



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

West Virginia received \$23 million in supplemental CCDBG funds through the CARES Act.

The state primarily used these funds to cover child care costs for essential workers. Nearly 700 child care providers registered with the state as “critical child care sites” to remain operational to help serve the children of essential personnel. The West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families paid these providers enhanced (Tier III) subsidy rates to care for the children of essential workers.

On September 16, Gov. Jim Justice (R) announced that he committed an additional \$6 million of the state’s Coronavirus Relief Fund federal dollars to continue payments to providers registered as critical child care sites through the fall.

Governor Justice announced guidelines for child care programs considering reopening, including a requirement that all child care staff be tested for COVID-19. The state covered all costs for providers and employees to receive testing, and those without insurance did not face charges or copays. The West Virginia National Guard was instructed to assist with testing if needed. Providers were also required to submit a checklist to the state about their intent to reopen under new health and safety preparedness guidelines.

At the time of publication, the state had not announced any plans to offer additional aid to child care or school-age care providers into 2021.