



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
Child Care Program Office

3601 C Street, Suite 140
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
Main: 907.269.4500
Licensing Fax: 907.269.1064
Program Fax: 907.269.4536
Toll Free: 888.268.4632
Toll Free Fax: 888.224.4536

February 24, 2021

Director
Office of Child Care
330 C ST SW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20201

Dear OCC Director:

This letter describes how the State of Alaska's Child Care Program Office (CCPO) plans to use the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA). We understand that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families and Congress how our Lead Agency anticipates using the funds to support the child care needs in our jurisdiction.

We plan to use CRRSA funds for activities in the following categories:

Direct Services/Subsidies

- The State of Alaska's Child Care Program Office (CCPO) is currently working on having the flexibility to continue to waive co-payments for families who have been affected by the emergency disaster.
- The State of Alaska's CCPO is planning to collect data from families, including those who do not meet eligibility requirements of the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), to guide decision making on how to best support families in child care settings. Families not eligible for the CCAP may include, but are not limited to: health care employees, emergency responders, and child care providers.

Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

- The CCPO is currently collecting data from licensed child care providers to guide decision making on how best to support implementation of virus mitigation policies and practices. Supports may include, but are not limited to: resources or technical assistance to child care providers; supplies to child care providers and/or child care licensing staff; and/or development of health and safety practices and policies.

Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers

- The CCPO is currently collecting data from licensed child care providers to guide decision making on how best to support the stabilization of child care providers.

Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

- The CCPO is planning to set aside a portion of the CRRSA funding to go to providers not participating in our subsidy system currently, or prior to COVID -19. Supports may include, but are not limited to: resources or technical assistance; PPE and cleaning supplies; and/or development of health and safety practices and policies.

Other

- The CCPO is planning to set aside a portion of this additional funding to include, but are not limited: workforce supports through funding to individuals working in licensed child care; wage enhancements; professional development opportunities; marketing campaigns for increasing children in child care; technical assistance in child care business start-up; and system infrastructure of a provider portal for child care providers in the CCR&R database; and social/emotional supports for providers and/or children.

The State of Alaska Child Care Program Office will amend our CCDF plan as a result of activities implemented under CRRSA funding not currently described in the plan, within 60 days of implementation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Shawnda O'Brien

Director, Division of Public Assistance

State of Alaska, Division of Public Assistance, Child Care Program Office

cc: Paul Noski, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region 10
Catherine Jackson, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 10
Joshua Lee, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 10