Early Childhood Provider Updates

August 5, 2021
Agenda

- Welcome
- ARPA Stabilization Grants for Child Care Providers
- Teacher Support Grants Guidance and Updates
- Upcoming Events
- COVID-19 Updates for Providers
  - Guest Speaker - Theresa Sokol, State Epidemiologist
Welcome!
COVID-19 Resources

- LDOE COVID-19 landing page and library
- LDOE BELIEVE! landing page and library
- Updated: Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care
- Questions regarding COVID-19, contact LDOECOVID19Support@la.gov
ARPA Stabilization Grants for Child Care Providers
ARPA Stabilization Grants
Overview

ARPA provides Louisiana with approximately $475 million in a Child Care Stabilization Fund, 90% of which must be used on activities that will directly stabilize the child care field and the child care workforce.

The Child Care Stabilization Fund is intended to provide direct financial support to all qualified child care providers (including Type I, II, & III licensed early learning centers, as well as CCAP certified in-home and family child care providers).

Per Federal requirements of the ARP Act, to be qualified for the ARPA Stabilization Grants child care providers must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Provider meets CCDF requirements, including health and safety
2. Provider is licensed or CCAP certified
3. Provider is open and providing child care services
ARPA Stabilization Grants
Overview

The ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 1 will serve two purposes.

1. Application for the ARPA funds
2. Narrow cost analysis to reassess CCAP reimbursement rates
   • Will assess true cost of care

The application is a little more lengthy than the LaCAP grant applications. Pay special attention to the certification statements as they are different from the LaCAP grants.

The Department has developed a worksheet that will help providers gather the necessary information for the grant application. We highly recommend that you use this worksheet prior to filling out and submitting the ARPA grant application.
ARPA Stabilization Grants
Grant Funding Base and Bonus Amounts

In many ways the funding formula for the ARPA Stabilization grants is similar to the LaCAP grants.

**Base amount:** As with the LaCAP grants, there will be a base amount per child in licensed capacity. For the ARPA Stabilization Grant the base amount will be **$1,256.00 per child in license capacity**.

**Bonus amount:** Additionally, as with the LaCAP grants, there will be a bonus amount per child. For the ARPA Stabilization Grant the maximum bonus amount, if you meet the maximum of each category, will be **$628.00 per child in licensed capacity**.

For example, a provider that has a licensed capacity of 100 children would receive $125,600 as a base amount and **could** receive an additional $62,800 bonus, for a total award of $188,400.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base Amount:</th>
<th>$1,256.00 x 100 children =</th>
<th>$125,600</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possible Bonus Amount:</td>
<td>$ 628.00 x 100 children =</td>
<td>$62,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Total Payment:</td>
<td></td>
<td>$188,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ARPA Stabilization Grants
Bonus Calculations

As encouraged by federal guidance, the formula for distributing the ARPA Stabilization Grants considers multiple cost factors and targets funds where most needed for recovery.

The bonus amount will be calculated based on three areas: site, services provided, and community. Within these three categories there are specific factors. All factors in all categories add up to 100%.
## ARPA Stabilization Grants

### Site Category Factors for Bonus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Category</th>
<th>Factor Description</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent of CCAP-certified children served</strong></td>
<td>Providers will receive up to 20% of the bonus amount based on percentage of CCAP-certified children they serve, proportionate to their licensed capacity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-50%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-75%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-100%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provider Type</strong></td>
<td>In-home and family providers will receive 8% of the bonus amount, while Type III centers will receive 10% of the bonus amount.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-home</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type III</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# ARPA Stabilization Grants

## Service Provided Factors for Bonus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Factor Description</th>
<th>Allocation Description</th>
<th>Allocation Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Offers Non-traditional Operating Hours</strong></td>
<td>Providers will receive 5% of the bonus amount if they offer non-traditional operating hours (e.g., before 6 a.m. or after 7 p.m. M – F, overnight care, weekend care, 24-hour care).</td>
<td>Provider offers non-traditional operating hours.</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Offers Transportation</strong></td>
<td>Providers will receive 5% of the bonus amount if they offer transportation beyond field trip-only transportation.</td>
<td>Provider offers transportation outside of field trip-only transportation.</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Serves Infants</strong></td>
<td>Providers will receive 15% of the bonus amount if they are licensed to serve infants (6 weeks – 12 months).</td>
<td>Provider is licensed to serve infants.</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Serves Toddlers</strong></td>
<td>Providers will receive 15% of the bonus amount if they are licensed to serve toddlers (13 – 36 months).</td>
<td>Provider is licensed to serve toddlers.</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Serves Children with Special Needs</strong></td>
<td>Providers will receive 5% of the bonus amount if they serve children with special needs.</td>
<td>Provider serves children with special needs.</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Serves DLL Children</strong></td>
<td>Providers will receive 5% of the bonus amount if they serve children who speak English as a second language.</td>
<td>Provider serves children who speak English as their second language.</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ARPA Stabilization Grants

### Community Factor for Bonus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Category Description</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SVI Scoring</strong></td>
<td>Providers will receive up to 20% of the bonus amount based on their census tract’s Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) rating. SVI is calculated by the CDC and is used to identify socially vulnerable communities. The index takes into account factors including socioeconomic status, household composition, minority status and language, and housing type and transportation in the area. Each census tract is assigned a score between 0.0 to 1.0, with higher numbers indicating greater vulnerability. More information about SVI can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.00-0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.26-0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.51-0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.76-1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In order to provide additional resources in areas with the most vulnerable populations, the ARPA Stabilization Grant will use the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) as the community factor.

