

Tiny Steps Childcare Grant Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is the purpose of this grant program? The intent is to provide grants for immediate financial assistance to Childcare businesses in need of supportive funding for childcare businesses within the city limits of Duluth experiencing a challenge that may jeopardize the programs' ability to maintain childcare services and owner-operators in financial need to start up their own child care business or expand their existing child care.

Is this a grant or a low-interest loan? These are direct grants of up to \$10,000 for child care centers and \$5,000 for licensed family-based and Special Family Child Care programs. The intent is to provide grants for immediate financial assistance centers and owner-operators to maintain or start a child care business.

What is the 1200 Fund? The 1200 Fund, Inc. is a private non-profit organization dedicated to economic development and job growth in the City of Duluth. The 1200 Fund was originally established in 1985 with a mission "to create 1,200 new jobs in Duluth."

Who can apply? Childcare Business that are within the city of Duluth. This includes both Family-based and Special-family Childcare Providers and Child Care Centers that employ fifty (50) employees or less.

- Link to find your Duluth Neighborhood - <https://duluthmn.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0ac4b0248b7e4bb0b31dbc41426abcfe>

What information do I need to include with my application? Applicants will need to provide:

- contact information
- licensing information
- Description of needs for the business
- Correction order details (if applicable)
- Estimate of the items/work the funding will be utilized for
- List of owners
- Budget

How are grants distributed? Grants will be after applications are closed on Monday, August 25th 2025. The Duluth 1200 Fund anticipates high demand for Tiny Steps Childcare Grants, so not all eligible grant applicants may be awarded funds.

When will funds be disturbed? Grants will be issued as quickly as possible after approval by the 1200 Fund Board. All applicants selected for Grants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the 1200 Fund, which can be completed electronically.

THE MISSION OF THE DULUTH 1200 FUND IS TO FOSTER THE LONG-TERM VITALITY AND DIVERSITY OF DULUTH'S ECONOMY BY PROVIDING SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIVE GAP FINANCING AND FUNDING OPTIONS THAT EMPOWER LOCAL BUSINESSES TO STARTS, GROW, AND THRIVE.

Are there any reporting requirements after the grant is received? Grant recipients must complete a report within six (6) months of accepting grant funds from the 1200 Fund as to how funds are expended.

Applications are found at the Duluth 1200 Fund website: <https://1200fund.com/> The application button will be found under loan programs, within the Tiny Steps Childcare Grant information dropdown box.

The online application can also be downloaded and printed for convenience; paper applications can be mailed to:
City of Duluth, 411 West. 1st Street, Duluth MN 55802; Attn: 1200 Fund

If you have any questions about the application or eligibility,
please call 218-730-5324 or email 1200fund@DuluthMN.gov