



Maine's Response to COVID-19: Child Care Actions

Fact Sheet | January 2021

On March 27, 2020, the CARES Act was signed into law, including \$3.5 billion in supplemental appropriations for the Child Care and Development Block Grant to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. This funding represents a 60% increase in total discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2020, which amounts to \$9.326 billion. States were given broad flexibility for how to use this funding and have therefore taken a variety of approaches to help address needs of working families and providers through COVID-19. However, as the funds ran out during the ongoing crisis, many states began pulling from other sources to continue supporting parents and providers alike. This fact sheet explains the actions Maine took to support the child care industry and working parents through 2020.

Maine received \$11 million in supplemental CCDBG funds through the CARES Act.

The state used a portion of its supplemental funds to provide child care for essential employees who exceeded the state's Child Care Subsidy Program income guidelines. This program lasted through June 30, 2020.

Also in June, Maine provided a one-time stipend to licensed and license-exempt nonrelative providers participating in the subsidy program. Providers that were closed received \$75 for each licensed slot, while open providers received \$175 for each licensed slot. The program allocated a total of \$5.2 million and served 1,650 providers, more than half (884) of which were home-based providers.

By the end of June, the state had used all of its supplemental CCDBG funds provided in the CARES Act.

On June 8, a recovery grant application was available to providers who planned to reopen or resume operations. Maine spent an estimated \$4.7 million on this grant program.

On July 17, Governor Mills (D) announced an investment of \$8.4 million of the state's Coronavirus Relief Fund to continue support for providers through the summer and into the fall. Grants of up to \$9,200 for center-based programs and up to \$950 for home-based providers were provided help to cover the cost of COVID-related expenses.

An additional \$2.8 million was provided to child care programs that were open and operating as of September 8. Child care centers received an additional \$2,800 in aid and family-based providers received an additional \$550 in August.

At the time of publication, Maine had yet to announce further plans to support child care providers, or to help provide access to care for school-aged children into 2021. It also had not announced whether it would reimburse subsidies based on attendance or enrollment into 2021.