The SVI provides each community with a score between 0 and 1, with 1 being the most vulnerable based on the SVI criteria.

For more information on SVI:
ARPA Stabilization Grants
Bonus Calculations

All factors in all categories add up to 100%. In our earlier example of a provider with 100 children, the provider would receive the $62,800 bonus amount only if they meet the maximum of every factor in every category.

- **Community**: SVI (20%)
- **Site**: Provider Type (10%), % Certified CCAP (20%), Transportation (5%), Infant Care (15%), Toddler Care (15%), Special Needs Care (5%), Serve DLL (5%), Non-traditional Hours (5%)

**Base Amount**: $1,256.00 x 100 children = $125,600

**Possible Bonus**: $628.00 x 100% x 100 children = $62,800

**Possible Total**: $188,400
### ARPA Stabilization Grants

Example - Base Amount

| Licensed Capacity of 100 Children | $1,256.00 x 100 | = | $125,600.00 |
## ARPA Stabilization Grants
### Example - Community Factor for Bonus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SVI</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.00-0.25</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.26-0.50</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.51-0.75</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.75-1.00</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Licensed Capacity of 100 Children: $1,256.00 \times 100 = $125,600.00
- Social Vulnerability Index of .26: $628.00 \times 100 \times 16\% = $10,048.00
ARPA Stabilization Grants
Example - Site Category Factors for Bonus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% CCAP-certified children served</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-50%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-75%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-100%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center Type</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type III</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family/In-Home</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type I and II</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Licensed Capacity of 100 Children
Social Vulnerability Index of .26

Type III Center
20% CCAP Children

$1,256.00 x 100 = $125,600.00
$628.00 x 100 x 16% = $10,048.00
$628.00 x 100 x 10% = $6,280.00
$628.00 x 100 x 14% = $8,792.00
**ARPA Stabilization Grants**

**Example - Service Provision Factors for Bonus**

- Non-traditional Operating Hours = 5%
- Transportation = 5%
- Infant Care = 15%
- Toddler Care = 15%
- Special Needs Care = 5%
- Serves Dual Language Learners (DLL) = 5%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Capacity of 100 Children</td>
<td>$1,256.00 x 100 = $125,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Vulnerability Index of .26</td>
<td>$628.00 x 100 x 16% = $10,048.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type III Center</td>
<td>$628.00 x 100 x 10% = $6,280.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% CCAP Children</td>
<td>$628.00 x 100 x 14% = $8,792.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serves Infants</td>
<td>$628.00 x 100 x 15% = $9,420.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serves Toddlers</td>
<td>$628.00 x 100 x 15% = $9,420.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serves Special Needs Children</td>
<td>$628.00 x 100 x 5% = $3,140.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $172,700.00
ARPA Stabilization Grants Timeline

Timeline for Round 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 5</td>
<td>ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 1 Application release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9 &amp; 12 from 1-2 p.m</td>
<td>Office Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 17 &amp; 19 from 12-1 p.m</td>
<td>Office Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 19</td>
<td>ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 1 Application closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 1 funds released in Regions 1 (Orleans), 4 (Thibodeaux), and 8 (Shreveport)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 1 funds released in Regions 2 (Baton Rouge), 5 (Lafayette), and 9 (Monroe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 1 funds released in Regions 3 (Covington), 6 (Lake Charles), and 7 (Alexandria)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Department will switch the regional timeline for the release of funds for Round 2 of the ARPA Stabilization Grant in Spring 2022. Grant support is available through the Provider Help Desk @ 225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543.
The Department has created a worksheet that will help providers gather the necessary information for the grant application. The worksheet also includes a link to the estimation calculator that will allow child care providers to approximate the amount of their ARPA Stabilization Grant award.

Type I, II, and III child care centers and CCAP-certified family child care and in-home providers can ask questions about the ARPA Stabilization Grant application or formula during upcoming Office Hours.
Teacher Support Grants
Teacher Support Grant

Purpose

Making sure that teachers are well-compensated is a critical strategy to improve retention and, ultimately, program quality.

Compensation *matters*:

- Recent data suggest that Louisiana child care teachers make less than $20,000 annually, which is less than half of what their school-based counterparts earn.
- Among early educators in child care,
  - More than 50% report being unable to pay for medical expenses
  - 40% are food insecure
  - 30% report difficulty paying rent and
  - More than 20% report clinical levels of depressive symptoms.
Teacher Support Grant
Allowable Expenditures

The amount and timing of the funds given to teachers and support staff is at the discretion of the Owner/Director.

