



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### Using the CARES Act to Support Child Care in Virginia – Updated April 15, 2020

*Virginia is committed to supporting child care and ensuring essential personnel can work.*

#### Impact of COVID-19 on Child Care in Virginia

Many child care programs in Virginia have temporarily closed or are serving fewer children and families, making it difficult to remain open. Yet Virginia needs child care: to serve essential personnel now and ensure families can work and help our economy recover in the near future.

#### CARES Act Funding for Child Care

The CARES Act was signed into law in late March, providing \$70 million in Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding to Virginia for immediate use to support and sustain child care. Here is the plan for using this much-needed funding:

Virginia's Goal	How Virginia Will Use the Funding
Support providers who are open to serve children during the pandemic	Child care providers that are open and serving essential personnel will be eligible for a new grant program that will provide direct cash assistance each month (April – June) based on program size.
Support low-income families who rely on child care subsidies	Families in the Child Care Subsidy Program will <u>not</u> have to make co-payments from April 1 - June 30. Co-payment amounts will be automatically included in provider payments for this period.
Support providers in the Child Care Subsidy Program, even if they are temporarily closed	Child Care Subsidy providers that are temporarily closed may request absence payments for additional days for participating children. This parallels a provision already in place for open Subsidy providers.
Ensure back-up emergency child care is available as needed	Funding will supplement costs of back-up, emergency child care in public schools as needed.

#### Direct Funding to Private Child Care during the Pandemic

Virginia plans to use at least half of this new funding to support child care programs that are open during the pandemic. This is not limited to programs that are currently participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program. Licensed child day centers, religious-exempt child day centers, family day homes, voluntarily-registered family day homes as well as Subsidy providers are eligible.

#### How to Apply

- Child care providers that are open, serving essential personnel, and want to apply for the new grant program should look for information on how to apply at [childcareva.com](http://childcareva.com).
- Providers participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program should consult the communications that will be emailed directly to them and the FAQs available at [childcareva.com](http://childcareva.com). Questions may also be submitted to the Virginia Department of Social Services at [vendor.services@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:vendor.services@dss.virginia.gov).
- Public schools considering emergency child care should email [superintendent@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:superintendent@doe.virginia.gov).
- Families participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program should consult the FAQs available at [childcareva.com](http://childcareva.com) or contact their [local department of social services](#).