



The National Early Learning and Development Programme Support Fund during COVID-19 in the Republic of the South Africa

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic caught the country and the world off guard and had a major impact on everyone, including non-profit early childhood development programmes (ECD programmes). This led to an abrupt loss of income which impacts on meeting key financial obligations. It leads particularly to a continued risk on the loss of jobs of existing ECD practitioners with skills, knowledge and experience in early learning and development. This will also impact on children's continued access to quality early learning and development opportunities in the early years as these programmes re-open.

The National Early Learning and Development Programme Support Fund during COVID-19 in the Republic of South Africa (**ECD-Support Fund**) was created by people from all walks of life to provide bridging financial aid that goes towards the salaries of ECD practitioners as well as operational costs of programmes working to support non-profit ECD programmes and to avoid them closing and losing experienced staff and premises.

WHO QUALIFIES TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE ECD-SUPPORT-FUND?

If an applicant (organisation) meets the following criteria as described in paragraph 5.2 of the **ECD-Support-Fund's Founding Document** (Addendum A of the Founding Document has the details) may apply:

1. An *early childhood development programme* that provides early learning and development opportunities for children from birth to 6 years, which includes an early childhood development centre, playgroup or similar programme, if it:
 - has been *registered or conditionally registered* in terms of sections 95 and 98 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005 for a period of twelve months or more prior to the date of application.
 - operates on *not-for-profit principles and is registered as an NPO* under the Non-Profit Organisations Act 71 of 1997 and/or a *Public Benefit Organisation (PBO)*, if it meets the requirements of the Income Tax Act 58 of 1962.
2. Organisations (NPO's) that *provide direct support to early childhood development programmes*, whether through training, mentoring or similar, and operates as a not-for-profit organisation

Please note that an early childhood development programme that meets the above criteria and does not receive continued funding from a government department will receive first priority. *However*, early childhood development programmes that do receive funding from a government department will not be excluded from accessing available funding, but a different allocation criterion will apply that is fair and just

Please read **ECD-Support-Fund's FOUNDING DOCUMENT** before you proceed with this application. It is available here: <https://www.ecdalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ECD-COVID-19-fund-FINAL-all-annexures.pdf>

WHAT FUNDING CAN BE APPLIED FOR

The **ECD-Support-Fund** was set up to provide funding in the following areas:

1. Direct support towards the payment of salaries (or part thereof) of early childhood development practitioners/educators and support staff. This will only be paid if a staff member:
 - that is legally employment (have an existing contract) on a part-time or full-time basis and is still employed on the date the application is made; and
 - was employed the month the national state of disaster was declared (March 2020).
2. A fixed amount of operational costs (*if funding is available*, as priority will be given to salary support).

The above *excludes* staff members who have left employment, staff members appointed after the 31st of March 2020, volunteers, seasonal workers providing ad hoc services, a person serving on the management of a board of an ECD programme and pre-Grade R and Grade R educators attached to a public or independent school as defined in section 1 of the South African Schools Act.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

Applications need to be submitted in the format of the **Application Form of the ECD-Support-Fund**, which is attached to this document, can be obtained by sending an email to ecdfund@necda.org.za and from the website. The **ECD-Support-Fund** will receive applications until **10 October 2020**. Please note the following:

- Applications that are not submitted in the format as indicated will not be considered. Please use the correct application form.
- No late applications will be considered
- Incomplete applications will not be processed
- Successful applicants will be informed within a reasonable time after the closing date

The **ECD-Support-Fund** will receive applications until and successful applicants will be informed within a reasonable time after the closing date.

Please note that applications can be submitted by:

1. an early childhood development programme directly, or
2. an NPO that has registered early childhood development programmes affiliated to it may apply on behalf of these early childhood development programmes provided that:
 - a *separate application* is submitted for each registered early childhood development programme.
 - information is provided as an annexure to the application, clear mark *Annexure A1* on how it will safeguard and ensure that the early childhood development programme receives the funding.
 - the NPO does not charge or require any administrative fee or any other fee to disburse the funding to the early childhood development programmes on whose behalf it has applied.

Here are the **STEPS** to assist you:

STEP 1: Read the *Founding Document* and this *Call for Applications*, as to make sure that you qualify for funding **BEFORE** you apply.

