A program of
MDHS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

200 South Lamar Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Toll Free: 800-345-6347
Phone: 601-359-4500

Greetings Early Childhood Partners,

The Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS), Division of Early Childhood Care and Development (DECCD), through funding provided by the Preschool Development Grant Birth-Five, will be offering child care capacity-building expansion packages for infants and toddlers to up to two hundred (200) center-based programs statewide. Priority will be given to CCPP- participating child care programs and child care programs located in child care desert counties. Child care deserts are defined as areas where the number of young children significantly exceeds the available child care slots, as indicated by state data reports. Only non-residential based child care programs are eligible to apply. Family child care programs are not eligible but should contact the Nurturing Homes Initiative at (662) 325-6358 or nurturinghomes@ext.msstate.edu if interested in receiving assistance around serving infants and toddlers in their programs.

The expansion packages may include items such as infant cribs, crib mattresses and sheets, toddler cots, cot sheets, a cot carrier, one (1) infant changing station per center, one (1) toddler changing station per center, and one (1) portable hand washing sink per center to promote the continuation of proper hygiene practices.

Through this initiative, DECCD aims not only to assist child care programs in meeting the needs of families with very young children, but also to significantly enhance the availability and accessibility of infant and toddler care and education to families statewide.

If you would like to apply to receive an infant/toddler expansion package, please click on the link below to complete the required survey and application. This initiative represents a foundational step toward fostering an environment that nurtures and promotes the healthy development of all children in Mississippi.

To complete the application, please visit
https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/a344ea7ccdb4490688e325cf7617006f .

Preparing Children to SOAR!
MDHS DECCD