



2025-26 Room for Me Answers

The window to ask grant questions is now closed.

This page will be updated throughout the grant application period. Please read through previous responses before submitting a new question to ensure it hasn't already been addressed.

NOTE: To make your question apply to a wider audience, it may not appear below as originally worded.

REMINDER: Grant proposals will be accepted between October 1st, 2025 and October 31st, 2025 and can be submitted at the link below:

<https://bit.ly/25-26-RFM-App>

A printable, PDF version of the application is linked below:

<https://bit.ly/25-26-RFM-RFP>

1. Can you share a recording of the Room for Me Grant information session?

Yes. You can view a recording of the information session at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/wgrJA4O8jNM>

2. Is there a way to view the entire grant application separate from the online form?

A PDF version of the RFP and grant application is available at the following link:

<https://bit.ly/25-26-RFM-RFP>

3. Can you provide a Microsoft Word version of the grant application?

Because we would not want any edited version of the RFP inadvertently getting shared and causing any confusion, we are only able to offer the pdf version. A PDF version of the RFP and grant application is available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/25-26-RFM-RFP>

4. Can we submit more than one grant application?

No. In order to ensure a more diverse cohort of grantees, we are limiting organizations to one application regardless of their number of physical sites or licensees.

5. If we are opening a new center, but are both currently registered home providers, can we apply for this grant?

Yes, registered home providers are eligible to apply for the Room For Me Grant as long as they meet all the eligibility requirements, such as serving school age children (ages 5 - 12), are or will be licensed, offer or will offer the option for families of Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP), are or will be operational at least 42 weeks of the year.

6. Are we eligible for the Room For Me Grant if we received previous Room for Me Grants or the Expanding Access Grant?

Yes, you are eligible for this grant if you received previous grants through Vermont Afterschool. There are no restrictions to receiving the Room For Me grant having received a previous grant.

7. Do “rising kindergarteners” count as “kindergarteners” for the purposes of this grant and eligibility?

Yes.

8. We are not a licensed site. Are we eligible to apply for the grant?

Unfortunately, unlicensed sites are not eligible for these funds. However, if you are seeking licensure and actively working towards it, then you may apply. Prior to awarding any funds, we would need documentation showing your status and proof that you’re working towards licensure.

9. Can the grant be used to purchase a vehicle for field trips or emergencies?

No. Grant funds may not be used for the purchase of facilities, vehicles, or land acquisition.

10. Is there a recommended cost-per-youth threshold?

No. We have not identified a per-youth cost threshold. Please use your best judgement when determining what is reasonable and articulate the need as best as you can in your application.

11. Are we able to save our progress on the application and finish it later?

Yes. There is now a 'save' button on each page that will allow you to save your progress. It will provide you with a link to return later to complete your application.

12. Does the application close at any specific time on October 31st?

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm on October 31st.

13. We aren't currently offering 42 weeks of programming but would like to use the funds to help expand and reach that minimum threshold. Are we still eligible to apply for the grant?

Yes. You can apply and indicate that you would like to use the funds to expand your program offerings.

14. Our program serves toddlers. Are we eligible to apply?

The Room for Me grant is geared towards programs serving school age children (ages 5-12). If you serve both toddlers *and* school age children, then you're welcome to apply.

15. Our program has multiple locations. Can we submit applications for each site, or just one for our collective organization?

No. In order to ensure a more diverse cohort of grantees, we are limiting organizations to one application regardless of their number of physical sites or licensees.

16. We would like to create a grassy area for our participants to play in, increasing the amount of outdoor free and creative play. To do so, we would need to remove some trees and have the area leveled and seeded. The costs would mainly consist of hiring outside contractors (1099) to do the work. Does this project qualify for funding?

If this project will allow you to expand programming in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively impact program quality, then yes, it would be an allowable expense. Please explain *how* your project aligns with this grant purpose on your application though.

But yes, this kind of expense would be reimbursable.

17. We would like to enhance the building's physical security and deterrence in the unlikely event of an active shooter or other safety threat. Does this project qualify for funding?

If this project will allow you to expand programming in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively impact program quality, then yes, it would be an allowable expense. Please explain *how* your project aligns with this grant purpose on your application though.

