



Quality Improvement for Early Childhood / FY26 Mini Grants

This program is designed to enhance the standards and effectiveness of programs that serve young children and their families. This service supports a wide range of community-based programs, family support initiatives, and early learning providers. The initiative emphasizes the strengthening of program quality through evidence-based strategies, accreditation support, and group-based learning opportunities. Programs are encouraged to achieve and maintain high standards, contributing to better outcomes for children and families.

These mini grants may be used to help programs purchase materials or receive professional services focused on feasibility studies tailored to strategies focused on improving learning environments and service delivery. By investing in quality improvement, this service helps programs elevate their standards, expand their impact, and help children receive high-quality care and education in their earliest years.

Participants must:

- ◇ Request and Complete Quality Improvement for Early Childhood Mini Grant Application by the quarter due date. These mini grants are capped at up to \$4,999.00 per grant. Quarter 1 - Applications are due by August 22nd, 2025, 4PM, via email to the MWECI Director. Quarter 2 – Applications are due by November 14th, 2025, 4PM, via email to the MWECI Director.
- ◇ Review and Sign an QIEC Mini Grant MOA form explaining what the specific requirements are for the grant once the grant application is approved and awarded. Complete a W9 form.
- ◇ Participate in virtual and/or onsite visits (number of visits may vary by grant type) with the MWECI Director.
- ◇ Complete a Request for Purchase (aka application budget) for items to be purchased and/or training/travel, etc. to be approved by the MWECI Director **PRIOR** to purchasing.
- ◇ Submit all receipts for purchases with MWECI FY26 Claim cover form, by the 15th of the month following purchases. Once each claim is approved, MWECI will then make payments via ACH, if an existing contractor or a single check will be mailed.
- ◇ Reporting requirements (data/performance) are included in the application.
- ◇ Summary Steps:
 - Submit Application.
 - If application is approved, then a MOA and W9 will be sent for signatures.
 - Complete a virtual or on site visit with the MWECI Director to review the Request for Purchase prior to purchasing.
 - Once items/services have been purchased/received the MWECI Director will explain the claim submission process.
 - Complete reporting requirements and present a virtual/visual report to the MWECI Board of Directors.

**Funding provided from the Mahaska Wapello Early Childhood Iowa Board of Directors
through the Iowa Department of Health & Human Services**

Applications are prioritized by identified need per quarter until funding is exhausted.

For more information please contact: Pat McReynolds, MWECI Director 641.451.5437 or patmcreynolds318@gmail.com