Oregon

# The application for the 2026-2027 Oregon Business Leadership Cohort (Oregon BLC) program is now open.

Apply Now!

**First Children's Finance (FCF), in partnership with the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC), is excited to invite you to apply for the 2026–2027 Oregon Business Leadership Cohort (BLC).**

FCF has a 30-year history of supporting the sustainability of child care businesses by engaging entrepreneurs, communities, and state and federal systems to strengthen the business and financial foundations of child care. Our mission is to grow the supply and long-term sustainability of excellent child care.

Through this opportunity, an incentive of $2,400 will be awarded to eligible Oregon child care providers who successfully complete all required components of the Oregon BLC, including:

Attend and be an active participant in each of the four sessions of the BLC;

Complete a financial analysis consultation with FCF staff including gathering and sharing financial information to prepare for the individual consultation session;

Identify business goals and complete a goal setting consultation with FCF staff.

## Eligibility

To qualify for an incentive, applicants must:

A registered or certified family child care (FCC) or certified center child care (CCC) provider located Oregon. licensed family child care provider located in Oregon.

Enroll in the 2026-2027 BLC offered by FCF in Oregon and complete all components of the cohort listed above

Applicants must be in good standing with prior FCF incentives, including being current on any incentive reporting or repayment of any incentive-related invoices to FCF.

Applicants must be current on any loan payments to FCF.

Applicants are expected to use incentive funds for purposes outlined in goal-setting consultation with FCF staff AFTER incentive award notification and the required acceptance has been returned to FCF.

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## Application Timeline

- Applications due: September 11, 2026
- Acceptance notifications sent: September 28, 2026 (with Incentive Agreement, ACH deposit form, and IRS W9 attached)
- Acceptance materials due: 5 business days before the cohort begins (submitted in the Submittable portal)
- Payments distributed: Upon approval and completion of all four sessions and two consultations, payments will take up to 15 business days to be received.
- Payment Method: Payments will be issued by ACH direct deposit. If a bank account is not available, a check will be mailed; please note that mailed checks take longer to process and may delay payment.

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen your child care business while receiving an incentive in recognition of your commitment to the cohort.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

***Prioritization will be given to Child Care Infrastructure Fund (CCIF) Grant recipients.***