

Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) Relief Grant for CCAP Certified Providers ONLY - Round 5

Type III and Family Child Care Centers/In Home Providers

Overview: The impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on the child care sector and Louisiana's most vulnerable families is significant. A [survey](#) conducted by the Louisiana Policy Institute for Children found the majority of child care providers have reported a loss in revenue, and a significant number of child care providers are facing temporary or permanent closures. As child care providers become operational again or remain open, they face additional costs related to staffing and increased cleaning and sanitation requirements detailed in the [Office of Public Health Guidelines for Child Care](#) and other activities necessary to maintain operations. Additionally, families of our most vulnerable children face difficulties in finding providers to meet their child care needs. This shortage is especially significant for working families of infants and toddlers.

The Louisiana Department of Education is funding an additional grant opportunity for open Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) child care providers. In order to ensure that families who are returning to work and/or school are able to find child care options for their child(ren), it is critical to provide financial support to child care providers. This grant will help to support the early childhood profession as it rebounds from the impact of COVID-19 and also provide additional opportunities for centers willing to increase their CCAP enrollment and focus on adding additional available slots for infants and toddlers. It will assist providers offering high-quality care and providers that prepare children for kindergarten. In addition to costs for increased cleaning, sanitation, and staffing, the grant may be used to offset out-of-pocket child care balances incurred by CCAP families since March 16, 2020. This allowance will foster recruiting and serving additional CCAP families including a more intentional focus on serving infants and toddlers. The grant is described below. ***Type I and II centers as well as non-CCAP certified registered in-home and family child care providers are required to complete a [separate application](#) with instructions and mandatory dates specific to their grant and provider type.***

LaCAP Round 5 Grant: This grant is intended to provide support for CCAP providers that recruit and serve more CCAP children, especially in the targeted age groups of infants and toddlers. The grant is designed to assist with operational costs such as staffing additional classrooms, supplies, staff salaries and bonuses. Rent and utilities are allowed, in addition to offsetting out-of-pocket child care balances incurred by CCAP families after March 16, 2020 which is highly recommended. In an effort to support child care access for families in need, **providers must be operational and serving children by March 11, 2021.**

If the Department determines that any amounts paid to the provider exceeded the amount to which the provider was qualified during their CCAP certification, the Department shall have the right to recover or recoup those amounts from any future payments and/or prior to release of the approved grant amount.

Eligible providers: All open Type III, family child care, and in-home providers currently CCAP certified are eligible to apply. If the owner or director of a [center](#) or [home](#) applies to become a CCAP provider by March 11, 2021, every effort will be made to certify the provider for CCAP, but is not guaranteed approval/certification. *Head Start and Early Head Start grantees are not eligible as there is a separate allocation for Head Start and Early Head Start from the CARES Act.*

- The Division of Licensing must be notified that the center or home is open by March 11, 2021 prior to funds being distributed. Providers can verify their open status by looking for their [site](#). If providers are

open and do not see their center or home [listed](#), contact LDOE Division of Licensing at ldelicensing@la.gov for notification.

- Programs are not required to be currently serving a CCAP eligible child to be eligible for funding, but it is encouraged.
- Payment on capacity is determined by the licensed capacity as of March 1, 2021. If a provider needs to update their center's information, please email ldelicensing@la.gov.

Grant award amount: Payment will be \$300.00 per child, based on the licensed capacity. As an incentive to enroll CCAP children, including those that may have an outstanding out-of-pocket balance incurred after March 16 2020, a supplemental \$50 per CCAP authorized child enrolled on or before March 31, 2021 will also be paid.

Payments are anticipated to be issued beginning the week of March 29, 2021. The Supplemental CCAP portion of the grant will be issued the week of April 12, 2021. To apply for the grant, please complete the brief [application](#).

Deadline for submitting the LaCAP Round 5 Grant application is March 11, 2021.