

SD COVID Response Funding Opportunity for Licensed and Registered Child Care Providers Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the purpose of the funding?

A. To support child care programs in continuing to pay staff salaries and other operating costs, to support families and to provide assistance to begin to operate again during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q. What is the grant period?

A. This is one-time funding.
Applications must be submitted by [June 22, 2020](#). Eligible providers will receive payment within 30 days of submitting application.

Q. Do providers need to apply, or will the funding automatically be sent to them?

A. Providers need to apply for the funding.

Q. Who can apply?

A. Any provider licensed or registered with the Department of Social Services, that:

- Chose to remain open and is willing to cap family absent day fees for the period of 4 weeks as outlined in the application.
- Chose to close but has an imminent date for reopening that occurs during this grant period.

Note: Programs that closed, are charging families full rates to hold a slot, but are not paying staff salaries are not eligible to apply.

Q. If a program temporarily closed on March 13, but has a plan to reopen, can they apply?

A. Programs can apply if there is a plan in place to reopen.

Q. Are funds being disbursed on a first-come, first-served basis?

A. Applications will be processed in the order they are received. All qualified applicants will receive funding.

Q. How much funding can programs expect?

A. Grant amounts are based on the number of children cared for, the type of program, and the activities implemented to support COVID-19 recommendations:

Program types include:

Registered Family Day Care Homes (1-12 children)

Licensed Group Family Homes (13-20 children)

Licensed centers (21-200 children)

Before and After School Programs (school age children only)

As an example, a registered family day care with 12 children could receive up to \$2,520; a Group Family Day Care Home with 20 children could receive up to \$4,600; a licensed day care center with 100 children may receive up to \$26,000.

Q. Why are the maximum funding amounts so different between types of programs?

A. Funding is based on the number of children served. That number impacts the cost of running a program, for example space/rent, labor expenses, supplies and food.

Q. How do providers apply?

A. Registered and licensed providers were sent an online application. Providers can call Child Care Services at 1-800-227-3020 with any questions.

Q. If a child care center has multiple facility sites, do they submit a separate application for each site?

A. Yes, for a provider with multiple locations, one grant application is needed per location.

Q. What requirements come with taking these funds?

A. Complete a report of expenditures and outcome (template will be provided); and programs charging families full fees for absent hours must agree to cap that fee for four weeks during the grant period.

Q. How will providers be notified?

A. An award letter will be mailed with the award amount and a W-9 form. The provider will need to complete the W-9, sign the award letter, and return both to Child Care Services.

Q. When can providers expect payment?

A. Eligible providers will receive payment within 30 days of submitting their application.

Q. What can the grant funds be used for?

A. Grant funds are to be used for:

- Paying child care staff salaries
- Paying operating costs such as food, rent, cleaning supplies, etc.

Funds cannot be used to pay for items such as:

- Remodeling/renovations to the program
- Personal debt
- Non-COVID child care related expenses

Q. Will providers have to pay the funds back?

A. Repayment of the grant funds will be required if the grant was awarded based on incorrect information provided in the application. Repayment will also be required if the program closes within 3 months of receiving this grant.

Q. If provider received Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program loan, would they qualify for this funding?

A. You are not disqualified from these funds if you have received a loan through the Paycheck Protection Program.

Q. Some families may choose to temporarily not attend child care due to concerns related to COVID-19. If a provider is open and charging a full absent rate for this type of absence, can they still apply for this funding?

A. Yes, however, providers who are open and charging the full absent rate will need to agree to charge half the absent rate for 4 weeks during the grant period for private pay families not attending the program.

Q. If a provider initially closed their day care, but reopened for the purpose of providing care only for essential workers, is there support for that?

A. Yes, the grant funds support programs that are closed to the public during this grant period, but provide care only for essential workers that keep those personnel working.

Q. Will funding cover lost revenue during COVID?

A. The funding available for eligible child care programs will not be enough to fully cover loss of revenue, but will help with funding for food, cleaning supplies, and other expenses as they work toward more normal operations.

Q. If providing care only to frontline workers, when can programs resume normal operations?

A. That is the provider's decision.

Q. Can families apply for funds to pay child care costs?

A. Only registered and licensed child care providers can apply for this funding.

Q. Will additional funding opportunities be available in the future if COVID-19 continues to impact communities and businesses?

A. That answer is unknown at this time.