

Family Connections Mini Grants



What is a mini grant?

- Money from the state to improve the quality of early care and education for children.
- There are two types of mini grants: Regular and Infant/Toddler.
- The maximum award for a home facility is \$1,000 and \$1,500 for a center.
- Smaller amounts may be applied for and the review team may award smaller amounts than requested to assist more providers.
- Facilities may apply for both types of grants, using separate applications.

What do I have to do to qualify?

- To qualify for this grant you must be a Montana licensed or registered child care facility;
- Be a registered member of the Early Childhood Career Development Practitioner Registry**
***The mini grant funds may be used to pay the fees to become a member of the Practitioner Registry and proof of membership is required before funds can be given.*
- You may receive the regular mini grant and the infant/toddler mini grant once per fiscal year (October 1-September 30). If you have received both grants in the fiscal year, you will be ineligible to receive another mini grant until the next fiscal year.

When and how can I apply?

- **The deadline for the first quarter is November 30, 2009 by 5:00 pm.** Future deadlines will be announced in future newsletters and the Family Connections E-News.
- Submit the application(s) to Family Connections by the deadline.

How will my mini grant application be scored?

- Any requests that address the following will receive priority scoring:
 - New providers who have recently become registered/licensed.
 - Facilities that need to meet licensing compliance issues such as the balance of funds needed for a full year of insurance, egress windows, play equipment, etc.
 - Providers who are open for business during odd hours and weekends.
 - Professional Development, particularly courses necessary to meet STAR One requirements and to assist with year one professional development plans.
 - Practitioner registry fees for caregivers not formally in STARS.
 - Business equipment such as a computer to manage CACFP claims and customer billing.
 - To assist in continual quality improvement or to meet additional requirements to move up in STARS or to achieve national accreditation.
- The following scoring criteria will also be considered:
 - Requests that address Knowledge Base content areas (Health, Safety & Nutrition, Child Growth & Development, Environmental Design, Child Guidance, Family & Community Partnerships, Program Management, Curriculum, Observation & Assessment and Professionalism).
 - Requests that clearly state the need and intended use of grant money.

**All applications must be received by
5:00 pm on November 30, 2009 at:**

**Family Connections
202 2nd Ave S, Suite 201
Great Falls, MT 59405**