

From: Sarah Kenney <sarah@letsgrowkids.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 4:40 PM
To: jkitchel@leg.state.vt.us; Richard Westman <rawestman@gmail.com>
Subject: BAA CARES Act \$ for child care

Hi Senator Kitchel and Senator Westman,

Thank you both for your steady leadership during the COVID pandemic. We know it is hard and we are grateful for it.

I am writing on behalf of Vermont's childcare programs and the parents and guardians of young children regarding timing about getting concrete supports out to child care programs now as they struggle to reopen.

After talking with programs and families, we've outlined a list of needed supports that we believe could be funded from CARES Act CRF funds, but we worry the funds could come too late. Child care programs are working to reopen in the coming weeks and those dollars are needed now.

First, if the Appropriations Committee is putting CRF funds in the Supplemental BAA bill, we are asking for support in that budget package. If that is not possible, we hope these needs will be supported in FY21 Q1 Starter Budget. We all want these programs to be able to safely reopen so children are well cared for and working parents are able to get back to work as the economy reopens.

I'm attaching a chart that we created to outline those asks and where we believe they fall under the CRF guidance issued by the Scott Administration.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you want to talk further.

Thanks so much,
Sarah

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Supporting Vermont's early childhood educators and the children and families they serve, now more than ever. Visit our [Coronavirus Resources page](#) for the most up-to-date information and resources.

Item	Overview	Estimated Cost	Not accounted for in the most recent SFY 20 or SFY 21 budget	Related to COVID-19	Response to second-order effects of COVID-19	Incurred between 3/1/20 and 12/30/20	Status
Child Care Reopening Grants	The Governor proposed allocating \$6 million for restart grants to support child care programs in reopening. This funding was included in Coronavirus Relief Fund allocation list submitted by the Department of Finance and Management and approved by Joint Fiscal Committee on May 11, 2020. However, these funds are not expected to meet the need of all programs serving children 0 - 13. Additional funding is needed to fully support programs in reopening. Grants will help to cover expenses related to	At least \$6 million for year-round child care programs, plus \$3 million additional funding for summer-only school-age programs.	x	x		x	Initial \$6 million approved by Joint Fiscal Committee
Increase CCFAP Reimbursement Rates to Reflect the New Cost of Providing Care	Reimbursement rates need to be updated to align with the new cost of providing care so that programs can meet updated health and safety guidelines, increased personnel expenses, etc.	LGK estimates at least \$453,663 in additional funds per month. Request estimate from CDD.	x	x		x	
Continue to Pay CCFAP Reimbursements to Child Care Programs Based on Enrollment vs Attendance	Children with underlying health conditions, or family with underlying health conditions, may not be able to return to care immediately but should not lose access to child care slot. This funding would respond directly to medical and	Request estimate from CDD	x	x	x	x	
Extend CCFAP's Work Search Eligibility Criteria	Families may be out of work for more than the currently allowed 12 weeks of work search. We recommend that CDD use their ability to modify program eligibility criteria to expand this coverage to at least 24 weeks. This would be classified as a response to second-order effects of the emergency by providing economic support to those	Request estimate from CDD	x	x	x	x	
Continue to provide wage supports for early educators	Hazard pay should be provided to child care workers through the end of 2020. JFO guidance indicates to be eligible for CRF funds, hazard pay must apply to positions that are categorized as at least medium risk. Per VOSHA/OSHA, "Medium exposure risk jobs include those that require frequent contact, close contact (within 6 feet), or both with people who may be infected with SARS-CoV-2, but who are not known or suspected COVID-19 patients." Child care clearly falls into this category as	\$13 million estimate	x	x		x	
Allocate funds to purchase a new IT system for CDD	Updated IT system needed to get grant payments out to programs, manage new capacity challenges due to smaller group sizes and unexpected program closures, manage future sudden closure and reopening needs based on virus resurgence. This expense could be classified as a response to second-order effects of the emergency such as by providing economic support to	\$6.7 million	x	x	x	x	
	CRF Guidance to State Agencies and Departments						
	VOSHA/OSHA Breakdown of Risk of Occupational Exposure to COVID-19						