



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES  
**Department of Human Services**  
*"Working Together to Make a Difference"*

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Office of Child Care & Regulatory Services

February 25, 2021

Director of the Office of Child Care (OCC)  
Dr. Ellen Wheatley, Acting Director

Re: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA)

Dear Dr. Ellen Wheatly:

The Administration of The Office of Child Care and Regulatory Services and The Department of Human Services (DHS) plans to use CRRSA funds have not yet been finalized. The Office of Child Care had taken the opportunity to list a few of the activities we will use the CRRSA funds.

**Subsidy activities:**

1. Determines eligibility of families to receive childcare subsidies to pay for childcare, and to ensure that children in the territory have access to quality early learning experiences.

**Quality activities** (section 658G(b) of the CCDBG ACT):

1. Offer extended childcare hours (nontraditional hours).
2. Extended care service hours for first responder's children.
3. Cover first aid certifications for all childcare personnel and staff.
4. Professional Development and training for Child Care Providers workforce such as teachers, personnel, staff, etc. (topics: emergency disasters, behavioral/mental health, COVID-19, etc.)
5. Acquire emergency kits for children at 116 Child Care Centers.
6. Offer services to more families. (Family, Friends and Neighbor Program FFN)
7. Increase Voucher distribution. (Family, Friends and Neighbor Program FFN)
8. Improving on the development or implementation of early learning and development guidelines.
9. Development and implementation of a tiered quality rating system for Child Care Providers.

10. Improving the supply and quality of childcare programs and services for infants and toddlers of Child Care Centers in the Virgin Islands.

11. Support compliance with the state requirements for licensing, inspection, monitoring, training, and health safety.

12. Evaluating the quality of Child Care Programs in the Virgin Islands, including how programs positively affect children.

13. Activities to improve the quality of childcare services with outcome measures relating to improved provider preparedness, child safety, child well-being, or kindergarten-entry are possible.

**Infant and toddler targeted quality activities:**

14. Training practitioners who serve infants and toddlers.

15. Providing technical assistance to programs or practitioners who serve infants and toddlers.

16. Hiring an Infant Toddler Specialist to focus on infant/toddler issues.

17. Contracting with childcare associations to provide or coordinate training and technical assistance.

18. Fund inclusion activities.

19. Providing health and safety training, including training in safe sleep practices, first aid, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for Child Care Providers and caregivers working with infants and toddlers.

20. Promoting and expanding the Child Care Provider's ability to provide developmentally appropriate services for infants and toddlers.

**Quality expansion activities:**

21. Grants to providers and local communities.

22. Monitoring and onsite visits.

23. Quality activities that support cultural diversity.

**Child Care Administrative activities:**

24. Plan, develop, and design additional activities in which funds are used for the well-being of Child Care Providers in the Virgin Islands.

Therefore, the Department of Human Services (DHS) – Office of Child Care and Regulatory Services (OCCRS) Lead Agency will submit a finalized plan on March 12, 2021.

Respectfully,

/s/

Administrator

