

## **EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE CAPITAL SMALL GRANT SCHEME 2025-28**

### **PROVIDER APPLICATION HELPFUL INFORMATION**

#### **Priority Applications for 2026-27**

- Applicants who have not received funding in 2025-26
- Flying Start Expansion Areas (Phase 3) – Elli, Bigyn 1, Lliedi 2, Saron, Pontyberem, Tycroes, Quarter Bach, Hengoed, Glyn, Llangyderyn and Bynea 1.
- Increase number of registered childcare places.

#### **Application - Helpful Information**

Panels will be held on the below dates. To ensure timely processing of your application and supporting documents, and to allow sufficient time to address any queries, please submit your application and all supporting documents no later than one week prior to the panel date.

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2026
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2026
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2026
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2027

#### **Applicants may not receive their full threshold award in any given year in the event of high application submissions.**

- All application sections must be completed in full; no section should remain incomplete.
- Applications can be considered for minor adaptations including additional toilets to increase capacity within settings, painting and decoration inside and outside of settings, kitchen refurbishments etc.
- Identified equipment must be supported with a link to the actual item/s to evidence cost to include VAT, if applicable. **Accurate costs are important.**
- Quotes obtained from tradesmen must be submitted with the application on business headed paper including business name, address, contact telephone number, VAT registration number, if applicable.



- All quotes must be dated and addressed to the relevant childcare provider with a full breakdown of works to be undertaken. Costs must identify if VAT is to be charged within the total cost.
- All quotes must be from Carmarthenshire based companies / contractors. If you wish to use a company / contractor not based within Carmarthenshire, you must provide a clear explanation for your choice.
- Quotes in excess of £4,999 requires **three separate like for like quotes**.
- Your application should be supported with relevant photographs (for example if you are requesting new outdoor play equipment, you should submit photographs showing your outdoor area and your current equipment). This will assist panel members in reviewing your application.
- For settings on school sites, permission must be obtained through School Organisation (SchoolOrganisation@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) ensuring Local Authority Property approval is sought for resources fixed within school grounds.
- If there is an unforeseen change in contractor or supplier, you will need to email the Small Capital Grant Scheme team for approval prior to continuing.
- You will be required to inform The Small Grants team of any delays in works.
- We will **not** be accepting any applications for IT equipment or vehicles (unless you are a newly registered setting).

### **Quality and Longevity**

This capital grant has a requirement clause of **5 years** therefore applicants must consider the long term durability of requested items. You will need to consider the following before making your submission.

- Is this a capital item that would withstand a period of 5 years?
- Does this item meet health and safety regulations and conform to the relative standards?
- Does the chosen company provide commercial play equipment?
- Is there a sufficient warranty period provided?
- Is there an option to purchase environmentally friendly products rather than plastic?

## Reputable Suppliers

To ensure that the product meets high safety standards, products must be purchased through reputable commercial early years suppliers, such as:

Hope Education, TTS, Community Playthings, COSY Direct, Cost Cutters UK, Early Years Resources etc.

Be mindful that they meet Safety Standards and BSN specifications.

Resources are required to be for commercial use and not domestic use to ensure that they are suitable for a high volume of children.

Unfortunately, we are unable to approve items from companies such as IKEA, Argos, John Lewis, Amazon, ETSY, Facebook and private sellers.

## Ineligible Items

Funding will not be approved for:

- Indoor children's plastic tables, chairs or storage items.
- Soft furnishings such as bean bags, indoor sofas, cushions, rugs etc
- Tuff trays and mats
- Small toys and resources such as dressing up clothes, dolls, blocks, scissors, cello tape, craft paper, card, games, jigsaws, paint, etc
- Vehicles and IT equipment (except for newly registered providers)

## CHILDMINDERS – Maximum threshold for funding items

- Outdoor mud kitchens up to the maximum value of **£400 inclusive of VAT**.
- Wooden sheds and outdoor storage – providing that they are covered by a 5 year warranty. We will not fund items if they are unlikely to withstand 5 years or more.
- 4 seater buggy/kiddy bus maximum threshold of **£1650 inclusive of VAT**
- Car Seat threshold of **£200 inclusive of VAT**
- Applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

## DAY NURSERIES - Maximum threshold for funding items

- Outdoor mud kitchens up to the maximum value of **£800 inclusive of VAT**
- Wooden sheds and outdoor storage – providing that they are covered by a 5 year warranty. We will not fund items if they are unlikely to withstand 5 years or more.
- 4 seater buggy/kiddy bus maximum threshold of **£1650 inclusive of VAT**
- Car Seat threshold of **£200 inclusive of VAT**

- Applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

**Please note** - The same criteria will also apply to out of school and sessional settings depending on number of CIW registered places and funding thresholds as set by Welsh Government.

Please see the list below, which outlines the information providers are required to supply when completing the Small Capital Grant Scheme application form. This information is essential to support the assessment process and ensure that applications are considered fairly and consistently. Providers should review each requirement carefully and provide clear, accurate, and comprehensive details, including supporting documentation and evidence where requested, to avoid delays in processing their application.

- CIW Registration Number
- Name of Umbrella Organisation and membership number
- Date of your last DEWIS Cymru Update
- Lease Agreement or evidence of ownership
- Permission from landlord for work (if leased)
- How much Small Capital Grant you were awarded in 2025/26 (if applicable)
- Description of any work required
- Quote from contractor – 3 will be required if £5000 or over
- A link to each item requested if purchasing equipment
- Business / Operational Plan
- Statement of Purpose
- Copy of constitution / Governing Document (if applicable)
- Evidence of CIW / Health & Safety concern (if applicable)
- Photographs

Any queries can be submitted to [smallgrantscheme@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:smallgrantscheme@carmarthenshire.gov.uk) prior to application submission.

