

DSS is here to help and support local child care centers as they make the decision of whether to continue operating amidst the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. A one-time grant is available to licensed and registered child care providers to assist them in remaining open or reopening quickly and safely.

Funds are designed to help child care providers that have had to close or have lost revenue due to low enrollments during the last several months as a result of COVID-19. This grant opportunity is available to assist providers in paying for their child care facility expenses, including rent/mortgage payments, utility bills, cleaning or sanitation costs, and personnel costs.

Who is eligible for a COVID Support grant?

Grants are available for licensed or registered child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes. Head Start facilities, as well as 4K/preschool programs operated by public schools, are not eligible for a COVID Support grant.

Organizations that have chosen to operate temporary facilities to assist with school-age children and have received a Certificate of Temporary Operation from DSS will be eligible a COVID Support grant through a separate application process. **If you are operating a temporary facility for school-age children do not use this website to apply. DSS will contact you separately and provide an application for you to use.**

How much are the grants and what are the conditions?

Grant amounts will be determined based on the chart below:

Child Care Centers (Based on Licensed Capacity)	Grant Amount
Up to 49 children	\$15,000
50-99 children	\$20,000
100+ children	\$25,000
Family/Group Child Care Homes	\$7,000

The terms and conditions of the grant are as follows:

- Providers will use the grant funds to offset child care business expenses, including rent/mortgage payments, utility bills, cleaning or sanitation costs, and personnel costs.
- Providers who are serving school-age children when the children are completing remote, virtual, or online schoolwork are strongly encouraged to use a portion of these grant funds to offset the cost to parents.
- Providers will maintain documentation supporting the expenditure of grant funds which may include records of application approval, receipts, invoices, and/or any other supporting documentation indicating how funds were used. Documentation must remain on file at the facility for a period of three (3) years from the date the grant is completed as needed to satisfy a possible audit. Documentation may be requested at any time by DSS and, if requested, will need to be provided within fifteen (15) calendar days of the request.

Is the grant only available if we are closed or if enrollment is low?

The grant is available for either scenario. The provider may have closed or may have low enrollment and are

facing closure. These grants are meant to support child care programs that have lost revenue from their private pay families.

How do I apply for a COVID Support grant?

Use this link to go into the online portal to apply: <https://benefitsportal.dss.sc.gov/#/benefits/cceo/application>

What do I need to apply online for the grant?

You will need your valid licensing/registration/approval number.

How long will it take to receive grant funding?

Payments will be received within 10 days of processing of the payment in SCEIS. Providers who are currently in the ABC Quality program and set up for direct deposit will have their funds deposited into this same account. If a provider applied for and received a CARES Act Emergency Operating Grant earlier this year, the COVID Support funds will be deposited into the same account as the previous grant.

If I am a licensed or registered child care provider and did NOT receive an Emergency Operating Grant, what will I need to provide to receive payment?

If a provider applied for and received a CARES Act Emergency Operating Grant earlier this year, the necessary information is already on file with DSS and should not be needed again.

If you did not receive a CARES Act Emergency Operating Grant from DSS or if the department does not have your information, SC DSS staff will contact you at the email address provided on your application requesting the following documentation:

- If you operate under an Federal Tax Identification Number (FEIN), you must provide a signed, completed W-9 and a copy of your IRS letter (147-C or SS4). The name on these two documents must match.
- If you operate under a Social Security Number (SSN), you must provide a signed, completed W-9 and a copy of your Drivers' License and a copy of your SSN card. The name on these documents must match.

If a provider has multiple sites does each site have to apply for the grant funding?

Yes, each site must apply individually.

Will providers hear anything back once they submit the grant application?

Yes, programs will receive a system generated email from the SC Voucher System for the following events:

- Application has been received in the SC Voucher System.
- Application has been approved.
- Application has been processed for payment by SCEIS, SC State Government accounting system.

Additionally, a link will be provided so child care providers may check on the current status of their application.

If you have questions, please email DECEGrants@dss.sc.gov or call 1-800-763-2223.