



Virginia'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 Virginia took to support the child care industry and working parents through 2020.

Virginia received \$70.8 million in supplemental CCDBG funds.

The state used these funds to provide Incentive Grants through June to child care providers that were open. Licensed home- and center-based providers, and unlicensed providers that were approved subsidy vendors, were eligible to receive an amount each week equal to \$25 multiplied by half the provider's licensed capacity.

The state also covered co-payments through June for low-income, working families who received federal child care subsidy dollars. Additionally, the state provided funding for child care providers that participated in the federal subsidy program but had to close.

On June 5, most of the state entered "Phase II" of the state's reopening plan and child care providers were permitted to operate with group sizes limited to 12 (including staff) if they served children under 4 years of age.

On June 10, the state dedicated \$10 million from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund to help expand support for child care providers.

On October 21, Gov Northam (D) announced \$65.8 million in new funding—\$58.3 million from the state's federal Coronavirus Relief Fund and \$7.5 million in remaining supplemental CCDBG dollars—for continued child care Incentive Grants. The funding continued the Incentive Grant program which had operated during the summer, through December. The state did not announce whether providers would receive subsidy payments based on enrollment or attendance during the fall.

At time of publication, the state had yet to announce plans for supporting providers or working parents into 2021.