

Please provide all information requested. Leaving blanks may lower your request's chance of success.

Requesting Organization Info

Name of requesting organization or entity: YWCA Metropolitan Chicago
Type of entity: 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
Address of organization: 1 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 1700 Chicago, IL 60602
Website: www.ywcachicago.org

Your Point of Contact for This Request

Name: Molly Silverman
Title: Chief Strategic Engagement Officer
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Project Info

Project name: YWCA Early Learning Innovation Center

Purpose of project:

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is in the process of taking over operations of Easter Seals' Lily Garden Child Care Center in Villa Park, Illinois, and seeks to support to implement its Early Learning Innovation Center model in order to accelerate and increase the center's impact on local children, families, educators and the entire community.

The YWCA Early Learning Innovation Center (ELIC) model addresses the conditions that prevent social-economic mobility for many families. Lack of access to quality early education and lack of opportunities for living-wage employment result in generational poverty and significant racial health and wealth gaps. These effects are exacerbated by high rates of trauma. Our scalable model involves a comprehensive multi-stakeholder approach that has the ability to disrupt the existing child care ecosystem upon which our entire society relies, creating significant and sustainable impact for children, families, educators and entire communities.

Children ages 0-5 will receive quality care and education centered around LUME Institute's emotionally-responsive practices. Combining early literacy and language development, executive function interventions, mental health screenings, sexual assault prevention, diversity and inclusion, and nutrition, students develop strong social-emotional skills and are Kindergarten-ready.

The ELIC will provide support to parents and families of enrolled children, completing needs assessments and connecting them with YWCA services and partner resources like parenting and financial education, workforce training, entrepreneurship and mental health services. This family strengthening model results in reduced stress and rates of violence, increased employment, and improved household financial position.

The ELIC model ensures its educators and center personnel are paid a wage above the current low-market rate, and provided professional development. These investments result in reduced stress and staff turnover and fewer disruptions to the caregiver-child relationship, which research shows has a significant positive impact on children's learning and social-emotional well-being.

The ELIC serves as a resource hub for family child care providers in the surrounding community, and the families in their care. These providers receive training and technical assistance to build sustainable businesses, which is essential to community economic development.

Postal address of project (or general location if not applicable):

829 S Addison Ave
Villa Park, IL 60181

Requested funding amount for FY22: \$500,000

Agency: Department of Education

Account: Elementary and Secondary Education Innovation and Improvement

How would this project benefit the public and why would it be a good use of taxpayer dollars?

This project will have a significant impact on youth, families and businesses within the district. The youth served will be kindergarten-ready with strong social-emotional health, and the local economy will benefit from the improved financial position of the families served and the vitality and sustainability of the area child care businesses.

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is a recognized leader in early childhood education and provider services. As the third largest child care resource and referral agency in Illinois, we respond to the needs of working families seeking child care, and also support thousands of child care providers through training and technical assistance. We will integrate LUME Institute's approach into our Early Learning Innovation Center model. The approach involves nurturing children through creativity, psychodynamics, literacy, empathy, compassion and inclusion, and is based on sound theory. We will engage teachers, administrators, families, and other stakeholders in an integrative program that will transform early childhood education.

Because the ELIC's design is multi-generational, it intends to create change by addressing the cross-cutting needs of children, parents/caregivers, educators, and the broader ecosystem of childcare providers in the ELIC community. This multipronged approach is rooted in extant research and knowledge about childcare ecosystems across the US and in the Chicago area more specifically. This research indicates that the intersecting needs of all stakeholders must be addressed to create sustainable and beneficial childcare systems. For instance, we know that educators are more attentive and responsive to children when the educators have greater economic security. As such, the ELIC aims to improve economic security of its educators, thereby financially empowering educators and improving educational outcomes for children.

According to a National Center for Education Statistics report, the number of special-needs children ages 3 to 5 who are helped under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has nearly doubled in the last two decades. As the Childcare Resource and Referral Agency for DuPage and Kane County we receive calls on a regular bases from families looking to find quality childcare for their special needs children. There are not currently enough slots for these families. The Easter Seals Lily Garden Child Care Center specializes in providing care to families with children with disabilities. Furthermore, by implementing the YWCA Early Learning Innovation Center model at Lily Garden, we plan to increase the number of slots available for families with special needs children. We will work with a cohort of local family childcare

homes to provide financial incentives for these providers to offer this type of care, and the training and support required to be able to offer quality care to special needs children.

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago will deploy proven strategies for engaging community members and other local organizations in our work, inviting collaboration and participation in our model for community transformation. ELIC personnel will establish trusted relationships in the community through participation in community events, activities, and coalitions. We will form an Early Learning Innovation Center Advisory Council comprised of relevant stakeholders like Center Parents, Center educators, neighboring child care providers, direct service partners, community members, and local elected officials. The Advisory Council will seek to assess and leverage community strengths, address unmet needs, and establish the YWCA ELIC as a hub for social impact. The Advisory Council will inform key decisions and help amplify and share resources related to our unique and innovative emotionally-responsive and trauma-informed frameworks and approaches.

