

Additional Child Care Development Block Grant Funding through CARES Act

WHAT

The CARES Act has provided over \$41 million in Child Care Development Block Grant funds, which the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) plans to use to assist licensed child care providers and families. DCCECE licenses about 2,000 providers in the state.

DCCECE plans to use the funds in three main ways:

- Support providers so they can remain open or re-open as appropriate through supplemental voucher payments
- Help providers cover costs of cleaning and sanitizing facilities to ensure safety and meet required pandemic protocols
- Provide child care assistance, without regard to income to essential workers.

WHY

The goal of this additional funding in Arkansas is to:

- Help encourage more child care centers and licensed family homes to reopen or remain open, filling critical needs for working Arkansans.
- Encourage families to use child care and ensure them the safety and well-being of their children is the highest priority by outlining pandemic safety procedures and providing assistance to providers in following those procedures.
- Support the economic recovery efforts in Arkansas. The importance of quality child care for working Arkansans cannot be overstated, so we're thankful for the CARES Act funding, and we are dedicated to investing in early childhood education and development in Arkansas.

HOW

- Continued supplemental voucher payments (*Estimate: \$11 million*)
 - Child care providers will get an additional \$10 per infant/toddler, \$7 per preschool, and \$5 school-age/out of school time care for children receiving federal child care assistance.
 - Supplemental voucher payments will continue into August, to coincide with school start dates.
- One-time supplemental maintenance payment for providers (*Estimate: \$4 million*)
 - Payments for licensed providers who were open March 13 and have remained open during the public health emergency.
 - Payment will help with the additional costs incurred to safely continue services during the March 13 – May 1, 2020, period of the pandemic.
 - Funding is allotted as follows based on licensed capacity and quality-level programs:

Fact Sheet

Amount	Capacity
\$500	1-25 children
\$1,250	26-60 children
\$1,750	61-100 children
\$2,500	101+ children

- Reimbursement for actual costs of deep cleaning and sanitization (*Estimate: \$3 million*)
 - These funds reimburse licensed providers for their actual costs for deep cleaning or sanitization after programs are advised by the Arkansas Department of Health that they must close.
 - Reimbursement up to the following amounts may be granted between May 4, 2020, and August 31, 2020:

Amount	Capacity
\$500	1-25 children
\$1,250	26-60 children
\$1,750	61-100 children
\$2,500	101+ children

- One-time payment for safe operations of facilities (*Estimate: \$5 million*)
 - A one-time payment for all providers to meet new pandemic procedures for safe operations including social distancing requirements in the building and while offering transportation, masks for staff, and screening processes.
 - Funding is allotted based on licensed capacity and quality level-programs and will be available for licensed providers who remain open or re-open between May 4 and August 31, 2020:

Amount	Capacity
\$500	1-25 children
\$1,250	26-60 children
\$1,750	61-100 children
\$2,500	101+ children

- Child care assistance for essential personnel (*Estimate: \$18 million*)
 - Child Care Assistance for essential personnel regardless of income on a case-by-case basis.
 - Essential personnel, under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, includes but is not limited to emergency responders, health care providers, public health personnel, sanitation workers, child care and early childhood staff and individuals involved in the food supply chain during pandemic.