

Child Care Stabilization Grants

Webinar Q&A

Eligibility

Q: Is this a one time application?

A: This is a one time application.

Q: If my license is open, active and in good standing, but I am not serving children, can I still apply?

A: Yes, the goal is to support providers.

Q: Grants are given in one payment or smaller payments per month through 2022?

A: Grants are awarded in one lump sum payment. DCYF will look at new applications that are submitted once per month through the rolling application period, but each provider will only receive one grant.

Q: What does "in good standing mean"? How is this defined?

A: "In Good Standing" refers to a licensed child care center or licensed family home or certified provider that currently has an active license that is not expired, closed, suspended, revoked, or otherwise in a status that in any manner restricts the activity of a licensee under the authority of the license.

Q: I don't have children on subsidy, but do have children from military bases. Do I qualify?

A: If you are a licensed child care provider, you do not need to serve children on subsidy. If you are a FFN provider, you must serve children accessing subsidy through Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) and claim your subsidy payment through the Social Service Payment System (SSPS).

Q: I do not provide care for children with subsidy. Do I qualify? I am a licensed in home provider.

A: Yes, licensed child care providers qualify for this grant even if they do not serve children accessing subsidy. It is only FFN providers that are required to be license-exempt and serving children accessing subsidy.



Q: Can Head Start and ECEAP apply?

A: Head Start and ECEAP are not eligible.

Q: I am purchasing a center and doing a license transfer, will my new center receive this grant?

A: Licensed providers must have an open license in good standing at the time of application and time of grant award.

Q: Will providers who are not licensed yet but choose to be before July be eligible?

A: Licensed providers must have an open license in good standing at the time of application and time of grant award.

Q: Will providers have to pay this money back?

A: The DCYF Child Care Stabilization Grant funds are not loans that must be paid back and are intended to help providers.

Q: If your program is licensed for 50 children, are you considered to be "over 50" in size or "under 50" in size?

A: If your program has a licensed capacity of 50, then you will receive a program amount associated with the licensed capacity of 50. The capacity parameters for the Stabilization Grant Program Amount is 30 or less, 31-149, and 150 or more.

Q: If licensed family childcare is allowed 12 kids max. Is our grant amount \$15k or \$24-\$52k?

A: The Child Care Stabilization Grant consists of: **program amount + workforce amount + add-ons**. A Licensed family home child care provider with a licensed capacity of 12 will be eligible for a program amount of \$15,000, a workforce amount of \$9,000 and may be eligible for a verifiable add-on (dependent upon specific verifiable criteria) for amounts from \$0 to \$70,000. On average, licensed family home child care providers will receive from \$24,000 to \$52,000.

Q: If you are not currently serving children accessing subsidy will you still be able to apply?

A: To be eligible for the grant, Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) providers must serve children accessing subsidy. Licensed and certified child care providers are not required to serve children accessing subsidy to apply for and receive a grant.

Q: Does the home daycare need to be FFN provider?

A: Licensed and certified child care providers with an open license and in good standing, and Family, Friend, and Neighbor (FFN) providers serving at least one child on subsidy in four of the last six months or two of the last three months and claimed for subsidy through the Social Service Payment System (SSPS) are eligible for the Child Care Stabilization Grant.

Q: Does the requirements include monitoring of following CDC guidelines such as social

distancing and mask wearing in childcares?

A: All providers who receive a Child Care Stabilization Grant must attest that they will implement policies that follow local/state guidance and to the greatest extent possible implement the Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

Workforce Amount

Q: Can the Workforce Amount be spent on payroll and bonuses?

A: The workforce amount can be spent on pay raises and bonuses. This amount must go above what you normally pay. The program amount and add-on amount can be used on regular payroll.

Q: Will the Workforce Amount be retroactive to cover recent pay increases?

A: Funding in the grant can be used for allowable expenses incurred after January 1, 2021.

Q: Can the workforce amount be used for recent increases in hiring costs and rapidly increasing wages?

A: Yes, the workforce amount can be used to increase wages, and for recruitment and retention activities.

Q: Can the Workforce Amount be used on bonuses? Many would LOVE to provide bonuses for staff

A: Yes.

Q: What if someone has no employees? Are they eligible for the minimum Workforce Amount?

A: Yes. Licensed family home owners/operators with no other employees will use the workforce amount to increase their own compensation.

