Idaho’s Use of CRRSA Child Care Funding
Fact Sheet | March 2021

Idaho received $58 million in supplemental CCDBG funding through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act passed in December 2020. This is in addition to $21 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 12, the state legislature authorized the spending of $24 million of the federal award over the next year. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare plans to use most of the available funds to accept and renew applications for a Phase Three of the Idaho Child Care Grant for child care providers, first established with CARES Act funding.

Support for providers. Idaho plans to award $18 million for a third phase of the Idaho Child Care Grant program to deliver financial relief to licensed child care facilities. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare will administer these grants. The grant intends to help providers who have seen decreased enrollment or closures due to COVID-19 and want to ensure that they remain open. Eligible expenses under the program include rent, utilities, supplies, wages and payroll, hazard pay, as well as support for additional health and safety measures taken during the pandemic. Ineligible expenses include building improvements and renovations, licensing fees or permits, and lease or purchase of a vehicle. Providers must have been licensed and/or certified as of October 1, 2020 and remain with that status through the month of application, must be providing in-person child care, and remain in good standing throughout the grant funding period. Child care services must be available for at least 40 hours per child per week. Before and after school child care programs supplementing the regular school day must offer child care at least four hours a day to be eligible. Intermittent or temporary closures of up to one month will not impact eligibility for grant funding, as long as such services are resumed. Recipients that close within 120 days of receiving an award will be issued an “overpayment” that must be recouped in accordance with Idaho law.

The state will pay out grants in monthly installments based on license and/or certification, as well as provider type at the time of application, which were due by February 19, 2021. Monthly grant amounts range from $500 for family child care providers, to $5,000 for large centers. All eligible applicants will receive at least three installments, paid monthly. Grants will continue to be offered until funding is depleted, which is estimated to occur in July 2021. Providers with multiple facilities were required to submit applications for each facility. School districts providing child care with multiple facilities would receive no more than $15,000 regardless of the number of facilities.

The state is clear that this funding opportunity should not cover expenses funded by other grant or loan opportunities that a child care provider has received, but that receipt of such programs would not disqualify a program from receiving this grant opportunity.

More information available here, including how Idaho spent its CARES Act funding in 2020.