STEP 2: Download the *Application Form* at <https://www.ecdalliance.org/ecd-support-fund-application/>

STEP 3: Read the *Application Form* to make sure that you understand what is required **before** your start to complete it.

STEP 4: Collect all the information that you need before you start to complete the *Application Form*.

STEP 5: Complete the *Application Form* by providing the correct information.

STEP 6: When you have finished completing the *Application Form*, go through it again and double check that you have completed all parts and that information is correct. Also check that you have all the documents that need to be included as part of the *Application Form*. (**remember** incomplete applications will not be considered).

STEP 7: Make a scanned copy (an electronic copy) of the *Application Form* and all the Annexures and email it as an attachment to ecdfund@necda.org.za before 10 October 2020. **Double check** that all documents are attached to the email before you send it.

STEP 8: Keep an eye on your email to see if there is any feedback from the **ECD-Support-Fund**.

If you have not received any feedback by 31 October 2020, it means that your application was not successful.

Terms and conditions (summary):

The following terms and conditions apply with respect to all applications for support from the ECD-Support-Fund:

1. The provisions of the *Founding Document* of the ECD-Support-Fund and *Addendums* thereto that apply must be registered as a non-profit organisation under the Non-Profit Organisations Act 71 of 1997 and/or a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO), if it meets the requirements of the Income Tax Act of 1962.
2. ECD programmes and organisations that provide *direct support to early childhood development programmes* in accordance with clause 5.2.5 of the *Founding Document* that apply must be registered as a non-profit organisation under the Non-Profit Organisations Act 71 of 1997 and/or a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO), if it meets the requirements of the Income Tax Act of 1962.
3. ECD programmes that apply must be *registered or conditionally registered* in terms of sections 95 and 98 of the Children's Act 38 of 2005 for a period of twelve (12) months or more prior to the date of application.
4. ECD programmes and organisations that provide *direct support to early childhood development programmes* in accordance with clause 5.2.5 of the *Founding Document* that apply need to provide proof that all staff are registered for UIF, or if not, provide a written undertaking to register all current staff within six (6) weeks as a condition of receiving financial support from the **ECD-Support-Fund**.
5. Any decision by the *Independent Oversight Committee* whether to allocate funding or not, the amount to be allocated and the conditions related to the allocation of funding shall be final.

Please note that applications will be reviewed against pre-determined criteria by the *Independent Oversight Committee* and allocation of funding will be based on availability of the funds within the **ECD-Support-Fund** on the date of adjudication of all the applications. The *Independent Oversight Committee* reserves the right, subject to the mentioned criteria, to prioritise the allocation of funding

ABOUT THE ECD-SUPPORT-FUND

The *National Early Learning and Development Programme Support Fund during COVID-19 in the Republic of the South Africa* (ECD-Support-Fund) was established to address the dire plight in the early childhood development sector during the COVID-19 pandemic by the *National Early Childhood Development Alliance* (NECDA) in collaboration with the *South African Congress for Early Childhood Development*.

The purpose of the ECD-Support-Fund is to receive funds from individuals, donors, organisations, corporate companies, private family foundations and other entities (*contributors*) for the purpose of providing bridging support through cash disbursements to not-for-profit early childhood development programmes that have been affected by the measures in relation to the management of the COVID-19 pandemic and meet the criteria as set out in its *Founding Document*. The ECD-Support-Fund is an independent fund that is managed and overseen by an *Independent Oversight Committee* to ensure that it is administered in a fair, unbiased and just manner.

The ECD-Support-Fund needs to adhere to strict financial management principles and procedures as set out in *Founding Document* and the *Addendums* thereto, and must in accordance with the clause 4.3 of the *Founding Document* the ECD-Support-Fund shall be subject to an independent audit at the end of the financial year or within three months after it has disbursed all available funding, and this report must be made available to all contributors, beneficiaries and the general public.

For more information on

- the ECD-Support-Fund visit <https://www.ecdalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/ECD-COVID-19-fund-FINAL-all-annexures.pdf>
- the *Independent Oversight Committee* visit <https://www.ecdalliance.org/ecd-support-fund-independent-oversight-committee/> to see who serves on it
- the *contributors* that make the **ECD-Support-Fund** possible, visit <https://www.ecdalliance.org/ecd-support-fund-contributors/>