

What's Happening in Child Care in Vermont?

Early Care and Development Grants

The Vermont Legislature and Governor appropriated 2.2 million dollars in the 2018 state fiscal year budget to fund Early Care and Development Program (ECDP) Grants. These grants were meant to

- Support early care and development programs serving low income families and young children in Vermont, particularly those serving infants and toddlers.
- Reduce the burden of co-payments on families and providers participating in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CC FAP)
- Help early care and development programs provide quality services that promote children's development and well-being and strengthen families

In state fiscal year 2018 1,873 grants were paid to 607 child care providers for a total of \$2,266,898.53 in grants. Programs receiving this grant are asked to complete a simple report twice per year. The report from March is available on the CDD website:

<http://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/providers/grants/ecdp>. It found that programs used the funds in a variety of ways including supporting families in their care and maintaining or improving the quality of their programs.

The grants have been approved for state fiscal year 2019 and the first quarter grants will be paid in October 2018.

Increased infant and toddler Child Care Financial Assistance Rates and update CCFAP Income Guidelines

In federal fiscal year 2018 Vermont received 2.8 million dollars in additional federal Child Care and Development Fund dollars. The Vermont Legislature approved 2.4 million of those dollars to be used to increase the infant and toddler CCFAP rates for registered and licensed programs. The remaining dollars are allocated to three additional child care licensing field specialist positions.

As of July 22, 2018

- CCFAP incomes guidelines are set using the 2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines
- 4 STAR infant and toddler CCFAP rates for licensed and registered programs at the 2016 child care market rate 75% percentile.

The new rates are available here:

https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Docs/ccfap/CCFAP_Rate_Schedule_Effective_July_2018.pdf

Released 2017 Child Care Market Rate Report

The 2017 Child Care Market Rate Report was released in April 2018. This report was released with two supplements. The supplements include the rate information by Agency of Human Services District and by County. To view the report and the supplements:

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/reports>

Child Care Licensing

- Licensing technicians, licensing field specialists, licensing supervisors and the Director of Child Care Licensing hosted six opportunities across the state in community locations. These opportunities were hosted as a coffee hour to meet licensing staff and ask questions.
- 98% of regulated child care programs have received at least one soft compliance visit, to provide an opportunity to answer questions specific to their program with the child care regulations. The remaining programs will receive visits in the next month.
- Licensing has issued 46 variances for qualifications requirements to the regulations in the past year.
- All individuals working in regulated programs have been issued fingerprinting, and approximately 78% of staff in programs have completed fingerprint supported record checks.

Northern Lights at CCV

Building Bright Futures Think Tank