



Montana's Use of CRRSA Child Care Funding

Fact Sheet | March 2021

Montana received **\$28 million** in supplemental CCDBG funding through 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 tentative plans for the funds, though exact amounts were not specified.

Support for providers. Montana will use funds to create a shared services model which will include a substitute care pool, personal protective equipment, and other supports for providers. It will also expand staffing within the state's Resource and Referral Networks to better assist providers and help more families access care, with a particular emphasis on underserved areas.

Montana will also raise the reimbursement rate for subsidies to the 75th percentile, which amounts to an increase of between 6% to 52% for providers. The percentage differs due to program capacity and age group served. Providers will also be paid on enrollment rather than attendance. Further, the state will increase the number of hours a provider may be reimbursed for a school-aged child in their care, and the rate will also be increased to match the rate of a preschool age child.

Providers that do not participate in the state's subsidy system will be eligible for stipends to cover COVID-19 related costs such as PPE and supplies.

Lastly, Montana will pay for 100% of background checks for employees, required under CCDBG, to encourage an expanded workforce and expedite onboarding of new employees.

Support for parents. Montana will change the eligibility requirements for families receiving a subsidy from the state: the sliding fee scale will be changed from 150% to 185% of the federal poverty level to increase the number of families that have access to child care. This change is estimated to expand subsidies to an additional 1,100 families. The state will also limit copayment amounts to a maximum of \$200 a month. For a family of four, the copayment amount was previously as much as \$416 each month.

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