

**APPROVED**

**JANUARY 18, 2023**

Item #E-1  
January 18, 2023

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF NONINSTRUCTIONAL CAPITAL  
PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023**

**Submitted for:** Approval.

**Summary:** This item recommends approving the Chicago State University (CSU) noninstructional capital plan for the following project:

**Infant-Toddler Daycare Renovation at Chicago State University (CSU)**

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the project listed in this item.



**Project Name:**

Chicago State University Infant-Toddler Daycare Renovation

**Project Description:**

Chicago State University (CSU) proposes building two classrooms in its new campus Child Development Center to serve up to 28 children ages six weeks through 35 months. The renovation would also include office space, a room for dual purposes of trainings and meetings, storage room, and a nursing room (sick room). This Center, on CSU's campus, currently has three classrooms (two classrooms for children ages three through five years. and one classroom for children six through 12 years). The Center is expected to open in 2023.

**Project Rationale:**

Of Illinois' public universities, CSU has the highest proportion of student parents.<sup>1</sup> Although 22.5 percent of CSU's students are parents, CSU is one of two public universities without on-campus child care.<sup>2</sup> CSU proudly serves a diverse population of students. For our undergraduate students, 84 percent are Black or Latinx, the average age is 29, and 62 percent receive Pell Grants.<sup>3</sup>

The Dr. David Kanis Child Development Center aligns with CSU's 2020 – 2025 Strategic plan and CSU's pre-college through career student success initiative known as Cougar Commitment. Research has linked improved college completion rates for student parents with access to affordable child care.<sup>4</sup> While retention rates increased by 13 percentage points from fall 2019 to 2021, CSU recognizes the importance of support specifically for student parents.

**Project Background:**

CSU's original on-campus childcare center closed in 2009, when the building which housed the center, a former locomotive repair facility for Illinois Central Railroad, was judged unfit for use due to infrastructure issues. The childcare center was abruptly moved to a smaller off-campus space about a mile from campus. This resulted in reduced enrollment and reduced resources, and within a year the off-campus center was forced to close. The University received the promise of State Capital Development Funds in 2014 for a newly constructed childcare center, contracted with an architect, finalized plans and was ready to break ground when the State of Illinois experienced a budget crisis in 2015 which made the funds unavailable. The University has gone without on-campus childcare for over ten years. Private and philanthropic funding paired with CSU resources allowed the institution to complete phase I of the Dr. David Kanis Child Development Center. The Center currently has two classrooms with space for 40 children ages three through five and 30 children ages five through twelve who will receive after-school care. CSU is going through the permitting process in preparation for providing on-site services.

**Target Population:**

The center plans on serving student parents who enroll in college degree programs and members of the community surrounding the University. The absence of on-campus childcare impacts

parents' ability to complete degrees. The CSU College of Education students will also conduct practicum service in the Center, creating a convenient space for observation and practicum hours.

**Project Financing:**

CSU received a \$2.5 million grant (state award ID number 1771-38394) from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the creation of infant and toddler daycare space. CSU does not anticipate the project budget to exceed the \$2.5 million grant.

**Staff Recommendation:**

The staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the one Public University Noninstructional Capital Project included in this item.*

Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Illinois Public University submissions to IBHE for AY 2021-22 specific to the Student Parent Data Collection Act.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Pell Grant: 2013-2020 IPEDS Student Financial Aid Survey; Race and age: CSU analysis of Fall 2022 undergraduate students

<sup>4</sup>Reichlin Cruse, Lindsey, Richburg-Hayes, Lashawn; Hare, Amanda; Contreras-Mendez, Susana; "Evaluation the Role of Campus Child Care in Student Parent Success, Challenges and Opportunities for Rigorous Study," October 2021, [https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Evaluating-the-Role-of-Campus-Child-Care\\_FINAL.pdf](https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Evaluating-the-Role-of-Campus-Child-Care_FINAL.pdf)