



---

**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES**  
**DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**Deliver, Support, Serve**

---

February 25, 2021

Ellen Wheatly  
Acting Director  
Office of Child Care  
330 C ST SW, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ellen:

This letter describes how Delaware 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 childcare needs in our jurisdiction.

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

**1. Direct Services/Subsidies**

- The state will use a portion of the funds to expand direct services which includes paying parent co-pays, increasing the number of paid absent days and implementing a provider payment floor by paying based on a pre-pandemic baseline month of billing.
- The state will use a significant portion of the funding to continue our Enhanced Reimbursement initiative. Through this initiative providers can submit an application to be reimbursed for vacant slots for which they are not receiving a subsidy or private payment. The purpose of the funding is to help programs continue to pay staff and offset increased costs related to the pandemic. Providers who do not participate in the subsidy system are eligible to participate in this initiative.

**2. Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices**

Delaware has not yet decided on how we intend to use all of the CRRSA allocation. The following are ideas under consideration:

- The state is considering implementing virus mitigation practices in the following manner:
  - Supplies to sanitize, disinfect, and program facilities
  - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - Portable air purification systems

- Physical barriers to facilitate social distancing
- Other materials, supplies or equipment recommended by the CDC for reopening and operation of program facilities to effectively maintain health and safety
- Expanding capacity to administer coronavirus testing to effectively monitor and suppress the virus
- Educational technology
- Leasing sites or spaces to ensure social distancing
- Reasonable transportation costs

### **3. Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers**

Delaware has not yet decided on how we intend to use all of the CRRSA allocation. The following are ideas under consideration:

- The state is considering supporting Family Child Care (FCC) providers by issuing direct payments in the amount of \$2000.00. The rationale is that because most FCC providers have a smaller number of slots, they may not benefit from the enhanced reimbursement initiative that is currently in place to support childcare providers.
- The state is considering supporting providers that closed due to the pandemic by providing startup funds for those that wish to reopen.
- The state is considering creating a grant program to close the wage gap caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant program would include reimbursement for staff wages when a center, family childcare provider or group home must close a classroom or quarantine staff for a short period of time due to COVID-19 exposure.

### **4. Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic**

- The state intends to use a significant portion of the funding (\$15 million) to continue our Enhanced Reimbursement initiative. Through this initiative providers can submit an application to be reimbursed for vacant slots for which they are not receiving a subsidy or private payment.

Delaware has not yet decided on how we intend to use all of the CRRSA allocation. The following are ideas under consideration:

- The state is considering creating a grant program for providers that were not participating in the subsidy program prior to the pandemic. These grants will assist with increased costs related to the pandemic, stabilize providers that remained open and assist programs that closed as a result of the pandemic in reopening.

### **5. Other**

Delaware has not yet decided on how we intend to use all of the CRRSA allocation. The following are ideas under consideration:

- The state is considering providing scholarships, coaching and technical assistance for online professional development. COVID-19 has demonstrated the essential need for childcare across communities. Many individuals have lost their jobs and have expressed an interest in working in childcare. The state would provide supports to current childcare workers and potential new hires to help them increase their credentials.
- The state is considering enabling our resource and referral agency to enhance services provided to parent and providers. Resource and referral agencies provide community specific, timely information to assist parents identify and access childcare while ensuring that providers can leverage resources that help them provide stable, quality care.
- The state is considering developing a system to track early childhood educators who were laid off or left their jobs and develop a “job bank” for when demand for childcare increases. The state will use this function along with a new shared services alliance to develop a substitute teaching pool. The state will leverage the ongoing work to build a childcare registry to provide additional licensing data capturing processes into the system.

The Lead Agency will amend our CCDF plan as a result of activities implemented under CRRSA funding not currently or fully described in the plan, within 60 days of implementation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Belvie S. Herbert, MS

CCDF Administrator

Delaware Health and Social Services / Division of Social Services

Delaware

cc: Agda Burchard, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care, Region 3  
Laverne Davis-Gay Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 3  
Natasha Stovall, Program Specialist, Office of Child Care, Region 3