



South Dakota
Department of
Social Services

Child Care Assistance Grants – Round 2

South Dakota has received CARES Act funding to help support child care programs impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Child care programs regulated by the Department of Social Services are eligible to receive a grant award for certain expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic regardless if they participated in the first round of funding or not. Child care programs have been contacted directly about the grant, the amount they are eligible to receive and what they need to do to receive the grant.

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

Registered and licensed providers were sent an email about the process to receive a grant on September 28, 2020. Providers without email received the communication by mail from Child Care Services. Providers can call Child Care Services at 605-295-7258 with any questions.

If the provider submitted the signed Award Letter and W-9 for the prior grant award, we will automatically process this additional grant award. If the provider has not submitted the signed Award Letter and W-9 for the prior grant award or did not apply for the prior grant award, those documents must first be submitted to our office in order to receive this additional grant award. The Award Letter and W-9 were attached in the email, or mailing, providers received.

If providers choose to decline this additional grant award, they were instructed to contact Child Care Services their Provider ID number and child care program name by Monday, October 12th.

Who can receive this grant award?

Any provider licensed or registered with the Department of Social Services, that is currently open, or temporarily closed due to COVID-19 with a plan to re-open within 8 weeks.

How can this funding be spent?

The purpose of this additional grant award is the same as the prior grant. Grant funds can be used for the following program costs:

- Paying child care staff salaries
- Paying operating costs such as food, rent, cleaning supplies, etc.
- Purchasing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as disposable gloves, masks, gowns/aprons, hand sanitizer, etc.
- Supporting families by sharing grant savings, such as, capping absent fees at half the program's absent fee rate for private pay families with children not in care due to COVID-19.

Grant funds cannot be used to pay for items such as remodeling/renovations to the program; personal debt; or non-COVID child care related expenses. Repayment of the funds will be evaluated if your program closes within 3 months of receiving this grant.

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

Providers who are applying for the first time will have their application processed in the order they are received.

All providers who received first round fund will automatically receive second round funding by mid-November.

How much funding can programs expect?

Grant amounts are established using a base amount for each type of program and funding for PPE. 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)

What requirements come with taking these funds?

Once a program has utilized the grant award, they are required to submit a Grant Award Activity Report to explain how funds were used to support the child care program in regard to COVID-19.

When will programs receive this grant?

The grant award will be processed as a check, which programs will receive by mid-November from the day Child Care Services receives a complete W-9 and Grant Award Agreement.

For questions about the grant award, please email CCS@state.sd.us or call (605) 295-7258.