

# Early Years Capital Fund

## Applications open for local authority capital bidding round

Capital funding is being made available through a local authority bidding process to support the delivery of the government commitment to provide 30 hours free childcare for working parents of 3- and 4-year-olds from September 2017.

The number one priority of this fund is to target areas within local authorities most in need of capital funding to deliver 30 hours places by September 2017.

On 3 April 2016 the Department for Education called for an expression of interest (EOI) from local authorities who want to work with local childcare providers to bid for capital funding to expand childcare provision in their area (including schools that currently offer, or plan to offer, provision for 3- and 4-year-olds). The EOI notice can be found [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-capital-funding-call-for-expressions-of-interest).

Only local authorities that submitted a completed EOI form via the [EFA Enquiry Form](https://form.education.gov.uk/fillform.php?self=1&form_id=HR41uA2F8Dh&type=form&ShowMsg=1&form_name=Knowledge+centre+enquiry+form&noRegister=false&ret=%2Fmodule%2Fservices&noLoginPrompt=1) by 29 April 2016 are eligible to take part in the full bidding process.

The application window opened on 21 June, with application forms sent out to all eligible local authorities. Local authorities must make applications setting out individual projects in their area by **31 August 2016.** Decisions on successful bids will be completed by autumn 2016. Successful bidders will be notified by December 2016. Successful individual project bids will receive their grant award within financial year 2016-17.

## Action

We invite local authorities, who completed an EOI, to take part in the full bidding process. Local authorities can submit partnership bids that include more than one local authority. Please submit your application **by 31 August 2016**.

The full application is designed for local authorities to complete in partnership with providers, by following the *Early Years Capital Fund: Information for Applicants*.

The application comprises of three forms:

1. **Part A** is to provide an overview of the projects that are being bid for, as well as contact details for the relevant local authority bid coordinator and project lead involved. This is to be submitted once by the local authority
2. **Part B** is for individual project level bids. Please note that clearly evidencing sufficiency need within the local authority is the priority criteria for this part of the application assessment process. One is to be submitted per project by the local authority up to the ‘project limit’ permitted
3. **Appendix A** is for individual project level bids and supports the assessment of the Value for Money criteria. One is to be submitted per project by the local authority

### Project proposals – things to consider

Local authorities will be set a limit on the number of projects they can submit. Please see the *Early Years Capital Fund: Information for Applicants* for further information.We are emphasising that local authorities should consider selecting high quality bids that clearly address a local sufficiency need for 30 hours places and require capital funding.

There will be initial pass/fail qualifying tests applied to all projects bids.

Pass/Fail Qualifying Tests: bids will initially be assessed for:

* track record with Ofsted/ Independent Schools Inspectorate
* clear evidence that the project will be completed by the end of August 2017
* total cost of project is below £1 million (including alternative sources of funding)
* a minimum of 25% of the total project cost is obtained through alternative sources of funding

In addition to sufficiency need, individual project bids will be scored on outcomes and value for money. Details on these criteria are set out in the *Early Years Capital Fund: Information for Applicants.*

Please submit your application by the 31 August 2016 using the [EFA Enquiry Form](https://form.education.gov.uk/fillform.php?self=1&form_id=HR41uA2F8Dh&type=form&ShowMsg=1&form_name=Knowledge+centre+enquiry+form&noRegister=false&ret=%2Fmodule%2Fservices&noLoginPrompt=1). Please follow the instructions in the *Early Years Capital Fund: Information for Applicants* and the EFA Enquiry Form webpage to attach the completed application. When prompted to input what the query is about please choose **LA Funding - Early Years** from the drop down list and enter **Early Years Application – submission X of X** when asked to provide more details about the query.