

February 25, 2021

Director, Office of Child Care (OCC)  
OCC/ACF/HHS  
Sam Nunn Federal Center, Suite 4M60  
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30303

E-mail: [eric.blanchette@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:eric.blanchette@acf.hhs.gov)

Dear Director:

Consistent with the recent OCC guidance, we are pleased to share Florida's plans for the CRRSA funds.

**1. Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)**

Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to provide direct child care services, including child care subsidy assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, farm and other food service workers, and/or other workers deemed essential or frontline during the response to coronavirus? If yes, describe.

- Yes. Florida plans to serve additional CCDF-eligible children and families.

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

Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to provide resources, supplies, and/or technical assistance to child care providers to support implementation of health and safety practices and policies in line with guidance from State and local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)? If yes, describe.

- Yes, see below.

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

Does the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds to support the stability of the child care sector to help child care providers (program facilities and workforce) pay for increased operating expenses during the COVID-19 public health emergency? If yes, describe.

- Yes. Florida plans to provide grants to all child care/early learning providers. These grants are intended to be used for costs to support stability in Florida's child care sector. The grants will require that the providers are open and serving children/families and that a portion of the funds are used to pay for staff salaries/benefits.

SHAN GOFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

250 MARRIOTT DRIVE • TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399 • 850-717-8550 • Toll Free 866-357-3239 • [www.FloridaEarlyLearning.com](http://www.FloridaEarlyLearning.com)

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

As required in CRRSA, how does the lead agency plan to use a portion of funds appropriated in CRRSA to provide assistance to CCDF-eligible child care providers not participating in the subsidy system prior to the COVID- 19 public health emergency?

- As indicated above, Florida plans to provide grants to over 11,600 child care/early learning providers. Approximately 4,700 of these providers are not participating in the subsidy system.

**5. Other**

Does the lead agency plan to use a portion of CRRSA child care funds for any other activities or assistance not described above? If yes, describe.

- **Waive required parent copayments** – Florida will reimburse CCDF providers for these parent copayments via our current approved CCDF waiver.
- **Reimburse state-funded prekindergarten providers for closures due to COVID** – Florida will reimburse these providers for closures due to COVID.
- **Support for incoming kindergarten students** – Florida remains concerned over the “readiness” of our incoming public school kindergarten students and the need to minimize potential learning loss given the disruption of their preschool program. This program will be delivered by public schools and provide instruction to close/remediate gaps in early literacy.
- **Support low income students participating in the part-time state-funded prekindergarten program** – Florida will support our neediest and youngest students through additional services for a limited number of four-year-olds.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this information. Please feel free to contact me at [shan.goff@oel.myflorida.com](mailto:shan.goff@oel.myflorida.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/

Shan Goff, Executive Director  
Office of Early Learning