



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

Louisiana received \$67.7 million in supplemental CCDBG funds through the CARES Act.

Louisiana distributed these funds via two separate programs designed to support both families and providers. First, the Emergency Child Care Development Fund Response was meant to help providers that were open, but had to reduce capacity due to comply with guidelines. Funds for these grants were provided to cover ongoing operating costs. Second, the Emergency Child Care Relief Grant enabled providers that had reopened or remained open to continue paying staff salaries and to cover other costs such as supplies, rent, or mortgages, and utilities. The deadline for applying for these grants was April 23.

On June 12, Louisiana released a second round of grants for providers that were open, or had reopened, by June 1. These one-time, non-competitive grants were available for providers that were affiliated with Louisiana's Child Care Assistance Program. Award amounts were calculated as \$188 multiplied by the provider's licensed capacity and were intended to be used to cover any operational cost including staff wages, bonuses, rent/mortgage, and supplies.

On July 16, the state announced that it would dedicate an additional \$11 million to offer a third round of grants to

providers that had been open and operating since August 1.

Furthermore, providers caring for subsidy recipient children received an additional \$25 per subsidy throughout August 1, based on enrollment.

To assist child care providers in their struggles accessing PPE, the Department of Education provided an authorized letter requesting Louisiana retailers to consider allowing early learning programs to purchase basic supplies that exceed the rationed amounts.

On October 15, the Louisiana Department of Education announced that \$11 million in CARES Act funding would go to a fourth round of a relief grant program to assist providers with costs incurred from the pandemic, including balances from the inability of some CCAP parents to pay out-of-pocket costs.

Louisiana continued to pay subsidies based on enrollment through December 31. On December 18, The Department of Education committed to continue paying subsidies based on enrollment through March 2021.