



February 25, 2021

Ellen Wheatley, Acting 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:

Per reporting requirements detailed in the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act, 2021 (CRRSA), Ohio currently plans to spend the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) CRRSA award as detailed below. These plans are dependent on acquiring necessary spending authority from Ohio's General Assembly.

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.

Family Support: The current intake eligibility threshold for publicly funded child care is 130% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Through the state fiscal year (SFY) 22/23 biennial budget Ohio plans to increase the eligibility threshold to 138% of the FPL. Additionally, the eligibility threshold will increase to 150% of the FPL for families in need of special needs child care.

Provider Support: Also, through the biennial budget process Ohio plans to implement the 2020 market rate survey by ensuring all base rates meet or exceed the increase to the 25th percentile, based on Ohio's 2020 market rate survey.

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.

Provider Support: Pending appropriation authority from Ohio's General Assembly, pandemic support payment grants will be made available to child care programs. These grants will be used for payroll, infrastructure support, personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, temporary sinks, thermometers, classroom dividers, personnel costs and other expenses.

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.

Provider Support: Ohio plans to create innovation grants to further the practice of Ohio’s licensed providers, as a result of the ever-changing pandemic climate.

Workforce Support: Ohio plans to provide stipends to early childhood professionals who maintain roles in licensed settings in the following positions: Assistant Teacher, Lead Teacher and Administrators.

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?

Providers not participating in Ohio’s publicly funded child care program will be eligible for pandemic support payment grants.

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact me by email at:

Tracey.Chestnut@jfs.ohio.gov

Sincerely,

/s/

Tracey Chestnut, Ohio CCDF Administrator
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

cc: Gena Miller, Region V Program Manager
Kara Wentz, Asst. Director