire marshal or other licensing standards, and other Initial operational costs, such as insurance or management software programs.

Ineligible Costs:

Grant funds cannot be used for Personal expenses unrelated to the childcare business, Non-essential facility upgrades, or ongoing operational costs after start-up (e.g., utilities, wages).

Application Requirements and Process

- Applicants must submit a completed application form, including a clear and actionable project description.
- Attach all required documentation, including forms attached to this application and receipts for eligible costs.

Applications are due by February 28, 2025. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Completed grants are to be submitted to:

City of Valdez, Economic Development Department Email: mbarberio@valdezak.gov

Drop off:

City of Valdez

Attn: Economic Development Department 212 Chenega St.

Valdez, AK 99686

Required Supporting Documents

- Proof of intent documentation (e.g., fire marshal correspondence, childcare licensing application, or personal attestation)
- Business license
- Financial Self-Assessment Questionnaire (will be provided to applicants)
- Personal references

Grant Reimbursement Process:

Approved applicants will receive reimbursement upon submitting eligible receipts and documentation demonstrating compliance with the grant award scope.

Funds will be disbursed within 30 days of verification.

The Economic Diversification Commission will score eligible projects during a regular meeting using the score sheet attached to this document.

The Economic Diversification Commission will have final funding approval.

Selection Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Alignment with program goals to address the childcare shortage.
- Feasibility and sustainability of the proposed plan.
- Demonstrated understanding of licensing requirements and childcare standards.
- Community impact and ability to serve full-time, year-round care needs.

If you need assistance completing this form, please get in touch with Blue Shibler at 907-723-9970 or by email at bshibler@aeyc-sea.org

Grant Program Application Form

Business Name

Contact Information (email, phone number, address)

Provide a thorough overview of your childcare start-up proposal. Describe the age groups and number of children you aim to serve, your proposed facility and location, your plan for recruiting and retaining staff, and how the grant funds will support start-up costs. Include a realistic timeline for launching your program and explain how your project will address community needs and support families in Valdez. Include details about your progress on the childcare licensing process and fire code approval. Be clear and detailed, as this description is key to evaluating your application.

Budget Details (breakdown costs, total project cost, other funding sources)

Please describe the budget for your project and break down the costs into detailed line items.

Item Description: _____	Amount: \$ _____
Item Description: _____	Amount: \$ _____
Item Description: _____	Amount: \$ _____
Item Description: _____	Amount: \$ _____
Item Description: _____	Amount: \$ _____
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$ _____	

Less in-kind or other funding contributed: \$ _____

Total Grant Reimbursement Request: \$ _____

Please attach additional pages or alternate budget documents as needed.