

Department for Children and Families  
Child Development Division

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Agency of Human Services

February 25, 2021

Dr. Ellen Wheatley, Acting Director of the Office of Child Care ACF  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
330 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Director Wheatley,

This letter serves as Vermont's Planned Use of CCDF Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act 2021 Funds Report.

**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.*

No, the lead agency does not plan to use CRRSA funds to provide direct child care services

**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.*

No, the lead agency does not plan to use CRRSA funds on the Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices.

**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, the lead agency plan to use CRRSA funds through grants to stabilize child care providers. Please see below description.

**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?*

Please see below description.

**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.*

No, the lead agency does not plan to use a portion of CRRSA child care funds for any other activities or assistance not described above.



**Vermont plans to spend its \$12.2 million CRRSA CCDF allocation through a grant opportunity available to all Vermont regulated child care programs including regulated providers not participating in the subsidy system prior to the pandemic.**

Since November 2020, Region 1 States (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island & Vermont) have convened regularly to conceptualize a common framework for federal stimulus fund disbursement to child care providers who have experienced financial and operational hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This work also includes collective thinking about leveraging funds in ways that lead to long term early childhood systems improvement across New England.

Implementing a common framework will enable New England to design innovative and data-informed approaches to rebuild the region’s child care infrastructure. This collaboration is aimed at better supporting working families to access quality early learning experiences for their children while simultaneously measuring the efficacy of those investments to inform future spending of federal stimulus.

The Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF) will administer a formulaic grant program to assist in the additional costs associated with COVID to provide child care to Vermont’s children. The total grant awarded to each program will be dependent on the number of applications and program parameters. Initial grant payments will be made in April 2021. Eligible programs must:

1. Be currently open OR plan to be open by June 30, 2021 for summer care.
2. Be a regulated program located in Vermont.
3. Serve Vermont children for child care, which may include summer care.

Receiving grantees will receive a per classroom or per group (for school-age programs) grant award. Programs may use grant award for the following categories of spending:

- PPE and other mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- Capital Improvement Projects
- Occupancy (rent, insurance, mortgage, utilities, etc.)
- Materials/Supplies
- Replenishment of Lost Revenue and/or Reduced Enrollment
- Wages/Spot-Bonuses
- Professional Development/Technical Assistance for ECE

Vermont looks forward to the approval of Vermont’s Planned Use of CCDF Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act 2021 Funds.



Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/

Melissa Riegel-Garrett, Policy Director, Child Development Division / CCDF Administrator

Cc:

Sean Brown, DCF Commissioner

Miranda Gray, Interim Deputy Commissioner Child Development Division

Anne Rada, CCDF Co-Administrator

Shireen Riley, Regional Program Manager, Office of Child Care Region 1

Samantha Reinstein, Regional Program Officer, Office of Child Care Region 1

