Minnesota Access to Technology Grants

Eligible/Approved and Ineligible/Denied Uses

Eligible uses must improve the underline business management underline efficiency of your child care program. Grant dollars may not be used retroactively for items or services purchased prior to the date that FCF receives a signed grant agreement following grant award notification. Down payments, price locks or any commitment to purchase, subscribe or register prior to the return of a signed grant agreement are not allowed/not eligible for this program. Eligible/approved uses are identified below under "Yes" and ineligible/denied uses are listed under "No" for each category.

Note: Professional grant writing or administration fees are not eligible for grant funding.

Installation, set up and training expenses must be provided by an individual not related to the child care provider who underline works as an installer or trainer in the technology field. underline Estimates and receipts must include contact information (name, business name, address, phone, website) on quotes prior to grant awards and on receipts for work performed.

Connectivity:

Yes

- New Internet service installation or data plan; this may include a change to a new Internet service or data plan for the purposes of obtaining better service/stronger signal
- New Internet hardware including to improve signal (modem, router, hot spot)
- Existing Internet service or data plan (future payments – not retroactive, and only one is eligible per grant) – funded at 50% if shared with family or other business

No

- Prior purchases/commitment to install or purchase prior to return of signed grant agreement

New Equipment:

Yes

- Smartphone
- Tablet
- Laptop
- Desktop computer (including monitor/keyboard/mouse); webcam may be considered if the desktop computer is the only equipment available for training purposes
- Printer or multi-function printer with scan/copy functions
- One-time installation (such as set-up of desktop computer, printer, connection to Wifi network)

No

- Prior/recent purchase or commitment to purchase prior to return of grant agreement
- Used or previously owned equipment, including professionally refurbished
- Purchases from private party including online auction/marketplace site(s)
- Service plans including extended warranty or ongoing training (in how to use equipment) or technical assistance
- Security cameras or other monitoring equipment
- Technology relating to security systems or door security
- Equipment intended for use with children or classroom education

Child Care Business Management Software:

Yes

- Accounting or payment software purchase or subscription
- Spreadsheet software purchase or subscription, including as part of a package (for instance, Microsoft Office)
- Child Care Management Software (CCMS) subscription
- Marketing software or service including but not limited to expenses relating to website creation or maintenance

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Child Care Business Management Software (continued):

No

- Fees for existing/prior subscription service or commitment to purchase or subscribe prior to return of signed grant agreement
- Curriculum, educational software or any software not specifically referenced as eligible

Training in Technology Skills

Yes

- One-time training to improve technology skills including how to use new equipment, software or service (certificate of completion required in report)

No

- Training for which provider has already registered/previously signed-up prior to return of signed grant agreement
- Service plans for ongoing training, technical assistance or warranty service
- Travel, meals, lodging expenses related to attending in-person training