



## Delaware's Use of CRRSA Child Care Funding

Fact Sheet | March 2021

**Delaware** received **\$28 million** in supplemental CCDBG funding from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, passed in December 2020. This is in addition to **\$10 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 submitted a letter to HHS with ideas under consideration for how to spend the funds, though final decisions have not been released.

**Support for providers.** Delaware intends to dedicate more than half of these funds (an estimated \$15 million) to continue reimbursing providers for vacant slots that are not filled either by private-pay parents or a subsidy recipient child. This program is intended to make up the gap in revenue due to decreased enrollment. Because some family child care providers are smaller and may not benefit enough from the vacancy reimbursements, the state is considering direct payments of \$2,000 to assist these providers with their finances, continue paying staff, and remain in business. Though all providers would be eligible for the vacancy reimbursement initiative, the state is also considering a grant program for providers that were not participating in the subsidy system prior to the pandemic to assist with increased costs related to the pandemic, stabilize providers that remained open, and encourage programs that closed to reopen.

**Support for families.** The state will use a portion of the CRRSA funds to cover parent co-pays. Funds will also be used to expand services within the resource and referral agency to help parents identify and access providers and ensure that providers can provide quality care.

**Support for the workforce.** Delaware is considering a grant program to help close the 'wage gap' within the early childhood field. This opportunity may also include covering staff wages when a provider must close a classroom or quarantine staff for a short period of time due to COVID-19 exposure. To further stabilize the workforce, Delaware may set aside funds to provide scholarships, coaching, and online professional development. These resources would be used to support current child care workers and help future hires improve their credentials. The state may also develop a system to track child care workers, develop a "job bank" for when demand increases, and create a substitute teaching pool.

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