

Louisiana Child Care Assistance Provider (LaCAP) Relief Grants

Overview: During and after the COVID-19 crisis, child care providers who remain open are offering an essential service of caring for children of frontline healthcare and other critical infrastructure workers. However, for a host of reasons, many providers are deciding to close their doors during this period, making it difficult to pay their bills and sustain their staff. Additionally, those that are remaining open are facing challenging work conditions and increased staffing costs related to Louisiana Department of Health's group size guidelines, increased cleaning and sanitation, and other activities necessary to maintain operation.

To offset some of the financial burdens experienced by child care providers during and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, the Louisiana Department of Education is funding two grant opportunities for child care providers. These grants will help to ensure that the early childhood field can rehabilitate during and after this crisis and continue offering high-quality care that helps to prepare children for kindergarten. 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 two grants are described below.

- 1. Emergency Child Care Relief Grant:** This grant will support providers to **remain operational** after this period in an effort to support child care access for families in need. A portion of these funds are encouraged to be used to pay the salaries and wages of staff. Other operational costs are allowable, such as supplies, rent, and utilities.
 - **Eligible providers:** All providers certified for Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), including CCAP certified family child care and in-home providers are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants will include those CCAP eligible as of the date of the [Public Health Emergency](#) declaration (March 11, 2020) and those that have become CCAP eligible since that time. Programs do not currently have to have a CCAP-eligible child to be eligible for funding.
 - **Grant award amount:** Payment is anticipated to be \$125 per child in licensed capacity
 - Based on the maximum CCAP payment for infants of \$25 for 1 week (5 business days).
- 2. Emergency Child Care Development Fund Response Grant:** There are many child care providers certified for CCAP that have remained open during the Stay at Home Order or reopened during the Stay at Home Order, to offer care for children of frontline and critical infrastructure workers, and are incurring additional costs as a result of mitigation requirements and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance. A portion of these funds are encouraged to be used to pay the salaries and wages of staff and to cover the additional costs associated with operating during this pandemic, such as sanitation supplies, utilities, etc.
 - **Eligible providers:** All Providers certified for CCAP, including CCAP certified family home and in-home providers that were open at any point during the [Stay at Home Order](#), which began on March 23, 2020, are eligible to apply.
 - **Grant award amount:** Payment is anticipated to be \$62.50 per child in licensed capacity
 - Based on the difference between the 75th percentile rate (\$31.25) and maximum CCAP payment for infants (\$25) for two weeks (10 business days) for Type III centers which is \$6.25 for 10 business days.

For providers who qualify for both grants, one consolidated payment will be issued. We are anticipating that these payments will be issued either the last week in April or first week in May.

To qualify for the grants, please complete the brief [application](#).

Deadline for the LaCAP Relief Grant [application](#) is 4/23/2020.