ESSENTIAL TO RECOVERY

Indiana’s plan for the use of Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Funds

Early Childhood and Out-of-School Programs
March 25, 2021
COVID-19 FUNDING FOR INDIANA’S CHILD CARE INDUSTRY

Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Funds)
March 2020
$78M

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Funds)
December 2020
$225M

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP Funds)
February 2021
$ To be determined
Throughout January and February, the Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning (OECOSL) convened statewide stakeholders to discuss the needs of the system and ongoing relief and recovery strategies. To also inform this work, OECOSL completed a national assessment of promising practices undertaken or planned by other states.
INDIANA’S APPROACH TO THE USE OF CRRSA FUNDING

**FUNDING PRIORITIES**
- Enable Programs to Regain Stability
- Deliver Two-Generational Support for Working Families
- Foster New System-Level Supports

**FUNDING DISTRIBUTION**
- 80%: Relief and recovery
- 20%: Support system-building initiatives

**OBJECTIVES**

**RELIEF**
Deliver critical relief to programs and vulnerable families

**RECOVERY**
Accelerate industry recovery and sustainability

**REINFORCE**
Reinforce the system with long-term supports

Prepared by MAPT Solutions
WHERE WE PLAN TO START: ENABLING PROGRAMS TO REGAIN STABILITY

Provide Support for Increased COVID-19 Operating Expenses
- Emergency relief grants
- Increased CACFP reimbursements
- Child care closure grants

Help Programs Rebuild Their Workforce
- Statewide workforce recruitment campaign
- Waived background check fees and onboarding stipends for new hires

Deliver Support for Families While Rebuilding Enrollment
- Waived CCDF co-pays
- Child care scholarships for essential frontline workers
- New supports for displaced workers

Prepared by MAPT Solutions
Funding Eligibility
Indiana’s CRRSA plan prioritizes vulnerable family populations and the programs that serve them. To be eligible for funding, programs must be eligible to receive CCDF.

Program Monitoring
Programs receiving CRRSA funds are required to agree to the terms of funding, which include periodic audits and related participation requirements. Failure to comply with the terms of funding may result in repayment of funds received.

Participation Requirements
Programs participating in CRRSA efforts will be required to complete new business training and submit bi-weekly enrollment data. Detail on these requirements is provided toward the end of this presentation.
EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANTS

To address increased COVID-related operating expenses, OECOSL will issue temporary Emergency Relief Grants which offer a 20% increase to reimbursements for programs serving children receiving CCDF/OMWPK.

Program Eligibility
Must be CCDF eligible and serving children with active vouchers

Timeline
April 2021- Aug, 2021

How it Works
Grants will take effect on March 28, 2021, and be paid out on a bi-weekly basis following the FSSA 2021 child care provider payment schedule. Programs will receive their first grant payment on April 28, 2021.

View the 2021 FSSA Child Care Payment Schedule here: hoosierchildcare.com/eccpw/forms/2021 Payment Schedule.pdf
OECOSL will provide support for increased food costs by increasing CACFP reimbursements for participating programs.

**Eligibility**
Must be participating in the CACFP program

**Timeline**
Increases will be effective for cost claims submitted for the months of May 2021-Sept. 2021, or until funds are depleted.

**How it Works**
Programs that submit claims for costs incurred during May-Sept. 2021 will receive an increase in their monthly CACFP reimbursement.
OECOSL will continue providing support to programs facing temporary closures due to a positive COVID-19 case.

Eligibility
Programs must be CCDF eligible and have faced closure due to a positive COVID-19 case.

Timeline
Grants will be available through the end of 2021 or until the need for such funds subsides.

How it Works
Programs must apply online to be eligible to receive funding. Grants are capped at $40,000 per closure and decisions are made every two weeks.
STATEWIDE WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

To help programs rebuild their teaching teams, OECOSL will issue a statewide industry-building campaign to raise awareness and interest in early care and education careers.

Eligibility
Benefits all early childhood and out-of-school time programs

Timeline
Campaign to launch in late spring

How it Works
More details coming soon!

Find Early Childhood Education Career Opportunities Now

See Open Jobs

Prepared by MAPT Solutions
To support programs in hiring new team members, OECOSL will waive background check fees and issue $400 stipends to child care programs for each new hire to support recruitment and onboarding costs.

**Eligibility**
Must be CCDF eligible to access supports

**Timeline**
April 2021 – April 2022 (one year)

**How it Works**

- **Background Checks:** From Mid- April 2021-April 2022, programs will not receive background check invoices for new child care workers.
- **New Hire Stipends:** Once a new hire has been qualified to work in your program, a $400 stipend will be issued to the program through the next bi-weekly CCDF payment. Stipends may be used to cover costs associated with recruitment, employee health and safety requirements, and mandatory job training. One stipend will be issued per worker.
WAIVED CCDF CO-PAYS

Co-pays for families with active CCDF vouchers are being waived to provide temporary relief to families, while also reducing collection burdens for programs.

