

Minnesota Access to Technology Grants

Eligible/Approved and Ineligible/Denied Uses

Eligible uses must be necessary to improve the business management 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.

Please note: professional grant writing or administration fees are not eligible for grant funding.

Connectivity:

Yes

- New Internet service installation or data plan (one per grant) - 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)
- New or upgraded data plan is funded at 50%
- New or upgraded internet service is funded at 50% if shared with personal/family use or with another business/organization
- Assistance with existing Internet service (future payments – not retroactive) – funded at 50% if shared with family or other business (Add in "Other Technology" category in the application)

No

- Prior purchases/commitment to install or purchase prior to return of signed grant agreement; no retroactive payments for Internet service or data plan

New Equipment:

Yes

- Smart phone
- Tablet
- Laptop
- Desktop Computer– web cam 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 Wi-Fi network)
- Accessories for Tablet, Laptop, Desktop: keyboard, mouse, monitor, headset

No

- Prior/recent purchase or commitment to purchase prior to return of grant agreement
- Used or previously-owned equipment, including professionally certified 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
- Ink, paper, and other office supplies
- Service plans and/or protection warranties
- Protective cases, screen protectors, stylus pens, wall or ceiling mounts, and pull-down or standing presentation screens
- Docking stations/charging accessories

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 Suite)

Child Care Business Management Software (cont.):

Yes

- Child Care Management Software (CCMS) subscription
- Marketing software or subscription, including but not limited to website creation/maintenance. (Add in "Other Technology" category in the application)

No

- Fees for existing/prior subscription service or commitment to purchase or subscribe prior to return of signed grant agreement
- Hiring an accountant or accounting service for bookkeeping or hiring a consultant/service to develop a website
- Curriculum, educational software or any software not specifically referenced as eligible
- Anti-virus software

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 with final 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
- Business management training