Q: **Who can apply for the Accreditation Support Fund - National Accreditation?**
A: As a family child care provider, child care center or school age only program, you are eligible to apply for Accreditation Support Fund - National Accreditation for assistance with required application fees.

Q: **What accrediting organizations does The Maryland State Department of Education recognize?**
A: The Maryland State Department of Education recognizes the following accrediting organizations below:
- American Montessori Internationale/USA (AMI/USA)
- American Montessori Society (AMS)
- Association of Independent Maryland Schools (AIMS)
- Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA)
- Cognia Early Learning Accreditation
- Council on Accreditation - After-School Accreditation (COA/ASA)
- Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools (MSA-CESS)
- National Accreditation Commission (NAC)
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC)
- National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA)

Q: **What documents are required for applying for Accreditation Support Fund - National Accreditation?**
A: The following documents are required:
- Copy of your completed application submitted to the accrediting organization that you are pursuing
- Completed Accreditation Work Plan
- Copy of the Accrediting Organizations Fee Page
- Copy of the current accreditation certificate if you are currently accredited

Q: **What should be included in an Accreditation Work Plan?**
A: The Accreditation Work Plan should be developed based upon the required steps to achieve accreditation from the accrediting organization that you are pursuing.
Accreditation Work Plan Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Date Completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review Accrediting Organization Standards and Evaluate Program In Conjunction to Standards.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Accrediting Organizations Accreditation Application.</td>
<td>March 30, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Licensing Reports to Accrediting Organization.</td>
<td>April 1, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Quality Improvement Report to Accrediting Organization.</td>
<td>April 15, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Professional Development Plan to Accrediting Organization.</td>
<td>April 15, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Training Certificates to an Accrediting Organization.</td>
<td>April 15, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q: **How long will it take for my application to get approved?**
A: Your application will be approved within thirty days once all required documents are submitted.

Q: **How will I know my application is approved?**
A: The Maryland State Department of Education Accreditation Specialist, who manages the National Accreditation Support Fund will notify you via email on the status of your application.

Q: **Will the award for the Accreditation Support Fund - National Accreditation be sent to me directly?**
A: Your award for the Accreditation Support Fund - National Accreditation will be paid to the accrediting organization directly on your behalf.