

Mississippi's Use of CRRSA Child Care Funding

Fact Sheet | March 2021

Mississippi received **\$133 million** in supplemental CCDBG funding from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, passed in December 2020. This is in addition to **\$47 million** in supplemental CCDBG funding the state received in the CARES Act, passed in March 2020.

States were required to submit a plan for their use of CRRSA funds to the Department of Health and Human Services by February 26, 2021. On February 25, the state announced plans to use their supplemental funds, though specific amounts for several initiatives were still under review by the state.

Support for providers. Mississippi will allocate \$20 million to continue supporting a 25% rate increase over standard subsidy reimbursement rates through the end of 2021. Providers will also continue to receive subsidy payments based on enrollment, rather than attendance, through at least December 31, 2020, though the state will use regular CCDBG funding for this service.

Additionally, Mississippi will offer one-time grants to providers serving school-aged children at reduced rates, to help them cover costs and address revenue losses associated with serving these children. Given the significant burden of meeting health and safety guidelines, the state plans to offer one-time funds to providers to assist with the costs of personal protective equipment, cleaning, or supplies. The state is in the process of collecting information regarding how much funding providers need for these initiatives.

Support for families. The state intends to use \$8.5 million of its CRRSA funds to fully cover family co-pays through December 31, 2021. The state will consider expanding this practice if funding is still available at that time. The state will also dedicate \$4 million to social and emotional development resources for providers and children.

Summer enrichment. To address the pandemic-related learning loss, the state will partner with the Mississippi Department of Education to train child care providers with summer programming tools that can prevent additional learning loss. Training will be available to all licensed providers including those that do not participate in the state child care subsidy program. Providers who complete the training will receive school-age classroom materials to support summer learning through STEM projects.

Support for the workforce. The state will support child care staffing by installing electronic fingerprint scanning machines to expedite the criminal background check process.

Provider support services. To address the increased demand for family child care homes as an option for families, Mississippi will develop best practices and other business programming for family child care homes. Child Care Resource & Referral sites will also be expanded to support families and providers alike. The amount of funding needed for these projects is currently under review.

More information available [here](#), including how the [state spent its CARES Act funding in 2020](#).