

STATE OF ILLINOIS

2024 Smart Start Workforce Grants – Attestation

ROUND 1 COVERING OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2024

The Smart Start Workforce Grants (The 'Program') is administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services. The Program is supported by a grant agreement ("Agreement") between the Illinois Department of Human Services (the "Department") and the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) (the 'Grantee') to administer the Program. The Department is authorized to grant funds to the Grantee in support of eligible activities under the Program. The Agreement authorizes the Grantee to provide beneficiary payments to eligible participants that meet certain conditions. As an eligible participant, your Business ("Beneficiary") is required to utilize these grant proceeds for specific purposes, as set forth below. Additionally, your Business shall adhere to the terms and procedures established by the Grantee under this Program.

As a Beneficiary, to participate in the program, you must remain in compliance with the terms and certifications set forth below. Please review the below items carefully, as your child care program and its representatives shall warrant that all material facts presented are accurate. If your child care program is unable to provide this assurance, please notify INCCRRA prior to executing this certification and provide any relevant information as required.

General Covenants, Representations, and Warranties

As the authorized representative of the Beneficiary, I agree and certify that:

- The information provided on behalf of the Beneficiary for the Program application and the IRS Form W-9 are true and accurate.
- The Beneficiary is a licensed child care center, a licensed family child care, or family group child care operating as of June 1, 2024 and is currently open and caring for children.
- The Beneficiary certifies that for centers classrooms receiving Smart Start Workforce Grant funding receive only CCAP and/or private pay funding and/or for family child care or a family group child care program receives only CCAP and /or private pay tuition.
- The Beneficiary certifies that at least 15% (for licensed child care centers) of licensed capacity at time of application is enrolled in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), DCFS child care payments or military child care subsidies in one or more months between January 2023 and the date of its Smart Start Workforce Grants application.
- The Beneficiary certifies at least 1 child (for licensed family child care), or 2 children (for licensed family group child care) are enrolled and funded by CCAP, DCFS child care payments or military child care subsidies in any one month between January 2023 and the date of its Smart Start Workforce Grants application.
- The Beneficiary will pay at least the required wage floor to teachers and teacher assistants in grant funded classrooms (in licensed centers) or assistants (in licensed family child care or licensed family group child care) .
- The Beneficiary will maintain proper payroll reporting and documentation and be able to provide proof that required positions in grant funded classrooms are paid at least the required wage floor. Additional documentation may be required as part of an audit.
- The Beneficiary understands that they will be audited and may have to provide additional documentation to show proof of wage floor requirement, number of grant funded classrooms, and minimum classroom enrollment.
- The Beneficiary understands that any funding provided by this beneficiary payment is being provided under the Program and is authorized under the federal funding guidelines. Funding may only be used for eligible costs as established by the Department and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, who governs these funds.

- The Beneficiary has the legal authority to apply for federal, State, and local assistance, and has the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure that the child care program will comply with the established requirements of this beneficiary payment. The Beneficiary complies with all relevant laws, regulations, and executive orders from the State and federal government.
- The Beneficiary will operate and maintain the facility in accordance with the minimum standards as may be required or prescribed by any applicable federal, State, and local agencies for the maintenance and operation of such facilities.
- The Beneficiary will continue to comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 327-333), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. 276c and 18 U.S.C. 874), the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a-276-1), the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (44 CFR, Part 17, Subpart F), the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. 201), and the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1).
- The Beneficiary will comply with all relevant laws and regulations concerning non-discrimination.
- The Beneficiary will pay no appropriated funds to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of federal, State or local government, or an employee of a member of any federal, State or local government in connection with the awarding of any State and federal contract, the making of any State and federal grant, the making of any State and federal loan, the entering into any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any State and federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement.
- The Beneficiary will take all practical steps to remain viable, solvent, and in operation. Additionally, the Beneficiary attests that it has not taken any material steps to dissolve and does not plan to in 2024.
- The Beneficiary has no lawsuits, claims, suits, proceedings or investigations pending, to the knowledge of the Beneficiary, threatened against or affecting the Beneficiary (or its officers and directors) in respect of the assets of the Beneficiary nor, to the knowledge of the Beneficiary, is there any basis for any of the same, and there is no lawsuit, suit or proceeding pending in which the Beneficiary is the plaintiff or claimant which relates to the Beneficiary or assets of the Program.
- The Beneficiary has no action, suit or proceeding pending or, to the knowledge of the child care program, there is nothing that threatens or questions the legality or propriety of the transactions contemplated by this document.
- The Beneficiary has not received any notice of any investigation conducted or charges, complaints or actions brought by the State of Illinois or any governmental body within the State of Illinois regarding the Business or its officers and directors.
- Neither the Beneficiary nor its officers and directors have received any notice that it is the subject of any criminal investigations or charges.
- The Beneficiary will hold harmless the United States and its agents and employees, the State of Illinois and its agents and employees, from and against all claims, damages, losses, and expenses arising out of or resulting from the approval of work, regardless of whether such claim, damage, loss, or expense is entirely or in part by the United States or the State of Illinois. The child care program understands that the release of all information by the Department and the Grantee, in any manner, is hereby authorized, and I hereby release all persons, agencies, firms, companies, and entities, from any damages resulting from such information.
- The Beneficiary will use the proceeds of the beneficiary payment supported by the Grantee exclusively for wage and salaries and will be required to pay at least the wage floor to defined roles in grant funded classrooms.
- The Beneficiary will not use any proceeds of the beneficiary payment for expenditures that have been or will be reimbursed by any other grant source, including but not limited to Head Start/Early Head Start, Preschool for All/ Prevention Initiative, grants from school districts or local governments, disaster relief funding, or the forgivable portion of loans such as the Paycheck Protection Program.

