

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Title of Rule: Rules and Regulations Governing the Early Childhood Care and Education Capital Fund

Rule Identifier: 218-RICR-70-00-12

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Adoption

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: April 13, 2022

Hearing Date: April 27, 2022

End of Public Comment: May 13, 2022

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § § 42-12-23

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

A legislatively referred bond question was approved at a Special Election on March 2, 2021. The approval authorized the state to issue bonds in an amount no to exceed \$15 million for physical improvements to and development of licensed early childhood care and education facilities through an Early Childhood Care and Education Capital Fund. These rules and regulations govern the Rhode Island Early Childhood Care and Education Capital Fund.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed adoption until May 13, 2022 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Tara Borges
Department of Human Services
Louis Pasteur Building, 3rd floor
25 Howard Avenue
Cranston, RI 02920
tara.borges@dhs.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.5, to consider the proposed adoption shall be held at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. This hearing is subject to R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-46, Open Meetings.

Public Hearing Information:

Date: April 27, 2022

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Location: West Wing Conference Room
Louis Pasteur Building
25 Howard Ave., Building 57
Cranston, RI, 02920

The seating capacity of the room will be enforced and, therefore, the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 800-745-6575 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting. For questions regarding available parking, please contact the agency staffperson listed above.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

Early learning centers and public school buildings suffer from deferred maintenance. Early Childhood Facilities Needs Assessment indicate that more than half of buildings used for early childhood classrooms were in "poor" condition, and the majority of outdoor play spaces posed significant safety concerns. This funding would be distributed through small grants for urgent health and safety needs and provide for quality improvement and reconfiguration of space; a larger pool to address the creation or rehabilitation of vacant or blighted properties to create new, high quality spaces; and a set aside for intensive project technical support, training and compliance

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.