18. Can the grant be used to support a higher salary for new staff?

Staff salaries and benefits are reimbursable for up to eight weeks only. Once enrollment and Child Care Financial Assistance Program reimbursements support this cost, it is no longer reimbursable. You can use these funds to increase salaries, but only for those eight weeks.

19. We are looking at getting protective film on our windows to increase safety in the event of a lockdown or other emergency. Does this project qualify for funding?

If this project will allow you to expand programming in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively impact program quality, then yes, it would be an allowable expense. Please explain *how* your project aligns with this grant purpose on your application though.

20. Can consumable materials (i.e. art supplies) be included in the proposal if they're related to expanding the number of school age slots available?

Yes.

21. Can rent for additional space be included in the proposal if it's related to expanding the number of school age slots available.

Yes, but only the portion related to the grant funded program will be reimbursable. If the space is shared with other, non-grant funded programs, then we will need to divide up the rent payment so only the portion related to the grant is being reimbursed.

22. Could costs related to the expansion be included in the proposal even if they end up being used outside of the grant period? For example, if we paid rent in advance or bought snacks in bulk?

This is a two part response. Supplies that will be used both during and after the grant period are allowable and reimbursable. For rent, we can only reimburse you for the months that fall within the grant period. If you prepay for the entire year, for example, we'll only reimburse you for the seven months of the grant period.

23. Can uniforms and t-shirts with logos be included in the grant proposal if they are for safety and identification purposes.

Yes.

24. Does replacing baseboard heaters count as a "major renovation" and would this be an allowable expense?

Replacing baseboard heaters would *not* be considered a major renovation. And if this project will allow you to expand programming in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively impact program quality, then yes, it would be an allowable expense. Please explain *how* your project aligns with this grant purpose on your application though.

But yes, this kind of expense would be reimbursable.

25. We would like to repair or replace the fence around the playground, expand learning tools for the preschool program, purchase a creative curriculum, and advertise to bring up enrollment. Are these allowable expenses?

If this project will allow you to expand programming in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively impact program quality, then yes, it would be an

allowable expense. Please explain *how* your project aligns with this grant purpose on your application though.

However, all expenses will need to be related to your school age (ages 5-12) afterschool program. Preschool purchases are not eligible for reimbursement.

But yes, this kind of expense would be reimbursable.

26. We would like to ensure the school age playground is ADA accessible, which would require resurfacing and new structures. Are these allowable expenses *and* would the contractor fees for professional installation also be covered?

If this project will allow you to expand programming in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively impact program quality, then yes, it would be an allowable expense. Please explain *how* your project aligns with this grant purpose on your application though.

But yes, this kind of expense would be reimbursable.

27. Can we use grant funds for a driveway restoration? Right now it is in disarray and families are having a hard time parking and sharing the parking space at pick up and drop off.

If this project will allow you to expand programming in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively impact program quality, then yes, it would be an allowable expense. Please explain *how* your project aligns with this grant purpose on your application though.

But yes, this kind of expense would be reimbursable.

28. If I'm using funding to start a new program, does that program have to be up and running before the end of the grant period?

No. You can use the funds to help open a program that will open after the grant closes, but we will need to see a tangible action plan that outlines steps to opening shortly thereafter (Fall/ Winter 2026, for example). It can't just be an abstract plan to maybe open a program some day.

29. Is this a reimbursement grant? What if we don't have the capital for the initial cost?

Yes. This *is* a reimbursement grant. Grantees will submit financial reports on the 5th of each month and we aim to send reimbursement checks within 30-60 days of approval. If you're unable to incur the initial cost, we can discuss the possibility of advance payments in special circumstances and if you're funded, we can have that conversation later on.

30. Can we use grant funds to bring the water, sewer, and heating systems into compliance?

If this project will allow you to expand programming in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively impact program quality, then yes, it would be an allowable expense. Please explain *how* your project aligns with this grant purpose on your application though.

But yes, this kind of expense would be reimbursable.

31. Are there character limits for the application's narrative responses?

No. There are no character limits. Please use the space to answer the question and provide as much detail as possible. The grant readers only know what you tell them in the application.