Q: Can this include paying child care expenses for employees?

A: Providers may use grant funds for increased labor standards, benefits, and recruitment and retention activities. Child care expenses for employees may fall under these categories.

Q: Does wage increase include the minimum wage increase for 2022?

A: No. the workforce amount must go above the minimum amount that you are required to pay your employees. However, the program amount and add-on amount can be used for regular payroll

Q: Can we use funds to support employees accessing a retirement plan?

A: Yes, providers can use funds to improve recruitment and retention efforts.

Q: So family homes can use the Workforce Amount to pay it entirely to themselves, but centers cannot pay staff with it, or pay bonuses with it?

A: The workforce amount must be used to increase wages and benefits (this can be a bonus), or for recruitment and retention activities (such as a sign-on bonus or an incentive payment). If a licensed family home owner/operator does not have any employees, they must use the workforce amount to increase their own wages and benefits.

Q: If we increase salaries, how are we going to afford after the grant is finished?

A: Providers can use the workforce amount in a variety of ways to increase compensation and for recruitment/retention activities. This could look like a bonus, an incentive payments, added benefits, and more.

Q: Why are teachers at centers with more than 66 children valued less than other teachers. What justification was used to determine this cap?

A: The total amount of the Child Care Stabilization Grant is comprised of three different amounts: **program amount**, **workforce amount**, and verifiable **add-ons**. \$98M of the \$360M has been allotted toward the workforce amount, which must be used for increasing wages and benefits or other recruitment and retention activities.

- The **program amount** is calculated at \$500 x licensed capacity, with a minimum program amount of \$15,000 maximum program amount of \$75,000.
- The calculation for **workforce amount** was calculated using a 1:5 ratio. Many centers are operating classrooms at 1:10 for most age groups/classrooms, this means DCYF **front-loaded the workforce dollars by doubling on the front-end** (with the 1:5 ratio calculation)
 - The minimum workforce amount is \$9,000 and the maximum workforce amount is \$42,000. Programs can determine how to distribute the workforce amount across their workforce, putting them towards increased wages, benefits or other recruitment and retention activities.
- The **add-on amounts** are based on the priorities listed in the budget proviso, and verifiable information such as zip code and subsidy data. Each add-on that a provider qualifies for will add an additional \$10,000 to the total grant amount.
- The **program amount** and **add-on amounts** can be used towards the cost of salary. The **workforce amount** are intended to address the workforce issues chil care is experiencing and help to stabilize this.

Verifiable Add-Ons

Q: Are the Verifiable Add-Ons the same regardless of size of program? I'm confused how this is equitable.

A: Verifiable add-ons are not based on capacity, they are based on the demographic and other information defined in the Child Care Stabilization Grant Dashboard:

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/reports/early-learning-dashboards/child-care-stabilization>

Q: How will "Supporting racial equity" be measured? That seems a little bit vague to me anyway.

A: Providers that help support racial equity is defined by DCYF's Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability (OIAA) as: Zip codes with the highest concentration of children in racial/ethnic groups experiencing disproportionality in kindergarten entry using the most recent American Community Survey 2019 5-year zip code-level data. FFN providers in these zip codes meet the definition, and licensed or certified providers in these zip code who are rated a Level 3 or higher in Early Achievers. More information can be found online in the Child Care Stabilization Zip Code Factors Dashboard:

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/reports/early-learning-dashboards/child-care-stabilization>.

Q: Does DCYF determine what add-ons a program will receive?

A: Providers who meet criteria verifiable by DCYF may be eligible to receive additional add-on amounts, in addition to their program amount and workforce amount.

Q: What are the add-ons? Will they include childcare deserts or "extreme" childcare deserts?

A: Providers who meet verifiable criteria may be eligible to receive an additional add-on amount, in addition to their program amount and workforce amount. These verifiable add-on amounts are stackable, and each may add an additional \$10,000 to the total grant amount for licensed providers, or an additional \$250 each for FFN providers:

- Operating in a Child Care Desert
- Serving or located in Communities of Color
- Serving or located in marginalized, low-income communities
- Supporting racial equity
- Located in area with high COVID impact
- Missed Quality Improvement Award due to COVID*
- Waiting in the queue for data collection as a result of COVID*

*FFN are not eligible

Q: How do we access that verifiable map?

