



Virginia's Use of CRRSA Child Care Funding

Fact Sheet | March 2021

Virginia received **\$204 million** in supplemental CCDBG funding through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, passed in December 2020. This is in addition to the **\$71 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 22, the Commonwealth sent a letter to HHS describing goals for the funds, and a description of how Virginia's Department of Social Services anticipates using most of its funds. According to the letter, goals include increasing supply, stabilizing child care, enhancing resources for providers and families, expanding eligibility requirements, and expanding access in underserved areas. Though specific levels of funding for each project were not available, the details of the plan are described below.

Support for providers. Grants will be offered to all child care providers, including those that do not participate in the child care subsidy program. Programs must certify that they are open and following COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. Virginia will also develop a pilot program providing start-up grants to help underserved communities that need additional child care.

The Commonwealth will invest in a new payment processing and application system, including a web portal for both parents and providers. It will also build technology to enable the portability of child care background check information, to help address staffing shortages providers have faced.

Support for parents. Virginia will enroll additional families in the subsidy program by expanding eligibility criteria and adding "job search" as an allowable activity at the time of eligibility determination. Specifically, income eligibility will be set at 85% of the state's median income, instead of the current, more restrictive guidelines. The Commonwealth will eliminate parent copayments for all parents participating in the subsidy program and increase the number of allowed absence days from 36 to 100.

Support for the workforce. Virginia will provide funds for child care staff to receive scholarships and retention bonuses.

The Commonwealth is funding intensive coaching support for early childhood educators coping with increased social-emotional and mental health needs of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Grants and contracts. Virginia will directly contract with private preschool providers in hard-to-serve communities to purchase slots. These spaces will help support families that have difficulty finding a provider that fits their needs.

Evaluation. Virginia will partner with a state university to analyze and evaluate the impact of COVID-19 on families by conducting statewide surveys of families.

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