Timeline
Waived co-pays take effect on April 2021 and end on Oct. 2021.

Process for Receiving Co-payments
Programs will receive payment for waived family co-pays as part of their regularly scheduled CCDF payment beginning on April 28, 2021.

Communicating Waived Co-Pays to Families
CCDF families will receive communication the week of April 5. Programs will also receive a support communication toolkit to share the change with enrolled CCDF families.

Waived Co-Pay Policy
During this period, programs may not collect co-payments from families. Audits will be conducted, and programs found to be charging families will be required to repay all co-payments.
Indiana will deliver aid to families serving as our state’s frontline heroes through the creation of approximately 50,000 early childhood and school-age scholarships. Scholarships, which target children of essential frontline families with income levels between 128%-250% of Federal Poverty Level, will be administered jointly by the Indiana Afterschool Network and Early Learning Indiana.

**Eligibility**
Must be CCDF eligible to serve scholarship families

**Timeline**
Initiative will run from May-Oct. 2021

**How it Works**
Training and orientation for CCDF-eligible programs will take place in late April.
Beginning in April, "Job Search" will be added as a qualifying activity for On My Way Pre-K and CCDF-funded programs to allow job search activities to count for initial eligibility for parents who are unemployed.

Eligibility
Families who meet the income requirements of being at or below 127% of the Federal Poverty Limit.

Timeline
April 11-Dec. 31, 2021

How it Works
Families will apply at Early Ed Connect and follow normal processes for enrollment.
IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Emergency Relief Grants | April 11 – Aug. 28

Increased CACFP Reimbursements | May – Sept. Claims

COVID Closure Grants | April – End of Year

Recruitment Campaign | May 2021 – End of Year

Waived Background Check Fees & New Hire Stipends | April 2021 – April 2022

Waived CCDF Co-Pays | April – Oct. 2021

Essential Frontline Families Scholarships | May – Oct. 2021

Modified CCDF Work Requirements | April 2021 – End of Year

Prepared by MAPT Solutions
In support of Indiana’s COVID-19 child care relief efforts, OECOSL has set two key requirements for participating programs. Requirements are intended to build the strength of the system and inform ongoing recovery efforts. All CCDF-eligible programs and those intending to become CCDF eligible as part of this plan are required to complete the following.

**New Business Success Training for Providers**

Providers are required to participate in SPARK! Learning Lab’s new *Fundamentals for Business Sustainability* training which empowers providers with new business management training and includes seven (7) hours of approved in-service training for PTQ. Training is available now in Indiana Learning Paths. Programs have until Aug. 31, 2021 to complete.

**Bi-weekly Enrollment Reporting**

Programs are asked to submit bi-weekly program enrollment data via an easy-to-use, mobile interface. Regular reminders will be sent to programs to complete. Data collected will be used to monitor system recovery and inform ongoing investments. Reporting will launch in April 2021 and run through the end of the year.
In addition to the efforts outlined in today’s webinar, OECOSL will be working to make system-level investments to build the strength and capacity of Indiana’s child care industry. Programs will receive more information about additional child care relief and recovery efforts in the coming months.

Addressing gaps in care across the state

Using new child care supply and demand reporting, OECOSL will monitor data and alongside partners and communities address gaps in access across the state.

Modernizing the care-finding experience

OECOSL will support Early Learning Indiana’s launch of a statewide online marketplace for child care to increase quality, modernize care finding and introduce new marketing supports for programs.

Supporting new shared service offerings

To build workforce capacity, OECOSL will support the creation of shared substitute pools by partnering with INAEYC to establish a Substitute Teacher certificate and assisting educators in becoming ready to work.
IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS FOR PROGRAMS

1. To stay up to date on plan progress, sign up for regular text alerts by texting the word UPDATES to 465437.

2. If you are interested in taking advantage of the opportunities outlined in this plan but are not yet a CCDF-eligible program, contact your licensing consultant to learn more about fast-track options.

3. Complete the SPARK! Fundamentals for Business Sustainability training, which is required for CCDF-eligible programs receiving CRRSA funding. To access the training, log in to ilead.in.gov and click “Start Your Indiana Learning Path”. Once there, search for the training name and register. Programs have until Aug. 31, 2021 to complete this training.

4. Stay tuned for more information on upcoming initiatives including the enrollment reporting tool and the Essential Frontline Families Scholarship program.
QUESTIONS

More information about Indiana’s Essential to Recovery plan will be posted on Brighter Futures Indiana in the coming weeks.

For specific questions regarding the plan or related initiatives, contact us at OECOSLproviderinquiry@fssa.IN.gov