



## Wyoming's Use of CRRSA Child Care Funding

Fact Sheet | March 2021

**Wyoming** received **\$12 million** in supplemental CCDBG funding through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, passed in December 2020. This is in addition to **\$4 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 25, the state sent a letter to HHS describing plans for distributing their supplemental funds, developed based on information from a survey of child care providers and other feedback on the current state of the child care sector. The Department will continue to assess the needs and requests of the child care sector and adapt the plan accordingly.

**Support for providers.** The Wyoming Department of Family Services plans to provide a combination of large and small grants and stipends to all licensed and exempt child care providers. Large grants will be given to offset revenue loss or increased expenses. Eligible expenses may include tuition reimbursement for families, staffing costs, or facility start-up or moving costs, though requirements will be broad enough to address the needs of providers and families. Almost 70% of respondents asked for this type of support.

Smaller grants will be offered for the purchase of personal protective equipment or increased operating expenses, such as dishwasher replacement, professional cleaning services, or supplies to assist with social distancing and classroom cohorts. As with larger grants, the requirements will be broad in order to allow consideration of specific providers needs. Two-thirds of survey respondents requested small grants.

The Department is also considering providing stipends for facilities to offset the immediate impacts of a COVID-19 closure or capacity reduction to provide financial assistance while grant applications are being reviewed and processed. About half of survey respondents requested stipend payments.

Lastly, the state plans to use CRRSA funds to offer subsidy payments to providers based on enrollment rather than attendance, as requested by 52% of survey respondents.

**Support for parents.** Wyoming is considering providing subsidies to families with shift workers to allow for child care during non-traditional hours and expanding qualified activities eligible for subsidies. The Department also plans to use CRRSA funds to enhance the subsidy eligibility system that was built in 1992 and has not been responsive to policy changes due to COVID-19.

**Support for child care workers.** The Department is exploring options for enhancing the Wyoming Statewide Training and Resource System professional development registry, for the background check system and central registry, and to expedite the onboarding process for child care providers and ensure appropriate staffing levels are readily available.

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