

Lifting Infants and Toddlers Through Language-rich Environments (LITTLE)

Child Care Learning Centers Grant

Frequently Asked Questions

Why should I apply to participate in LITTLE?

The LITTLE Grant supports child care learning centers in fostering the foundational language and literacy skills of infants and toddlers. Through a combination of training, coaching, and resources, the LITTLE Grant equips providers with increased knowledge and skills in building responsive relationships, and developing and maintaining a social, emotional, and intellectual climate that supports child-initiated and child-pursued learning.

Who is eligible to apply?

To be eligible for participation in the LITTLE Grant, applicants must:

- Be a licensed Child Care Learning Center (CCLC) provider in good standing with DECAL;
- Have and maintain a 2- or 3-star Quality Rating;
- Have at least two infant and/or toddler classrooms throughout grant period; and
- Have not already participated in LITTLE

What is the timeline for grant activities?

Applications Due: January 22, 2026

Acceptance Notifications: February 2026

Grant Start Date: February 26, 2026

Grant End Date: December 31, 2026

Reconciliation Report Due: January 15, 2027

Are grant activities virtual or in-person/onsite?

Grant activities will be conducted in-person at grant programs and training locations that will be determined. More details are included in the LITTLE Grant Guidelines, Section 3.0 Professional Development.

What content will be covered in the LITTLE Institutes?

- **Institute 1:** The Power of Language (Building early language skills with children)
- **Institute 2:** Talk with Me (Engaging in meaningful conversations with children)
- **Institute 3:** Read with Me (Reading books interactively)
- **Institute 4:** Talk with Me Baby (Family engagement and building language development)

What do I get?

Expertise

- A foundational understanding of the importance of responsive interactions;
- Professional development and coaching that supports language development of infants and toddlers; and
- A network of CCLC providers who are just as dedicated to early childhood education

LENA Grow

LENA Grow is an early language program powered by “talk pedometer” technology where programs receive coaching to help increase interactive talk between adults and young children.

Stipends

- Grant participants will receive a \$125 stipend for each LITTLE Institute completed and \$25 for Professional Learning Community Sessions held outside of work hours
- Stipends will be paid directly to teachers by Care Solutions, Inc. Stipends may take up to three months to process.
- Grant participants will be required to submit requested documentation prior to stipend payout, which will be provided by Care Solutions, Inc.

Funding

As part of LITTLE, programs will receive grant funds to support operating expenses for required grant activities, including travel for LITTLE professional development events, materials and supplies, substitutes, and technology. Programs may request between \$6,000 and \$12,000 for operating expenditures. More details are included in the LITTLE Grant Guidelines, Section 4.0 Funding Amounts.

****The LITTLE Grant no longer includes the Peer Coach role. As a result, funding for this position will not be provided.***

How do I apply?

Deadline to submit applications is January 22, 2026. All application sections must be fully completed and supporting documentation submitted by the application deadline. Printed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

Click here to access the [LITTLE CCLC Grant Application](#)