The State of New Hampshire Child Care Webinar Series
Session Three: American Rescue Plan Act – Discretionary Plan Overview

A NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES WEBINAR
HOSTED BY CHILD CARE AWARE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Wednesday, February 16, 2022 5:30 - 7:00 PM

We will begin promptly at 5:30 PM
Welcome!

How things will work on the call:
◦ Everyone is muted so we can all hear well
◦ If you are having any difficulty please email ccrtraining@snhs.org.
◦ This webinar is being recorded

To ask questions, make comments or share your ideas:
◦ If you are on a computer, use the Zoom Chat
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This PowerPoint, FAQ, and recording of the call will be posted at:

https://www.nh-connections.org/providers/trainings-and-recorded-webinars/
Our Contributing Presenters Today

Marti Ilg, Deputy Director, DHHS/Division of Economic and Housing Stability (DEHS)

Dianne Chase, Assistant Bureau Chief, DHHS/DEHS Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration (BCDHSC)
Welcome and Webinar Overview
Today’s Agenda

• Greetings and Introduction
  Logistics/Presenters
• Series Overview and Goals
• The State of Child Care in NH: ARPA Discretionary Plan – An Overview
  • What are ARPA Discretionary Funds?
  • What is their purpose?
  • How did we develop the Plan?
  • What are the components of the Plan?
  • What is next?
• Closing Remarks
Setting the Stage

Marti Ilg, Deputy Director, Division of Economic and Housing Stability
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services
What are American Rescue Plan Act Discretionary Funds?

- Managed through Administration for Children and Families-Office of Child Care (OCC)
- Total award: $29,736,767
- Funds must be encumbered by September 30, 2023
- Funds must by fully expended by September 30, 2024
What is the purpose of the ARPA Discretionary funds?

1) Build an even better child care system

2) Help more families afford quality child care over next 3 years

3) Help states meet their federal mandate under civil rights law to provide equal access to child care programs, services & activities, including high quality programs
How do ARPA Discretionary funds fit into the overall plan for the child care community & its stakeholders?

NH’s 3-phased approach to supporting child care for children, families, providers, & business community:

- **Phase 1: Emergency Response**
  
  (3/17/20 – 6/15/20)

- **Phase 2: Recovery & Stabilization**
  
  (6/15/20 to 12/30/20)

- **Phase 3: Long-term Stabilization, Sustainability & Capacity Building**
  
  (1/1/21 – TBD)
How did we develop the ARPA Discretionary Plan?

- **6 months** - gathering input & recommendations

- **Outreach** - webinars, discussions, dedicated email box, social media, & website postings...plus ongoing training & technical assistance from OCC

- **400 individuals and organizations** provided input

- **Online survey** - 430 responses from over 56 organizations, entities & individuals

- **19 stakeholders** convened in series of meetings to identify top priorities
What are the priorities for NH’s Plan?

- **Stakeholders identified priorities** in 3 categories: workforce, children & family needs, & provider needs

- **Additional priorities** to:
  - Strengthen child care system infrastructure
  - Partner with businesses
  - Help mitigate cliff effect
Key takeaways in planning from OCC guidance & technical assistance

• **Take time** to plan strategically, leverage relationships & current projects while creating new pathways & solutions

• **View Plan as evolving & responsive** strategy, responding to changes, initiatives, priorities, partnerships & conditions in your state

• **Think long term**, beyond basic stabilization, invest in the future – children, families & child care
What are the Plan’s components?

- Strengthening the Workforce
- Partnerships with NH Businesses & Employers
- Child Care Supply Building
- Family Equitable Access to Affordable, Quality Child Care
- Quality Improvement
- Infrastructure Building
- Emerging Priorities & Needs
Strengthening the Workforce

- Child care/Head Start workforce recruitment & retention
- Early childhood/out-of-school time career exploration & expansion
Partnerships with NH Businesses & Employers

- Business/child care partnership program
- Business/employee surveys
- Public awareness campaign
- Business/child care network group
- Technical assistance & resources for employers/employees
Child Care Supply Building

- Family child care start-up/expansion
- Program expansion via facilities modifications
Family Equitable Access to Affordable, Quality Child

• CCDF Pilots:
  ▪ Increased income eligibility for families at initial determination
  ▪ “Pay by enrollment “ data pilot
  ▪ Implement Early Head Start model in infant/toddler child care
• Absent due to COVID policy extension
Quality Improvement

• **Granite Steps for Quality** (GSQ), NH Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS)
  ▪ Validation study
  ▪ Quality incentives for programs
  ▪ Assessment tools & materials
  ▪ Professional development activities to implement

• **Increased access - mental health** (MH) supports/services for staff, children & families via self-care/wellness training/technical assistance/support to staff

• **Increased access - community MH** services for children in early childhood & out-of-school time programs
Infrastructure Building

• Support regional child care networks to strengthen child care communities
• Leveraging partnerships
• Build on existing foundations
• Expand vision for the future
Emerging Priorities and Needs
Next Steps

Define

Launch

Assess and Refine

Plan and Organize

Analyze and Apply
Going Forward

This webinar will be posted on the NH Connections website along with a resource page on the NH ARPA Discretionary Plan.

Updates on the Plan and its implementation will be posted regularly.

Thank you for joining us tonight. As always, we appreciate everything you continue to do for New Hampshire’s children & families!