

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P.O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

BESSD 21.C0206

February 23, 2021

Director  
Office of Child Care  
Administration for Children and Families  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
330 C Street SW, 4<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Director:

**Subject: Report of Hawai'i's Plan for Funds Appropriated in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)**

This letter describes how the Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS) plans to use the Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF) awarded under the CRRSA. We understand that this description will be used for the purpose of informing the Office of Child Care (OCC), Administration for Children and Families (ACF) 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 Child Care Services (Subsidies)

Hawai'i DHS plans to use CRRSA funds to provide direct child care services, including child care subsidy assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders and other workers deemed essential during the response to coronavirus.

Furthermore, Hawai'i DHS has already received approvals from OCC ACF and has already and will continue to implement the following provisions for child care subsidy assistance during the pandemic emergency:

- Temporarily waiving the income eligibility requirements and activity requirements for impacted families;
- Temporarily waiving the family co-payment contribution for impacted families;
- Allowing for subsidy payments to be paid to hold the child's seat at a child care facility or home that may need to temporarily close;
- Increased the DHS child care subsidy payment rates to support CCDF families' access to regulated child care facilities and homes and the increased costs child care providers have incurred due to implementing additional health and safety measures; and
- Allowing up to full-time care for school-age children attending child care programs while doing distance learning, since many schools in Hawai'i have not resumed full-time in-person learning.

- Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

Hawai'i DHS plans 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 the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Hawai'i DHS plans to develop and administer for regulated child care facilities and homes and exempt facilities, including those not caring for CCDF children prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, grants to support the continuity of operations and prevent closure or support the re-opening of child care operations, supplies, and additional costs incurred to meeting additional health and safety requirements. Hawai'i DHS will also be looking to partner with Hawai'i DOH for any technical assistance or professional development opportunities for child care providers to support continued implementation of health and safety practices and policies recommended by Hawai'i DOH or the CDC.

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

Hawai'i DHS plans to use CRRSA funds to support the stability of the child care sector to help pay for increased operating expenses during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Hawai'i DHS plans to develop and administer for regulated child care facilities and homes and exempt facilities, including those not caring for CCDF children prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, grants to support the continuity of operations and prevent closure or support the re-opening of child care operations, supplies, and additional costs incurred to meeting additional health and safety requirements.

- Assistance to Providers not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

Hawai'i DHS plans to use CRRSA funds to use a portion of the CRRSA funds to provide assistance to CCDF-eligible child care providers not participating in the subsidy system prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Hawai'i DHS plans to develop and administer for regulated child care facilities and homes and exempt facilities, including those not caring for CCDF children prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, grants to support the continuity of operations and prevent closure or support the re-opening of child care operations, supplies, and additional costs incurred to meeting additional health and safety requirements.

Hawai'i DHS 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.

We appreciate the continued support that OCC ACF is providing to Lead Agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic and considerations being offered to Lead Agencies as the nation and the world continue to work on managing the global pandemic situation and mitigate the impact on the child care sector and families and children. We look forward to working together in promoting the delivery of child care subsidies and services for our families and children in a multigenerational approach that aligns with the Department's *'Ohana Nui* framework to reduce intergenerational poverty and support children's healthy development to be successful in life.

Should you have any questions, please contact Scott Nakasone, Assistant Administrator, Benefit, Employment & Support Services Division, at (808) 586-7083, or Dana Balansag, Child Care Program Administrator, at (808) 586-7187.

Sincerely,

/s/

Cathy Betts

Director

c: Brian K. Donohoe, Administrator, BESSD  
Scott Nakasone, Assistant Administrator, BESSD  
Dana Balansag, Child Care Program Administrator, BESSD  
Paul Noski, Acting Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care Region IX