32. Can you explain why staff salary costs are only reimbursable for 8 weeks and how the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) supports this?

One goal of the grant is to encourage families to sign up for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP). Once the CCFAP subsidy kicks in, we're asking programs to use those additional funds to cover the costs of those temporarily reimbursable expenses, like staff salaries. The grant will reimburse 8 weeks of staff salaries as a window to get families enrolled in CCFAP.

33. I'm a registered home program caring for infants and toddlers. Can I use grant funds to finish an additional 500 square feet of currently unfinished space to add four year-round school age slots with an additional two school age slots over the summer?

Yes. This would be an allowable expense. Any projects that will allow you to expand programming in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively

impact program quality for school age participants would be allowable. Please explain *how* your project aligns with this grant purpose on your application though.

34. Can you elaborate on the requirement to operate programming at least 42 weeks per year? Do we need to offer programming five days per week for that week to count towards the 42 weeks? What counts as a “week?”

Qualifying weeks do not need to include five days of programming to count towards the 42 week minimum. For example, if school is closed for Veterans Day and you only run four days of programming that week, that week will still count towards the 42 week minimum. As long as some programming is offered during the week, it will still count.

35. Are eligible applicants required to expand their childcare capacity? Or can they preserve programming and capacity while focusing on implementing quality improvements?

Applicants can choose to focus on making quality improvements while also *preserving* childcare slots and programming. You do not necessarily need to *increase* your capacity to be eligible.

36. Can the grant proposal contain more than one “project?” For example, if we want to improve the outdoor play space at a cost of \$4,000 *and* purchase equipment for the indoor classroom at a cost of \$5,000, can we submit a grant proposal for \$9,000?

Yes. Grant proposals can include single projects or multiple smaller projects. Each element of the proposal must connect back to the grant purpose though and allow you to expand programming or preserve in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively impact program quality for school age participants would be allowable. Please thoroughly explain *how* your project or projects align with this grant purpose on your application.

37. We are interested in the Room for Me Grant but are unlikely to meet the application deadline. Will the grant be offered again and if so, when?

We do not anticipate another round of these grants this year. We operate on a year-to-year basis with the Child Development Division, who funds these grants and we cannot make any guarantees about future years. That being said, we hope to continue offering them going forward.

38. We're exploring a partnership with a local organization that would make up the bulk of our grant proposal. We have received a grant in the past that supported this same partnership. Are we still eligible to apply for this opportunity given that we've received funds for a similar project in the past?

Yes. You can still apply for this grant if you have received funding for a similar project in the past.

39. In the budget section, should I submit our entire summer camp budget or just the specific parts within the budget that pertain to the grant project?

Please just include the pieces related to your grant project.

40. We are a program in Chittenden County. Can we still apply for this grant?

Yes. You can still apply for this grant if your program is inside Chittenden County.

41. Can we use grant funds to renovate a connected shed into a space for after school participants to store their toys and activities?

If this project will allow you to expand programming in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively impact program quality, then yes, it would be an allowable expense. Please explain *how* your project aligns with this grant purpose on your application though.

But yes, this kind of expense would be reimbursable.

42. How will the grant be taxed or affect taxes owed? For example, if money is reimbursed for goods purchased, will that money be taxable income?

We recommend that you ask your business CPA or council about taxes payable.

In general though, if you are a nonprofit organization, then the income is non-taxable for federal purposes. If you are a for profit organization, the rules about taxability are more complex. Sometimes for profit organizations can get tax inclusions. Typically for a regular for profit corporation though, this grant income can be taxable.

43. Is there any flexibility on the application due date or possibility of an extension?

Unfortunately October 31, 2025 is a hard end date for the application window. We have an ambitious turnaround time that involves an elaborate reading and scoring process to get us to a December 1, 2025 announcement date.

44. Can grant funds be used to replace the wooden fence around the play area?

If this project will allow you to expand programming in the form of program slots, increase the number of days, weeks, or hours of programming, or positively impact program quality, then yes, it would be an allowable expense. Please explain *how* your project aligns with this grant purpose on your application though.

But yes, this kind of expense would be reimbursable.