

What is the Child Care Relief Fund?

The Child Care Relief Fund is a grant program that helps child care providers in Michigan cover costs during the COVID-19 state of emergency. The goal of the program is to help child care providers stay in business and make child care more affordable for Michigan families.

Why is this necessary?

Child care providers are an critical part of Michigan's efforts to fight the pandemic and restart our economy. Since the state of emergency was announced, child care providers have been on the front lines making sure all essential workers—from health care workers to grocery store staff—were able to keep serving their communities. Now, as our economy slowly and thoughtful reopens, quality, affordable child care will be essential to help Michigan keep working. This service, however, has been costly to providers who operate on razor thin margins. These grants are intended to help providers stay afloat so they can serve our communities well now – and in the future. We also know this pandemic has had a significant impact on families, and these grants will be used to make care more affordable for them.

Who is eligible?

Our goal is that 100% of child care providers in Michigan receive a grant. Centers, family/group homes, tribal providers, disaster relief child care centers, many GSRP/Head Start providers, and license exempt providers are eligible. Our goal is to support every aspect of our state's child care system.

- **Special note for our ISD partners:** We ♥ our GSRP/HS providers. They're awesome! During the COVID-19 crisis, we know both Head Start and GSRP providers are continuing to receive funds to support program and staff costs. If you are only a Head Start and/or GSRP provider and do not also provide tuition-based licensed child care, you are not eligible for funding through the Child Care Relief Fund. There will be more details in our FAQ released this afternoon.

How much funding is available?

Each grant starts with a base amount and additional funds are awarded based on whether a provider is open and caring for essential workers, the size of the provider, and their star rating. Michigan received \$100.8 million in federal funds through our Child Development and Care Block Grant to support this program. We are using an additional CDCBG funds that had been previously appropriated to Michigan. All of these funds must be used exclusively to support child care.

How does this program help families?

Making care more accessible and affordable for families is the central goal of this program. We're working to provide financial relief now. Every provider who receives a grant is required to take steps to make care more affordable for families during this crisis by lowering weekly rates and eliminating fees to hold a child's spot for at least 30 days after the provider applies for funding. This grant is also taking steps to ensure care is available to families when they return to work and their typical care arrangement.

Where can providers apply and get more information?

Visit www.michigan.gov/childcare to apply and get more information. This site should be live by noon on 4/29/20, but please offer us grace if it's slightly delayed. We're trying to align a lot of parts to get good info to the field!