Why should this request be considered a priority for the people of Illinois or Illinois' 8th District?

The prosperity of communities depends upon the health, well-being, and heightened potential of future generations. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago's Early Learning Innovation Center (ELIC) model seeks to address a multitude of issues including: the racial wealth gap; generational poverty; the quality of programming and intervention strategies delivered to young children; the lack of information, skills, and supports required for families to establish strong and responsive emotional environments and achieve financial sustainability; and the lack of consistent high-quality care and education due to low wages, high staff turnover, and scarcity of resources within the early care and education sector. Lack of accessible, affordable childcare is the largest barrier to sustainable economic empowerment for working families. Simultaneously, most childcare providers and educators are women of color, operating as small businesses and entrepreneurs, and trying to navigate the isolation and complexities of business ownership. The compounded issues faced by communities, including decades of disinvestment in the childcare sector, high rates of unemployment and trauma, and persisting racial inequality has created a complex crisis that requires a new model, reimagined for the 21st century. There is also insufficient public policy prioritizing the equitable distribution of funding. The ELIC is a bold and comprehensive solution designed to transform the childcare sector, support entire communities, and eliminate barriers to social-economic mobility.

Please attach here any documentation that demonstrates local support for this project:

Letters of support attached.

**Please provide a breakdown here of how this funding would be used (salaries, construction, etc.):
Is this a new or ongoing project?**

While the Villa-Park-located child care center has been in existence for many years, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is taking over operations and strengthening educational and social-emotional programming and support for the educators employed at the center. This results in additional operating expenses.

Our year-one project budget totals \$800,000 but we are requesting \$500,000 which is the portion of the operating expenses related to the programming and services that are not covered by family child care tuition payments. The Early Learning Innovation Center model, once fully implemented in Villa Park, will eventually become self-sustaining and even profitable.

Our appropriations request totals \$500,000 and will be allocated as follows:

<u>Expense</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Salaries	\$210,936	4 Lead Teachers, 2 Teacher Aids, 4 Floaters (part-time), 1 Center Director, 1 Assistant Director
Fringe	\$37,968	Calculated at 18%
Facilities	\$58,910	Rent, Cleaning/Maintenance, Insurance
Equipment	\$5,138	Technology (laptops, cameras, telephone, etc.)
Systems/Software/Licenses	\$3,125	COPA, CC.net, TSG or Other System
Program Supplies	\$38,439	Curriculum, Ongoing Supplies, Food
Training Expense	\$71,875	LUME Institute Training and Other Support for Local Providers
Travel	\$1,250	Mileage for Recruitment or Outreach
Marketing/Outreach	\$6,250	Materials and Staff Time
		Resources to Write a White Paper on the Effectiveness of YWCA
Data/Evaluation	\$6,250	ELIC's Approach
Indirect	\$59,859	Fed NICRA 13.6%
REQUEST TOTAL	\$500,000	

What is the timeline of completion for this project and will this project require additional federal funding in future fiscal years?

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago expects to gain control of operations of the center in January 2022, pending state licensure transition. We will begin implementing aspects of the Early Learning Innovation Center model as resources allow. This child care center model does initially rely upon outside public or private funding but that reliance on outside resources is expected to decrease over time and eventually be self-sustaining and even profitable with growth in family child care payments.

If the Appropriations Committee is not able to provide the full amount of funding requested, can this project start in a limited capacity?

Yes, we anticipate launching the project with available funding and implementing components as resources allow. Any funding would be appreciated and would help YWCA Metropolitan Chicago in implementing this innovative new model of child care for the benefit of the Villa Park and surrounding community.

Is this project currently authorized in law? Where? If not applicable, please write "N/A". N/A

If this project has been included in a presidential budget request, please indicate that here and detail how much and in what fiscal year: N/A

If this project has received any funding in the past, from either a public or private source, please detail that here: N/A

If you are proposing report language to accompany this CPF request, please write that language here and indicate if similar language has ever been included in a previous year: N/A

If this project requires a non-federal cost-share, please indicate that here and explain how you can demonstrate that the non-federal share will be met:

The total project budget to transition the existing center to a YWCA Early Learning Innovation Center and support operations is \$800,000 for the first year. This total expense will be offset by an estimated

\$300,000 in family tuition payments. There is also the potential to secure philanthropic grants from private foundations since this innovative model creates sustainable impact for children, families, educators, and local child care providers which aligns to the priorities of many funders.

Does any derogatory information, as well as any potentially mitigating information, exist that would render the entity potentially unsuitable for receiving community project funding? Please explain if applicable. N/A

If submitting multiple requests, please rank this request in terms of priority: N/A

Please list all Members of the House and Senate who are receiving this request: N/A