

## Maine's Use of CRRSA Child Care Funding

Fact Sheet | March 2021

**Maine** received **\$31 million** in supplemental CCDBG funding through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act passed in December 2020. This is on top of the **\$11 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 that date, Maine announced [spending priorities](#) to support children, families, and child care providers. The state has said it will spend approximately 75% of their supplemental CRRSA funding to support providers.

**Support for providers.** To provide stability and allow for continued child care operations throughout the pandemic and into recovery, Maine will offer direct grants to licensed centers, family child care providers, and license-exempt nonrelative providers. The base amount of funding each program receives will be based on their licensed capacity, and the amount will increase for providers who participate in the state's quality rating system and who accept subsidy recipients. Maine intends to disseminate funding quarterly in 2021 to programs that are open and serving children in-person, but providers need only submit one application to be eligible for all quarterly payments. These funds are meant to cover COVID-related costs for PPE and supplies; hazard pay or provide bonuses to staff; and prevent financial hardship due to decreased enrollment or intermittent closures of classrooms or programs. Additional guidance will be published, and as noted, the state anticipates spending approximately 75% (or \$23 million) of its CRRSA funds on these grants.

The state also announced it will shift payments under the state's subsidy program to enrollment-based, instead of attendance-based, for a six-month period.

**Support for families and children.** Maine announced it will waive parent copayments under the state's subsidy program for a twelve-month period, as long as the parents meet work and/or school requirements. Additionally, the state will work on updating and improving its child care locator website, to further assist families in their search for child care. This includes creating a mobile application that will allow greater access for families through their phones.

More information available [here](#), including how the [state spent its CARES Act funding in 2020](#).