



Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education
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February 25, 2021

Office of Child Care
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building, Fourth Floor, MS 4425
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Shannon Christian:

Listed below describes how The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education (DCCECE) program will use funds appropriated from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA).

Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)

Arkansas plans to use an estimated 40 million in funding to support **Essential Worker Child Care Assistance**. The Division will continue to offer short-term child care assistance for essential workers. Essential workers include but are not limited to emergency responders, health care providers, public health personnel, sanitation workers, child care and early childhood staff, K-12 educators, and individuals involved in the food supply chain during the pandemic.

Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

Arkansas plans to use an estimated 3 million in funding for **Provider Deep Cleaning Reimbursement**. Providers will be reimbursed for actual costs to deep clean and sanitize after programs were advised by the Arkansas Health Department that they must close. Reimbursement invoices must be submitted to, DeepCleaning@dhs.arkansas.gov, within one month of services provided. Reimbursement will continue until Relief Funding is exhausted.

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

Arkansas plans to use an estimated 40 million in funding for **Supplemental Child Care Voucher Payments**. Supplemental child care voucher payments will continue to be processed through 2021 or when Relief Funding is exhausted. Child Care providers will receive an additional \$10 per infant/toddler, \$7 per preschool, and \$5 school-age/out of school time care for children receiving federal child care assistance. The additional CRRSA funds will help to support the stability of the child care sector and operating expenses during this public pandemic.

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

Arkansas plans to use approximately 36 million in funding for **Provider Maintenance Payments**. The Division will issue quarterly payments starting February 2021 until Relief Funding is exhausted. The Maintenance Payments are available for all licensed providers including those that are not participating in CCDF subsidy system. Payments will be based on licensed capacity and Better Beginnings quality level.

Should you have questions, please feel free to contact Ivory Daniels, Family Support Unit Administrator at ivory.daniels@dhs.arkansas.gov or Jaesha Quarrels, Assistant Director at Jaesha.Quarrels@dhs.arkansas.gov

Sincerely,

/s/

Tonya L. Williams, Division Director

CC: Jaesha Quarrels, Assistant Director