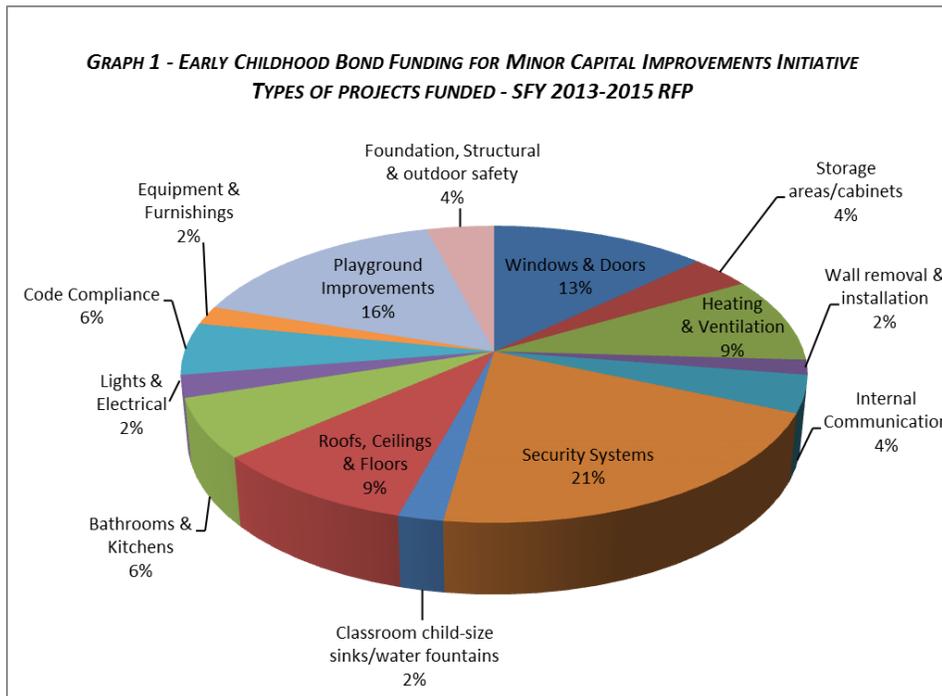


**Early Childhood Minor Capital Improvements Initiative**  
**Bond Funds for Child Care Centers' Facility Improvement**

Early childhood bond funding is a new and welcome resource in Connecticut established in 2011 by the Connecticut Legislature at the request of Governor Dannel P. Malloy. Its purpose is to address facility improvement and minor capital repair needs in (that portion of) facilities that house school readiness programs and state-funded child day care centers. Thus, funding priority is given to community-based early care and education programs located outside of public school buildings, although school-based programs may also apply for projects not covered by the State's public school constructions program.



The funds are distributed via requests for proposals (RFP). The first RFP was released in early 2013, with 115 organizations submitting proposals. Close to 80% of the available \$11.5M were approved by the State Bond Commission for the type of projects displayed in Graph 1. Wiring for connectivity and minor new

construction/addition to convert existing space into classroom space were added to the list of eligible projects in the second RFP, released last spring.

Also new to the second RFP was a series of informational and technical assistance sessions designed in response to feedback from child care provider applicants to the first RFP. Such feedback indicated that providers had found challenging both to accurately assess program site needs and present those needs appropriately in RFP-responsive applications. The sessions sought to assist providers in:

1. self-assessing and prioritizing programs' physical plant needs,
2. preparing funding requests for construction or renovation projects, and
3. developing responsive proposals that present projects in a clear and concise manner.

The statewide sessions were conducted by expert facilitators from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA) and the Connecticut Children's Investment Partnership, a

program of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). Staff from almost 100 child care centers attended the sessions. At the August due date, 111 proposals applying for 75% of the available \$13.5M were received and are currently in the evaluation process. It is expected that funding recommendations will be presented at the January 2015 meeting of the State Bond Commission.

A third RFP for \$15M is being developed to be released late spring 2015.

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