A: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/oiaa/reports/early-learning-dashboards/child-care-stabilization>

Q: Will each add on be a specific amount or do you have to qualify for all to receive the 10,000

A: The add-on criteria are stackable. Each add-on may add \$10,000 to the total grant amount. For example, a provider who meets the criteria for operating in a child care desert, supporting racial equity, and located in an area with high COVID impact would receive \$30,000 as their add-on amount.

Q: Can you get more than one add-on?

A: Yes. The add-ons are stackable and a provider may receive an add-on for each of the categories they qualify for.

Taxes

Q: Are these grants taxable on your taxes?

A: Yes. Grant funds are considered income. DCYF will send out a 1099 in January for tax purposes.

Application

Q: is the application open now? When do you think the application process will open?

A: The Child Care Stabilization Grant application will be open in the coming days. DCYF will send out a communication when the application opens.

Q: How does a licensed child care center that does not receive any subsidy get access to the WA Compass Provider Portal?

A: All licensed child care centers have access to the WA Compass Provider Portal. If you need help getting access, email dcyf.providerportal@dcyf.wa.gov or call 866-627-8929.

Q: Is the application process the same as past grants?

A: The application process for licensed and certified child care providers should feel very familiar to past grants. For more resources, including a step-by-step guide on how to fill out the application, visit the [Child Care Stabilization Grant webpage](#).

Q: Who is going to assist providers with application? What is the coach's role with this grant?

A: If you need technical assistance, including assistance in your language, guidance on preparing

for and accessing the application, or questions on spending and saving receipts, you can contact either the **Imagine Institute** or **Voices of Tomorrow**.

- **Imagine Institute**
phone: 206-492-5249
email: CCSG@imaginewa.org
- **Voices of Tomorrow** (supporting East African child care providers):
phone: (206) 278-8290
email: childcaresupport@tomorrowvoices.org

Q: Was the RFP for support sent out widely? How were Imagine and VOT selected?

A: DCYF followed Washington State contracting guidelines and used a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process to identify the Imagine Institute and Voices of Tomorrow (VOT) as successful bidders to receive contracts to provide Child Care Stabilization Grant Technical Assistance.

Spending

Q: How long do we have to spend the grant funds?

A: Providers must spend their grant funds within one year from the day the award is received.

Q: If a Family Child Care transfers their license to someone else before June 2022, does any of the grant have to be repaid?

A: In order to apply for the Child Care Stabilization Grant, providers must attest that they will remain open and serving children through the 2021-22 school year of their local school district and make every effort to continue to stay open past that time.

Q: Can I use my grant money to purchase a vehicle?

A: No, Child Care Stabilization Grant funds cannot be used to purchase a vehicle. However, funds can be used toward vehicle maintenance, gas, and insurance costs for vehicles used for the child care business.

Q: Can grant funds be used to improve the child care space?

A: Grant funds cannot be used for capital improvements (construction or renovations that require a permit). Minor renovations are allowed. DCYF will put together a list of examples, and will work with the technical assistance (TA) specialists to make sure they have the right answers.

Q: If I want to expand my daycare to have more space to social distance the children, can I use the money for to build another garage?

A: No, Child Care Stabilization Grant funds cannot be used for construction, or for major renovations that require a permit.

Q: Do any of the allowable uses of the grants have to be prorated for FCC, such as rent equal to the percentage of space or time/space of the home used for child care?

A: Providers may use grant funding for the total cost of rent or mortgage for the location care is provided at. This includes rental and mortgage insurance.

Q: Can we use this money starting January 1, 2021, for past incurred expenses? Including borrowed money.

A: Yes, these funds can be used for past expenses starting January 1, 2021. You will need to save your receipts.

Q: Could you explain more on receipt keeping because I hear different things.

A: You are required to keep receipts for purchases made with your grant funds.. All receipts for purchases or services or documentation of payroll records must be kept for five (5) years.

Q: What does the “average amount” mean that was provided in the outreach messages?

A: That is an average estimated amount based on the information that we have prior to a child care provider applying.

Q: Why did providers receive different grant amount estimates when they serve the same community?

A: Grant amounts are based on a number of factors including provider type, licensed capacity, demographic data, subsidy data, and Early Achievers data.