**PDG Community Innovation Grant FAQs**

Updated 11/23/2020

**Q: Are the grants utilizing the eSupplier system?**

A: Community Innovation Grant applications will not be published in eSupplier. DCF is using a new process for distributing some grants. This is intended to help simplify and streamline the application process.

**Q: Can other federal funds be used as match?**

A: Match is not a requirement of the grant application; however, it is expected that partners contribute in-kind funds to the project. Applicants should be careful to not supplant in-kind dollars from DCF or any other funding source.

**Q: What might be considered a conflict of interest in applying for Community Innovation Grants?**

**A:** Staff employed by the Department of Children and Families are not eligible to apply for funding and may not directly assist applicants in the writing of Community Innovation Grant proposals, as this would be considered a conflict of interest.

However, State and Regional DCF staff may respond to questions and provide general assistance in accordance with their regular job duties as assigned.

**Q: Are previous subrecipients and contractors of PDG funds eligible to apply for Innovation Grants?**

A: The application is open to any organization in Wisconsin with an idea to start or expand services for children ages 0-5 years. All applications should have a collaborative cross-sector focus.

Proposals cannot supplant any other funds. This opportunity is separate from other DCF contracts or potential future funding.

**Q: Do all applications have to have a collaborative partnership? Can I launch a new program or expand my existing business without a partner?**

A: All applications must have a lead and co lead representing two separate organizations.

**Q: What is the difference between private and public partners?**

Public vs Private refers to the type of organization.

Public organizations include City and County Human Service Agencies, Public Health Departments, Tribal entities, Libraries, School Districts, etc.

Private organizations may include local businesses such as child care centers, factories or retail outlets. Private organizations also include non-profits, such as the United Way and service organizations, like the Lions Club.

This list is intended to provide examples and is not exhaustive of the types of partners that may be included in a Community Innovation Grant proposal.

**Q: Who will be monitoring the Grants?**

A**:** PDG staff at DCF will monitor the grants. Grant recipients will be required to submit data showing the outcomes of their activities.

**Q: Is a child care center that is part of YoungStar considered part of a collaboration?**

A: Participation in YoungStar is an indicator of program quality and does not qualify as a collaborative partnership.

**Q: Why is the contract only 10 months and not a full year?**

A: Funds for Innovation Grants will be available pending a federal No Cost Extension to the PDG. Activities under the No Cost Extension must be completed by October 31, 2021 in order to meet federal reporting requirements.

**Q: Is land purchase, construction or capital improvements an allowable expense?**

A: [Capital expenditures](https://www.law.cornell.edu/definitions/index.php?width=840&height=800&iframe=true&def_id=43b21a1cb11a2654c1d64fb7d38e02eb&term_occur=999&term_src=Title:45:Chapter:A:Subchapter:A:Part:75:Subpart:E:Subjgrp:39:75.439) for general purpose equipment, buildings, and land are not allowed.

**Q: Is food purchasing an allowable expense?**

Funds may be used to purchase food with the intent to improve young children’s access to local foods; improve nutrition in early childhood; incorporate local foods and snacks in ECE-provided meals; and/or enhance children’s learning opportunities with food (e.g. planting/gardening).

The purchase of food for personal use or entertainment (staff meetings, incentives, etc.) is not allowed.

Food purchases related to conference hosting or attendance must adhere to state procurement and [per diem rates](https://dpm.wi.gov/Documents/BCER/Compensation/PocketTravelGuide.pdf).