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**DATE:** June 5, 2020  
**TO:** Maine Licensed Child Care Providers  
**FROM:** Crystal Arbour, Child Care Services Program Manager  
**SUBJECT: CCSP Infant/Toddler Initiatives Update**

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The Office of Child & Family Services (OCFS) has been working to finalize the plan described in the [Memo released on 02-14-20](#) regarding utilization of the approximately \$8 million in additional Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding (versus the base of Federal fiscal year 2017) Maine received due to the \$550 million increase in federal funding for CCDBG in the federal budget appropriation passed in December 2019. CCDBG is the primary funding source for the Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP). Part of the plan announced in February focused on increasing the number of providers accepting infants and toddlers receiving CCSP benefits.

**OCFS is pleased to announce the following strategies will begin 07-04-2020.**

The first strategy is to provide licensed child care providers who have a CCSP agreement with the opportunity to receive a weekly stipend of \$100 per infant on CCSP. The second strategy is to provide a 10% quality bump payment for infants and toddlers served through CCSP. There is no application process required for either strategy. Qualifying providers will automatically receive the funds with their normal CCSP reimbursement payments beginning for services provided the week of July 4, 2020.

To qualify, providers must be participating in the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) at any step, have an updated registry of staff in Maine Roads to Quality (MRTQ), and be in compliance with the required CCDF state approved 6-hour health and safety training at the time of **each payment cycle**. Retroactive corrections will not be made for providers not in compliance with all components at the time payment is issued. The stipend and/or quality bump increase will resume once all requirements have been met.

- The \$100 per week stipend will go to providers when they care for an infant receiving CCSP for twenty (20) or more hours in that week.
- The 10% additional quality bump payment for infants and toddlers (I/T) is for any CCSP Provider caring for infants and/or toddlers. The 10% I/T bump payment will be based on market rate or provider rate (whichever is lower) and billed hours per week.

Infant means a child six (6) weeks of age through twelve (12) months of age. Toddler means a child (12) months through thirty-six (36) months of age.

For more information on CCSP or becoming a CCSP provider, please contact our office at 1-877-680-5866 or 207-624-7999 or [CCSP.DHHS@Maine.gov](mailto:CCSP.DHHS@Maine.gov)

If you have further questions about the health and safety training, to update your MRTQ registry, to sign up for QRIS, or other MRTQ services, please contact MRTQ at 1-888-900-0055 or [mrtq.contact@maine.edu](mailto:mrtq.contact@maine.edu)