



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH & WELFARE**

BRAD LITTLE – GOVERNOR  
DAVE JEPPESEN – DIRECTOR

Julie A. Hammon - Administrator  
STATEWIDE SELF RELIANCE PROGRAMS  
450 West State Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
P. O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0036  
PHONE 208-334-5815  
FAX 208-334-5817

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 D.C 20201

February 24, 2021

Dear Acting Director Ellen Wheatley Ph.D.,

Idaho has identified the below strategies that will be implemented within the identified timeframe of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act 2021. We have a goal of investing the funds to improve the systems that support our families and Idaho's providers.

Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)

1. Raise the income limit for childcare to ensure more low-income families can access support for their children. Raise the income limit from 130% FPL to 145%. Funds will be used for administration costs related to the income limit change, automation expenses, advertising and marketing increase to Idaho families, and the actual cost for the payments made due to the expanded coverage.
2. Decrease Copay amounts for all subsidy families to support families struggling to make ends meet and support providers with increasing the amount of funding the State contributes to subsidy payments.

Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices

3. Idaho does not 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 at this time. We have our current CCDF funding supporting this effort.

Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers and Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

4. Invest in direct grant payments to providers for continued operational support (rent, supplies, etc.). We anticipate making these payments for the time period of January 2021 through July 2021, depending on funding.
5. Staff wage enhancement grants to providers to provide a reoccurring payment to all current W2 employees (working directly with children) in an effort to retain staff.

Other

1. Invest in programs that support children 0-13 through ongoing professional development on social emotional development.
2. Shared Services Proposal: cover costs of a full analysis of potential benefits and options for development of a shared services model, cost matrix, sustainability plan, and first year investment for providers who seek to enroll. Idaho plans to contract this work out to a nonprofit to do research and design.
3. New system for program integrity and corrective action tracking- create a system where providers can electronically load information on children served through ICCP, view Notices, past payments, program integrity checks to ensure funds are being used as intended, child log in records etc. This support to providers will allow a better corrective action process and should lead to reduced certification's suspended or terminated for failure to comply with program rules.

Respectfully,

/s/

Ericka Rupp, M.S  
Program Manager  
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare