

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Below are some frequently asked questions about applying for Childcare Expansion Capital Grant Funding. If you have any further questions or would like an informal discussion about a potential application, please contact EYexpansion@northyorks.gov.uk.

What is the Capital Grant Funding for?

The Childcare Expansion Capital Grant Funding is available to support early years childcare providers to expand their provision and create additional childcare places in response to the expansion of government-funded childcare for eligible working parents.

To apply, you must complete the **Childcare Expansion Capital Grant Funding Application Form**.

Grant funding can be used to meet the capital costs associated with projects that increase childcare capacity for children eligible under the expanded working parent entitlement, from the term after a child reaches 9 months of age until the term in which they turn 3 years old.

Who can apply?

Any existing **Private, Voluntary or Independent (PVI) early years childcare provider**, including registered childminders, that currently offers government-funded childcare places may apply.

What can the funding be used for?

The grant can be used to fund capital works that enable you to expand your childcare provision, increase capacity, and grow your business.

Examples include:

- Expanding existing childcare premises.
- Remodelling or reconfiguring existing spaces to create additional childcare places.

The maximum grant available is **£20,000 per application**, of which up to **£2,000** may be used for equipment purchases.

Your application should clearly demonstrate how the funding will increase childcare capacity and support delivery of the expanded working parent entitlement.

Do I have to repay the funding?

No. This funding is provided as a grant, not a loan, and therefore does not need to be repaid, provided it is used for the approved purpose outlined in your application.

The Local Authority is required to monitor the use of funding awarded. As a result, providers who receive grant funding must be able to provide updates and evidence of expenditure when requested.

Any funding that remains unspent, or is not used for the approved purpose, may be subject to recovery (clawback) by the Local Authority.

Where are new childcare places needed?

New childcare places are required across North Yorkshire, and applications from providers throughout the county are welcomed. However, applications will be assessed against local sufficiency and demand for childcare places in the area.

If you would like information about childcare sufficiency and demand in your locality, please contact EYexpansion@northyorks.gov.uk.

When should I submit my application?

Applications should be submitted as soon as possible. The closing date for applications is **5 October 2026**. Applications received after this date will not be considered.