

PRESCHOOL OPPORTUNITY FUND

OVERVIEW

The Preschool Opportunity Fund (PSOF) provides funding support to assist children from low-income families, who are enrolled in childcare centres or kindergartens (that are not on the Anchor Operator [AOP] scheme), access holistic development activities. These can include activities and optional enrichment programmes that enhance one or more of the following key aspects of child development:

- i. Cognitive¹
- ii. Aesthetic²
- iii. Moral³
- iv. Physical⁴
- v. Social and emotional⁵

Past approved projects have included learning journeys, holiday camps and workshops, optional enrichment programmes (e.g. speech and drama, music programmes etc). These programmes typically incur additional costs (above general programme fees).

Holiday camps or workshops (4 to 6.5 hours duration over one to two days) are also eligible for PSOF funding. These activities must comprise activities from one of the five key aspects of child development.

BENEFICIARIES

Non-AOP preschools may apply for the PSOF to benefit the following groups of Singapore Citizen children:

- Children with gross household income (HHI) of up to \$4,500, or per capita income (PCI) of up to \$1,125; or
- Children who are identified by teachers or social services to be at risk⁶ or potentially at risk (e.g. children who lack family support or conducive home conditions).

¹ To develop intellectual capabilities, which include but are not limited to language and numeracy activities.

² To develop appreciation for music and arts, which include but is not limited to creative play.

³ To develop sound values, positive attitudes and a moral compass to guide children's actions.

⁴ To promote healthy lifestyle, growth and development, and may include addressing food and nutrition needs of less advantaged children for healthy development.

⁵ To develop the ability to manage oneself, relate to others and make sound decisions.

⁶ Children who lack adequate family support or have unconducive home environments, typically demonstrating low academic performance, poor social skills or disengagement in school. Examples include children from financially challenged backgrounds, single-parent families, or families with ineffective parental supervision.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This grant is open to all ECDA-licensed preschool operators, excluding anchor operators (AOPs).

FUNDING

Depending on the projects proposed, Centres can be given a grant of up to \$1,300 per qualifying child per project, with funding provided for up to one year.

Projects that are receiving funding from other sources will not be eligible for the PSOF.

DELIVERABLES

Centres are required to submit the Project and Claim Report detailing the project outcomes, evaluation and expenditure incurred after the end of each quarter.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A. Submission of Project Proposal

Application for the Preschool Opportunity Fund opens once a year. ECDA will keep the sector informed once application opens. Applications must be submitted through the [OurSG Grants portal](#) using Singpass (Corporate) with the following details:

- Objective(s) of the project
- Background of the project (current challenges / needs)
- Project Outline
- Implementation Plan & Timeline
- Evaluation Plan
- Estimated Cost

As part of the application, Centres will be prompted to submit a budget form via FormSG.

B. Evaluation of Proposals

An evaluation panel from ECDA will evaluate the project proposals.

The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| a. Quality | • Effectiveness in addressing the challenges / needs of the identified children. |
| b. Sustainability | • Projects that are sustainable over time are preferred to one-off projects. |
| c. Impact ⁷ | • Number of children who can potentially benefit from the project. |

⁷ This will not be considered a key criterion, ensuring deserving children enrolled in Centres with fewer qualifying children are not disadvantaged. Instead, it will be applied as a second-order criterion and considered only when there are insufficient funds to support all deserving project proposals.

C. Outcome of Evaluation

Successful Centres will receive a Letter of Offer detailing the approved grant amount for their project(s). To accept the grant, Centres must submit the completed and endorsed Acceptance Form to ECDA by the date stipulated in the Letter of Offer.

D. Disbursement of Funds

Centres must submit claims quarterly through the OurSG Grants portal according to the disbursement schedule in the Letter of Offer. Grants will be disbursed within eight weeks from the submission deadline, provided all required documents are complete, any clarifications sought have been addressed satisfactorily, and submissions comply with the provided PSOF Expenditure Guidelines⁸.

E. Contact

For enquiries about the Preschool Opportunity Fund, please email ecda_psof@ecda.gov.sg or call our hotline at 6735 9213.

⁸ Please refer to 'Information on PSOF Expenditure Guidelines' on the PSOF webpage (<https://www.ecda.gov.sg/operators/support-schemes/preschool-opportunity-fund>).