The proceeds of this beneficiary payment will be used to stabilize and supplement program operations in accordance with the following categories:

- When open and providing services, the Beneficiary will implement policies in line with guidance and orders from state and local authorities.
- The Beneficiary will submit quarterly reports providing payroll reporting and /or documentation showing proof that they have paid required positions at least the required wage floor. These reports will be due by the 15th of the month following the grant period.
- Beneficiary agrees to continue to participate in the IDHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) throughout the Smart Start Workforce Grants Program and attempt to maintain at least 15% of licensed capacity (licensed child care center), 1 child (licensed family child care), or 2 children (licensed family group child care) enrolled in CCAP.
- All spending related to this Program must be allowable per federal funding guidelines provided by the Administration for Children and Families:
- CCDF-ACF-IM-2021-03 Information Memorandum ARP Act Child Care Supplemental Funds – CCDF-ACF-IM-2021-03 (hhs.gov) CCDF-ACF-IM-2021-01 Information Memorandum CRRSA Act – CCDF-ACF-IM-2021-01 (hhs.gov)

An award made to the Beneficiary in this round of funding does not bar the Beneficiary from applying for future funding opportunities if they continue to meet the eligibility requirements established.

The Beneficiary certifies that quarterly reports, due the 15th day of the month following the end of the grant quarter (e.g., January 15th for the funding quarter of October, November, and December.) will be submitted to the Grantee in a timely manner.

The Beneficiary certifies that the child care program is open and currently caring for children at the time of application and that it will notify the grantee if the program closes unless closure is for the duration of two weeks or less.

The Beneficiary certifies that it will return any unused portion of the grant award at the end of the grant period.

Beneficiary certifies that it will maintain and make available to INCCRRA, the State of Illinois and the US Department of the Treasury upon request all documents and financial records in compliance with all related Treasury guidance and subsection 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 801(d)). All records pertinent to the beneficiary payment shall be retained for five years from the last payment made from the Program.

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SIGNATURE PAGE

The individual below, acting in the capacity to represent the Beneficiary in completion of this certification, certifies that all information contained herein, is true to the best of his/her knowledge and belief. I declare under penalty of perjury that the above statements are true and correct.

Authorized Representative _____

(Name) _____

Signature _____

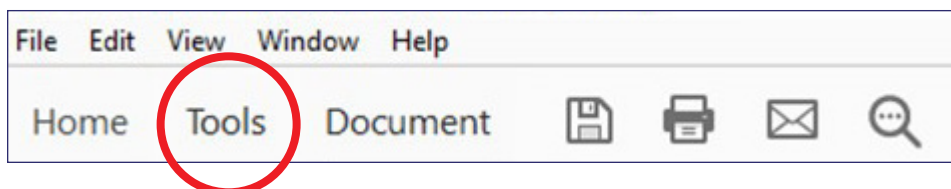
Title _____ Date _____

INCCRRA Org ID # _____

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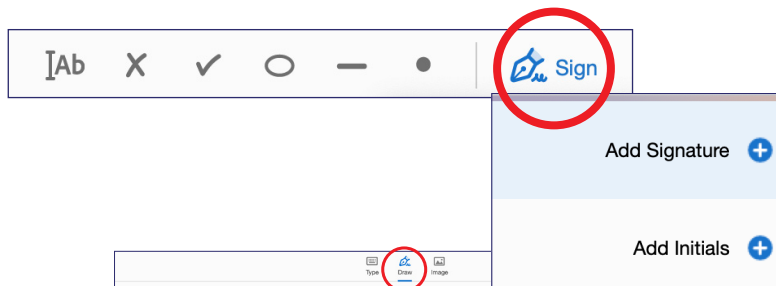
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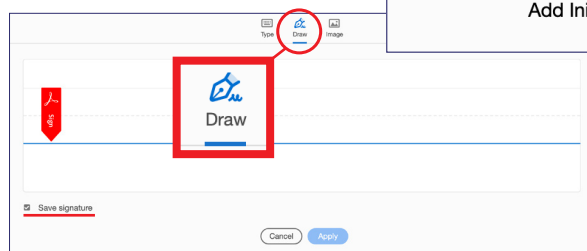
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