All teachers and support staff still in employment at the center should receive a stipend, bonus, and/or wage supplement from this grant:

- This includes lead teachers and assistant teachers.
- Funds may also be used on non-instructional support staff such as bus drivers, cooks, etc.
- Directors who are solely administrative staff and do not provide direct support or instruction are not eligible to receive grant funds.

Directors might choose to provide different levels of payment to individual staff members based on staff longevity, greater hours worked, or other factors.
Teacher Support Grant Documentation

**Providers should retain documentation of expenditures.**

**Providers must retain documentation that all funds were spent on eligible expenses** (i.e., stipends, bonuses, and/or wage supplements to child care staff):

- This documentation could include records of stipends, bonuses, or wage supplements issued to staff members, check stubs of payments issued, documentation of how amounts were determined for staff, and bank records showing payments issued.

- All documentation must be provided to LDOE upon request for audit purposes. Providers should expect an audit after funds are spent.
Teacher Support Grant
The “Benefits Cliff”

A “benefits cliff” happens when household earnings increase just enough to result in an abrupt reduction or loss of critical social service benefits. This is very disruptive for families because earnings usually have not increased enough for self-sufficiency without the benefits.

- If a wage increase is insufficient to cover the loss of needed public benefits, staff members may be made worse off by an increase to their wages.
- Employers, and staff members, do not always understand what benefits, if any, may be lost with wage increases.
  - This uncertainty makes career decisions difficult. Staff may turn down promotions because the wage increase does not cover the loss of public benefits.
  - Needed increased supports to teachers from child care leaders may result in unintended negative consequences without communication with teachers.
These critically-needed benefits that may be at risk for staff include:

- SNAP (food stamps)
- Medicaid and CHIP/LACHIP (health benefits)
- Section 8 (housing vouchers)
- CCAP (child care assistance)
- TANF (cash welfare aid)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP--utilities assistance)
Teacher Support Grant
Benefits Cliff Guidance

Sites can take several steps to ensure that efforts to improve staff wages have the greatest possible impact on their employees’ well-being, including:

● Know the annual wage you provide to your employees, your employees’ household size, and how it relates to the Federal Poverty Level and social services eligibility.

● If necessary, provide short-term increases in wages or increases to lower wages, in particular, as one-time or periodic bonuses instead of regular hourly wages. One-time stipends get "counted" differently from hourly wages for some programs, such as SNAP, which will reduce the negative impact of a wage supplement on employees' public benefits.

● Provide sufficient wage supplements and raises to cover the cost of any lost public aid.
Teacher Support Grant
Benefits Cliff Guidance

Sites can take several steps to ensure that important efforts to improve wages have the greatest possible impact on their employees’ well-being, including:

- **Communicate openly** and honestly with staff about their family size and additional jobs they take on, to understand their annual income needs. Develop plans for wage enhancements with this in mind.
- **Provide benefits** (such as workplace health insurance or free meals at the workplace) to enhance working conditions and build employee satisfaction.
- **Share information** with your staff about benefits and opportunities that may be available to them through government programs and local community organizations that can help them stabilize their household finances.
Upcoming Events
Reminder of Key Dates

- **August 5**: ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 1 Application release
- **August 9 & 12 from 1-2 p.m.; August 17 & 19 from 12-1 p.m.**: Office Hours
- **August 19**: ARPA Stabilization Grant Round 1 Application closed
- **September 1**: Type III providers can begin receiving up to two hours of free tax consultation from tax professionals. Monitor the EC Newsletter for sign-up information.
- **September 30**: All early learning staff on the premises of a center and accessible to children shall have current certification in CPR-infant, child, and adult, and in First Aid.
The Department will be hosting monthly webinars for early childhood providers. These webinars will include important updates relating to COVID-19 and reminders for all provider types.

Providers can access the next provider webinar using the information below:

- **Webinar Date/Time:** Thursday, September 2 at 1 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** [https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93597745872](https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/93597745872)
- **Phone Number:** 1-312-626-6799
- **Meeting ID:** 935 9774 5872
Contact Info

Child Care Licensing
- Call 225-342-9905
- Email ldelicensing@la.gov or email licensing consultants directly

Child Care Assistance Program
- Call 225-250-7635 or 225-252-9543
- Email ldeccap@la.gov or enter a ticket at the Provider Help Desk
- TOTS Assistance: Jackie.Droddy2@la.gov

Child Care Provider Certification
- Email providercertification@la.gov

Child Care Criminal Background Checks
- Call 225-342-2716 or 225-342-5311 or email LDEchildcareCBC@la.gov

General Early Childhood Support
- Email earlychildhood@la.gov

Believes
COVID-19 Updates for Providers:

Theresa Sokol
LDH, State Epidemiologist