

Childcare Expansion Capital Funding Round Two FAQs

Are the forms in Phase Two different to Phase One?

Yes, the Application Form used in Phase One was an on-line form. The Phase Two application form is a Word Document, which should be easier to complete. However, the same information is required but in a slightly different format.

Although the forms in Phase Two are in a different format, will they require similar information to what was required in Phase One? Therefore, being able to make use of our Phase One documents and information. Or will we be required to start from scratch?

The forms will require some of the same information, enabling you to be able to cut and paste from your original application (considering any feedback received from your application in Phase One).

Are the Cash Flow Forecasts and Business Plans based only on the FEEE1W & FEEE2W spaces/places being created, or the setting as a whole?

These documents need to show that the provision will be sustainable once the new spaces/places are available. This will mean the information provided is to be based on the setting as a whole, to show how the new places will change and expand the business.

Can you start completing works prior to gaining any funding in January 2025 and then use it, when it is received, to repay for the project?

Yes, you can, BUT please be aware that any funding spent, or works carried out prior to any of the Governance being completed, will be at your own risk. Once a provider is notified of the intention to award funding, we will be required to complete our own internal governance process which includes Legal and Elected Member sign off.

Can we apply for projects that have been completed?

Yes, you can only if new places have been created since April 2024 for FEEE1W and FEEE2W places, to support working families.

However, if you are looking at Section 106 funding, we recommend that you speak to your CCDL, as it is difficult to use s106 for retrospective funding.

Do Garden Developments count towards the funding or just the internal developments?

If the redevelopment is to serve the children you already have in your setting, then this would not be covered within scope. The use of the money must lead to new places for FEEE1W and FEEE2W, so if the outside space needs to be developed to create the places, then this would meet the criteria. We would recommend you discuss this with your Business Management Consultant (BMC) to find out more.

Is the Capital Funding available for Wrap Around Care as well as FEEE1W/2W Capital Funding, or is this now separated?

A decision has been made in this round, not to advertise Wrap Around Capital Funding. This is due to the amount of funding remaining, and due to the Wrap Around Scheme has Revenue Funding available, which is available on our website.

We have ring fenced a very small portion of our Capital Funding for Wrap Around Capital projects where there is an extreme need, and you cannot get the project started without Capital. In these situations, we advise contacting your local CCDL to discuss this further.

If I am within a Priority Three area, can I still apply?

Yes, you can apply if you are in a Priority Three area. However, due to the amount of Capital Funding available, applications received from Priority One and Two area will be reviewed first. If there is any Capital Funding available after this process is completed, in January 2025, the applications from Priority Three areas will be reviewed.

Some Priority Three areas will have S106 funding available from the end of September 2024, so do check our webpage in late September and Early October.

[Growing tomorrow's childcare \(essex.gov.uk\)](https://www.essex.gov.uk/growing-tomorrow-childcare)

Would our application still be considered if we were to also apply for the S106 funding, as we may need the FEE2W funding to facilitate an additional building?

Yes, you could apply for both U3's capital and S106 funding if both were available in your area, although our preference is that you bid for one or the other. This is because we want to offer Capital Funding to as many areas as possible across the County.

If you did submit applications to both, you would need to evidence the need for the places you are creating, ensuring that it meets the requirements of the service specifications for both types of funding. If there was U3's capital and s106 available in your area, this would mean you are in a Priority Three area for the U3's capital. Please be aware that applications in Priority Three areas would only be reviewed if there was funding available after applications from Priority One and Two areas have been reviewed. You would need to consider how your project could progress if you only received only one of your applications was successful and be clear in the bid if they could only proceed if you received both, or what alternative funding you would use.

When is the next phase S106 funding being released?

The next round of s106 capital funding opportunities will be released around 30th September. Please regularly check our webpage after this date [Growing tomorrow's childcare \(essex.gov.uk\)](https://www.essex.gov.uk/growing-tomorrow-childcare)

Can we know the amounts of funding for S106 before the release date?

We are unable to provide funding amounts currently, as they are subject to confirmation from different departments within Essex County Council before they are released.

If you have any further questions please email these to: childcare.expansion@essex.gov.uk

Or

If you have reviewed the service specification, and Priority Area List, and would like to talk to a Business Management consultant, please contact your BMC directly or email bmc@essex.gov.uk

Or

If you would like to talk to a Children's Community Development Lead (CCDL) about the need for childcare places in your area, please contact them directly, or email ccd@essex.gov.uk