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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Licensed Child Care Providers

**FROM:** The Office of Child and Family Services

**DATE:** June 4, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Cares Act Recovery Grant

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In March 2020, Congress approved the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which included \$3.5 billion in additional funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to provide immediate support to families and providers during the COVID-19 pandemic, of which Maine received \$10,953,470.

After assessing current needs and hearing from parents, providers, and advocates, the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) announced on April 22, 2020 three strategies to utilize CARES Act CCDBG funding to aid providers and families impacted by COVID-19:

1. Provide child care subsidy for essential employees who exceed current Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) income guidelines (until 6/30/20 or two weeks after the end of the civil emergency, whichever is soonest);
2. Provide a one-time stipend to:
  - a. all licensed child care providers, and
  - b. all license-exempt non-relative providers participating in CCSP; and
3. Provide one-time grants to aid child care providers in continuing or resuming operations.

The first strategy was implemented in April and will continue until 6/30/20 or two weeks after the end of the civil emergency, whichever is soonest. OCFS anticipates spending \$1,000,000 on this strategy. The second strategy was implemented in late April/early May. OCFS anticipates spending \$5,229,650 on this strategy. The third strategy will begin in June to align with Stage 2 of the Governor's reopening plan. All remaining CARES Act funds will be expended in this strategy, an estimated \$4,723,820.

OCFS recognizes the immense impact that COVID-19 pandemic has had on the child care providers in Maine and across the nation. In order to support all providers who have incurred additional costs and program losses during this time and move the industry toward a full recovery, OCFS is providing details regarding the one-time grants to child care providers. These CARES Act dollars will be distributed across facilities and family providers to ensure support for all providers who are open or will be opening in June 2020.

Facilities and family providers will receive different amounts of recovery grant support. The difference in amounts between facilities and family providers is based on recent recommendations by the Bipartisan Policy Center in a [letter](#) to Congress which proposes an 8x difference in recovery funds between the two types of providers. Recognizing that the relative sizes of child care providers in Maine is less than the national average, OCFS has determined a 4x difference in recovery funds is appropriate in our State.

The grants will be open to all eligible licensed child care providers currently providing child care, as well as those that will be open providing direct child care services by June 30, 2020. Below are the details on how to apply for and receive the grants:

- Licensed Child Care Providers will need to complete the application found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FNJV9S7>.
- The application period will be open from Monday, June 8, 2020 to Sunday, June 21, 2020.
- Facility Child Care Providers will receive a one-time grant of \$3,000.
- Family Child Care Providers will receive a one-time grant of \$750.
- Providers must have an accurate Vendor Code on file.
- Providers with multiple facilities must complete separate applications for each site.
- Grant awards will be issued as soon as possible and no later than mid-July.
- For audit purposes, receipts and records related to how CARES Act Grant funds are used must be retained by providers for a minimum of three (3) years and provided to OCFS upon request.

Note: Final grant amounts are subject to change based on availability of funds after the full implementation of the first two strategies.

For questions or more information please contact Katharyn Zwicker at [Katharyn.B.Zwicker@maine.gov](mailto:Katharyn.B.Zwicker@maine.gov). Please indicate 'CARES Act Grants' in the email subject line.