Report to
The Vermont Legislature

Annual Report on Supplemental Child Care Grant Funds Distributed

In Accordance with
2015 Act 58 E.318; 33 V.S.A. §3505(a)(2):
Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations Act

Submitted to: Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
House Committee on Human Services

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VERMONT
AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES
Department for Children and Families

Part I: Summary

The Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations Act provides that, annually on or before January 15, the DCF Commissioner shall report to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and to the House Committee on Human Services regarding any funds distributed as supplemental child care grants for extraordinary relief. Specifically, the report shall address how funds were distributed and used. It shall also address results related to any distribution of funds.

Enabling legislation to establish an Extraordinary Relief Fund was passed in 2012 for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013. Additional language was added in 2014 allowing the Commissioner to supplement funds to certain high risk programs. The objective of the funding is to protect Vermont families from the closing of a child care center that provides care for their children. The guidelines establish a process by which child care centers at imminent risk of closure may seek short term extraordinary financial relief. This process does not create any entitlement to rates in excess of those established in the child care financial assistance program subsidy rate schedule, or to any other form of relief.

The Department for Children and Families (DCF) released guidelines and a simple two page application to establish a process to implement this legislation in June 2012. The guidelines specifically describe the objective of the funds; the nature of the available relief; criteria to be considered by the Department; the application procedure; and the appropriate contact in the Child Development Division (CDD). These guidelines and application materials are posted on the DCF website in the CDD section.

Annually, in accordance with legislation, DCF sets aside a maximum amount of one half of one percent of funds appropriated for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) for purposes of extraordinary relief. Any unspent funds revert to support subsidies in CCFAP.

Part II: Applications

Extraordinary Relief Fund Assets and Expenditures

SFY	Amount Available	Amount Awarded	Applications Processed	Applications Withdrawn/Denied
2013	$217,616	$101,743	4	0
2014	$244,564	$233,000	3	1
2015	$236,621	$103,250	4	1
2016	$236,621	$146,625	4	0
2017	$236,621	$97,000	2	0
2018	$239,999	$87,000	1	0
2019	$257,841	$137,030	5	0
2020	$240,000	$136,570	3	0
2021	$278,877	$0	0	0
2022	$272,232	$98,268	2	0
2023	$280,482	$188,000	2	0
2024	$278,877	$82,000	2	0

Applicant	SFY	Location	Awards	Brief Description
Georgia’s Next Generation (GNG)	SFY23	Georgia	$150,000	GNG’s lease agreement for their space/campus was terminated due to the landlord doubling the monthly rent amount. The money was used to renovate and bring the space up to licensing compliance and standards.
The Learning Tree Childcare Center	SFY23	Enosburgh	$38,000	The program was forced to relocated due to the end of a lease agreement. The money was used to help with relocation costs.
Horizon’s Early Learning Center	SFY24	Rutland	$74,000	Horizon’s Early Learning Center experienced significant flooding due to an unexpected water issue. The money was used to create a dry well around the entire foundation.
Puffer Childcare	SFY24	Morristown	$8,000	Puffer Childcare changed ownership and it was discovered that the business was not running efficiently. The funds were used to maintain operations while debts were paid. The program agreed to work with First Children’s Finance on business modeling, planning and financial management.