

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS COVID-19 CHILD CARE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

December 22, 2020

WHAT FUNDING OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS?

Licensed Providers and Registered Child Development Homes

Basic Monthly Stipend: Programs that are open and meet all eligibility requirements can receive a monthly stipend. Providers can receive \$2,000 per month and Child Development Homes can receive \$500 per month. This funding is to provide immediate support to your child care program. Examples may include supporting staff wages, replenishing toys or products, paying rent or utilities, or something similar. Eligibility requirements are:

- ▶ Currently open and operational and agree to remain open OR re-open and remain open
- ▶ In the event that your program has concerns about remaining open, you agree to work with DHS and public health officials to try and take necessary steps to remain open and operational;
- ▶ Prioritize serving families with essential service workers;
- ▶ Follow DHS Child care Guidance outlined at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/childcare-covid-19>;
- ▶ Follow CDC recommendations to child care providers outlined at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html> to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and
- ▶ Programs that have received the following funding in a particular month are not eligible to receive that month's stipend:
 - A provider that received more than \$1,000 or a Child Development Home that received more than \$250 from a small business grant or community development grant;
 - Any funding in excess of budgeted funding from your school district; and
 - Full-price payments from parents/guardians to hold slots.

All Open Programs Serving Child Care Assistance (CCA) Clients

Unlimited CCA Absences: The Department is aware of the hardship on child care providers due to COVID-19. In order to assist, effective March 9, 2020, the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) no longer limits the amount of absent days paid per month to child care providers who remain open for business.

WHEN DID OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES END?

The following funding opportunities were available for a time during 2020 but have ended.

- ▶ Co-pay Reimbursements ended on 10/4/2020. Effective 10/5/2020 providers need to collect co-payments from families.
- ▶ The Essential Employees Add-On to the monthly stipend ended on 10/30/20.
- ▶ Rejuvenation Grants ended on 11/30/2020.

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH FAMILIES I RECEIVED REIMBURSEMENT FOR?

Please use the CCA Payment Summary report that you get with every DHS payment. You can match the units billed for each family and the amount of the family's copay from your certificates of enrollment. You may also get this information on the Provider Portal.

WHAT IF I NEED TO CLOSE, CAN I STILL BILL ABSENT DAYS?

Effective with the May 18th billing period, DHS will pay 'absent days' to a provider who needs to close due to a COVID outbreak. An outbreak is defined as three or more staff or participants testing positive for COVID-19 by viral PCR testing indicating likely transmission in the program.

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WHAT IF SOME OF THE PARENTS PAID FULL PAYMENTS, BUT NOT ALL OF THEM, DOES THIS MAKE ME INELIGIBLE FOR THE MONTHLY STIPEND?

Some parents have chosen to support their child care providers by continuing to provide full payments. This may be accepted however if you specifically mandate full payment to maintain a slot and/or direct families that are required to stay home, reducing their access to child care services, you are not eligible for the monthly stipend.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Basic Monthly Stipend: For every month the program would like to receive this funding the program owner/administrator will need to fill out a survey to determine eligibility for that month. Surveys for each month will be available during that month (i.e., the June survey will be available from June 1, 2020-June 30, 2020).

Surveys must be filled out by the last day of the month. The survey can be found on the DHS website at <https://dhs.iowa.gov/childcare/funding-opportunities>.

WHERE DO I FIND MY PROVIDER NUMBER?

Your provider number can be found in a number of places. It will appear on any Notice of Decision that you have received in the upper right hand corner. If you use the Provider Portal it also appears near the top of the home screen in the white box next to the title "Location". Additionally, if you are a child development home provider it appears on your registration certificate.

HOW WILL I RECEIVE THE FUNDS?

Funds will be sent as checks to eligible programs. If your program currently receives CCA payments, your information is already on file with the Department and you will receive the additional checks in the same manner as your CCA payments (e.g., paper check or direct deposit).

If your program **does not** currently receive CCA payments, the Department does not have your tax ID information in our systems. It will be necessary for you to submit a W9 form for your program to receive a stipend or rejuvenation payment. Please go to <https://dhs.iowa.gov/childcare/funding-opportunities> to obtain the form.

Completed forms may be sent by:

E-mail:

To Wagestax9@dhs.state.ia.us

Mail:

Department of Human Services, 5th Floor
Attn: Kim Shackelford
1305 E. Walnut St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

IF I AM CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020, BUT OPEN ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020, CAN I STILL GET A STIPEND?

Yes, if your program re-opens during a month you are still eligible to receive funds for that month. Alternatively, if your program is open part of the month and then closes you will still be eligible for the funds for that month. However, please remember that if the closure is not required by your local public health department, one of the eligibility criteria of accepting these funds is that you will notify your licensing consultant or home compliance worker and discuss trying to take necessary steps to remain open.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANTS IF I HAVE GOTTEN A LOAN FROM THE PAYROLL PROTECTION PROGRAM (PPP)?

You remain eligible for these grants if you have gotten a loan from PPP, however any funds received by DHS may not be utilized for payroll purposes.

IF I HAVE MORE THAN ONE PROGRAM, DO I HAVE TO APPLY FOR EACH INDIVIDUALLY?

Yes.

WHEN WILL I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE FOR THE MONTHLY STIPEND AFTER I APPLY?

When completing the survey, if any of your responses to the questions make you ineligible you would have seen a message letting you know that you are ineligible. Due to the large number of responses we cannot individually verify if programs filled out the survey in a manner that would make them eligible for the stipend or the essential employee's add-on. DHS will not determine final eligibility until after the survey closes at the end of the month.

WHEN WILL I RECEIVE THE MONTHLY STIPEND FUNDS IF I AM ELIGIBLE?

Each month's Monthly Stipend Survey will close on the last day of that month (with the exception of the April Survey which will close on the last day of May). After each survey has closed, DHS staff will review responses to verify final eligibility for both the basic monthly stipend and the essential employees add-on. Two lists will be created: one of programs that were eligible for that month's basic stipend and another of programs that were eligible for that month's essential employee's add-on. You should receive funds approximately the middle of the following month. If you believe you were eligible but have not received funds by the following dates your program may contact their local CCR&R on or after:

- January 22, 2021 for the December Stipend
- February 22, 2021 for the January Stipend
- March 22, 2021 for the February Stipend

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT SPEND THE FUNDS AS OUTLINED IN EACH RESPECTIVE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY?

If you do not spend the funds in accordance with the guidance provided for each funding opportunity, you will be required to return the funding.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS THAT AREN'T ANSWERED ON THIS FAQ DOCUMENT?

If you have additional questions that haven't been answered in this document, you can e-mail us at canwehelp@dhs.state.ia.us.



