



The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) through its Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration (BCDHSC) is pleased to announce the award of \$19,867,522 from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) being administered through the Federal Administration for Child and Families' Office of Child Care.

Flexible funds will be distributed to eligible child care programs to support their operations as they continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. The State recognizes and fully appreciates that child care programs have been there supporting NH families as a critical support during these difficult times. Child Care programs have offered much stability and a sense of normalcy for many of NH's children. With a variety of funding streams, DHHS has supported the needs of the industry through the pandemic. This additional infusion of funding will assist in the efforts for the continued stabilization of programs.

The streamlined application for assistance opening on March 1, will be available through the NH Connections Information System. The system is currently accessible to licensed child care providers through <https://nhpublichealth.force.com/nhccis/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fnhccis%2Fs%2F> for users that have already updated their program profile. For all programs that have not yet accessed their program profile, you can use the link to be provided on Monday, February 22, 2021 via email from our NH Connections Information System. A program/provider must have access to the system and will need an updated program profile in the NH Connections Information System to apply. The update and application can be done simultaneously as of March 1. If you do not have access to the NH Connections information System or do not receive an email, please send an email to eccp@dhhs.nh.gov to request assistance after the February 22 email.

Family Child Care Providers and Licensed-Exempt individual providers (friend and neighbor) will get a flat award.

Child Care Centers will receive an award based on the following formula.

- Number of classrooms;
- Number of staff directly serving children and families at least 51% of the time; and
- Percent of children enrolled and receiving NH Child Care Scholarship.

This formula takes into account the need to support programs to meet the needs of families and NH's workforce. This formula focuses on capacity, quality and increased staff needs to meet public health guidelines, and support to families who may be vulnerable, and those who may be working in jobs critical to NH's economy: health care, long-term care, hospitality, and retail.

Programs have the flexibility to use the funds to meet the business needs they may be facing in the following areas:

- Employee wages and/or one-time bonuses;
- Income loss;
- Increased operating and/or occupancy costs;
- Materials and/or supplies;
- Staff development and/or training; and/or
- Parent fees

If you have any questions about the funds, such as how to apply, use of the funds, invoicing, and reporting, the BCDHSC has partnered with Child Care Aware of New Hampshire to assist providers as follows:

Informational Webinar – Wednesday, February 24 and Tuesday March 2, 2021 from 12:30 to 1:30 check <https://www.nh-connections.org/covid-19/recovery-stabilization> for registration information beginning on February 17.

Scheduled Question and answer sessions Tuesday/Wednesday noon to 1:00 beginning on March 9, for more information visit <https://www.nh-connections.org/covid-19/recovery-stabilization>

Live Chat option to be available at <https://www.nh-connections.org>

E-mail/phone call support listed on <https://www.nh-connections.org/covid-19/recovery-stabilization>

In addition, the BCHDSC will continue to provide COVID - absenteeism and school-aged billing provisions through April 30, 2021. For information on these two programs, please visit the COVID-19 section of the NH Connections website at <https://www.nh-connections.org/covid-19/financial-resources/>