



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION**

TONY THURMOND
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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February 25, 2021

Ellen Wheatley, Director
Office of Child Care
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director Wheatley:

Subject: California's use of funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief
Supplemental Appropriations Act

This letter describes how California 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 CRRSA funds will be used to provide direct child care services, including child care subsidy assistance, to essential workers as well as to children at-risk of abuse or neglect and children with disabilities or special health care needs. To date, \$76 million has been proposed to be allocated to extend emergency vouchers for child care services for these populations, and \$80 million has been proposed to be allocated to provide additional emergency vouchers for child care services for these populations.

Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

The CRRSA funds will be used to provide stipends to subsidized child care providers and state preschool programs. To date, \$240 million has been proposed to be allocated for one-time, flat-rate stipends in the amount of \$525 per enrolled child based on

program data for November 2020 enrollment. Stipends may be used to support child care providers and programs serving families receiving subsidies, including state preschool programs with COVID-19 pandemic relief. In the case of decreased enrollment or closures, funds will be used to ensure that child care providers and state preschool programs are able to safely remain open or reopen. Stipends will support the stability of the child care sector to help child care programs pay for increased operating expenses during the COVID-19 emergency, such as to mitigate increased costs incurred as the result of supporting school-age children who are distance learning, the need to purchase personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, and other added expenses detrimental to providers' ability to safely remain open or reopen during the pandemic.

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

As mentioned above, CRRSA funds will be used to provide stipends to child care providers and programs serving families receiving a subsidy, including state preschool programs. To date, \$244 million has been proposed to be allocated for one-time, flat-rate stipends in the amount of \$525 per enrolled child based on program data for November 2020 enrollment. Stipends will be used to support the stability of the child care sector to help child care programs pay for increased operating expenses during the COVID-19 emergency, such as to mitigate increased costs incurred as the result of supporting school-age children who are distance learning, the need to purchase personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies, and other added expenses detrimental to providers' ability to safely remain open or reopen during the pandemic.

In addition, California intends to allocate additional funding so childcare providers can be reimbursed based on enrollment for families with variable schedules, supporting a CCDF goal of delinking reimbursement from attendance. This allocation will allow California to extend a policy initially funded through Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding, to further stabilize childcare providers through June 30, 2021.

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

As a result of a tentative agreement reached between the State of California and Child Care Providers United – California (Union), a provider organization which acts as the representative for the family child care home and license-exempt child care and development workforce, the State and Union have proposed the establishment of a workgroup to discuss uses for the remaining CRRSA funding to address COVID-19 pandemic needs and network preservation, which may include CCDF-eligible providers not participating in the subsidy system prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This workgroup will develop an agreement between the parties regarding COVID-19 support and recovery to be proposed for inclusion in the 2021–22 State Budget. After

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this agreement is reached, it will be shared with the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care.

Other

Additional activities and assistance may be included and will be determined in consultation with stakeholders. Further, as mentioned previously, the State and Union plan to commence a workgroup to determine best uses of the remaining CRRSA funds. Recommendations from the workgroup will be proposed for inclusion in the 2021–22 State Budget, subject to the budget approval process. As well, a portion of CRRSA funds (\$1.75 million for the California Department of Education [CDE] and \$250,000 for the California Department of Social Services [CDSS]) are currently proposed to be allocated to CDE and CDSS for administrative costs needed to implement the proposed uses of funding described in the prior responses.

The CDE 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.

If you have any questions regarding this subject, please contact Becky Halligan, Child Development Consultant, Early Learning and Care Division by email at bhalligan@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephen Propheter

Digitally signed by Stephen
Propheter
Date: 2021.02.25 17:36:45 -08'00'

Stephen Propheter
Director, Early Learning and Care Division, CDE

SP:bh

cc: Paul Noski, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region 9
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Kim Johnson, Director, California Department of Social Service (CDSS)

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Lupe Jaime-Mileham, Deputy Director, Child Care and Development Division,
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Rachel Skewes, Acting Staff Services Manager III, Family Engagement and
Empowerment Division, CDSS

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