

**Tennessee Department of Human Service (TDHS)  
New Employer Workforce Care Partnership Grant Pilot**

**Frequently Asked Questions (Rev. July 1, 2025)**

*Previously available to non-profit agencies only, all types of licensed child care providers are eligible to submit a proposal to expand licensed capacity through partnership with an employer beginning July 1, 2025.*

- 1. Is eligibility to apply for the TDHS New Care Partnership grant limited to non-profit organizations?**  
Beginning July 1, 2025, all licensed types of child care organizations are eligible to apply for the TDHS New Care Partnership grant pilot.
- 2. Is there a limit to how many applications a single child care organization may apply for?**  
No, there is no limit to the number of TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot applications a single child care organization may choose to submit.
- 3. Can a child care organization apply for funds that would be subcontracted to a licensed child care provider if they commit to prioritizing enrollment for a specific employer(s)?**  
No, TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot applicants must include a description of how the child care organization will deliver direct child care services to the families/children of the partnering private employer's workforce in the application.
- 4. How long is the application submission period?**  
TDHS NEW Care Partnerships grant pilot applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis beginning February 01, 2024. TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot applications are not structured into cohorts.
- 5. If an application is approved, how long is the program funding period?**  
Applicants to the TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot may propose commensurate to the scope and scale of its proposal. A complete timeline for all activities should be included in the application, and the timeframe to fully complete the child care licensure process should be taken into account when developing the project proposal and timeline.
- 6. How much funding is available for applicants?**  
The TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot does not have specified funding range for applications. The total available funds may not necessarily be divided equally among the applicants, nor will selected applicants be guaranteed the entire amount requested.
- 7. Is there a cap on amount of requested funding total?**  
The TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot does not currently have a funding cap that may be requested in an application proposal. The total available funds may not necessarily be divided equally among the applicants, nor will selected applicants be guaranteed the entire amount requested.
- 8. Does the grant pilot have any special guidelines regarding budget requirements?**

Budget proposals accompanying a TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot application must adhere to budget line-item definitions defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's [Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, Subpart E Cost Principles](#) and Tennessee Central Procurement Office [Policy 2013-07](#).

**9. Can an applying child care organization have more than one employer partnership with this grant opportunity?**

The TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot does not specifically limit the number of employer partnerships that may be included in an application proposal. There is no limit to the number of applications a single child care organization may choose to submit, and applicants are encouraged to submit other innovative partnership strategies that are appropriate to their community and situation.

**10. We wish to apply but our organization would NOT be the actual child care provider. Would such a proposal meet the grant criteria?**

No. TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot applicants should include a description of how the child care organization will deliver direct child care services to the families/children of the partnering private employer's workforce in the application.

**11. Is this grant for existing child care programs or new ones to partner with a private company or organization to provide care for employees only and payment is provided by the State?**

TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot applicants should include a description of how the child care organization will deliver direct child care services to the families/children of the partnering private employer's workforce in the application. Eligible child care organizations may apply if they provide or intend to provide direct child care services as described in the application statement of work. The goal is to add slots or spaces of child care capacity through expansion of existing child care agencies or creation of new child care agencies.

**12. What are the requirements for matching funds for this grant? Should funds be fully or partially matched? Will in-kind matching be considered?**

TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot applicants should include among its outcomes the level of support (direct or in-kind) to be contributed by the employer and an explanation of how that support will impact the overall economic stability and sustainability of the child care organization. State funds may be available to match the level of investment by the employer during the grant term.

**13. Does the employer have to be a specific type of organization, i.e., corporation, non-profit, public government, etc.?**

The employer may be a non-profit, public government, or for-profit employer – but the employer is NOT the applicant. The employer is partnering with the applicant, which is a child care organization that will provide child care to benefit that employer's workforce. The TDHS New Care Partnerships grant pilot will support partnerships between child care organizations, who are registered with the Tennessee Secretary of State, and private (non-profit, public government, or for-profit) employers to design and implement strategies that create child care access and capacity to serve the employer's workforce.