



VERMONT 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION INVESTMENTS IN CHILD CARE

The Administration and Legislature took important steps in 2020 to avert catastrophe in the child care sector in Vermont, affirming what Vermonters have known for years: Child Care is Essential. As we continue recovery efforts into 2021, here is a recap of investments made to shore up child care during 2020:

During Stay Home, Stay Safe:

- **Emergency Child Care for Essential Workers** (new, temporary program)
 - Allowed essential workers to access care for their children while most programs were closed.
- **Stabilization Payments** for programs that were closed (new, temporary program)
 - Helped programs implement health and safety guidelines during the early days of the pandemic, and ensured that programs would be able to reopen their doors on the other side of the closure period.

Note: Emergency Child Care + Stabilization Payments = estimated \$1.45 million per week during Stay Home, Stay Safe

- **Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) continued payments** to programs when children weren't attending (already budgeted payments from DCF to programs on behalf of families) – estimated \$750,000 per week
- **Act 166 continued payments** for children enrolled in private partner universal pre-K programs but not attending (already budgeted payments through school districts)

Supports for Safe Reopening and Continued Operation:

- **Restart Stipends** (new program from one-time federal funds): \$6 million
 - Formula grants to child care programs that committed to reopening by July 6, 2020 (\$3 million for child care, \$3 million for afterschool and summer programs)
- **Operational Relief Grants** (new program from one-time federal funds): \$14.1 million
 - Helped programs account for lost income due to smaller class sizes, increased staffing needs for health and safety protocols, additional supplies, and other increased expenses.
- **Temporary Child Care Hubs** (new program from one-time federal funds): \$12 million
 - Allowed families with school-aged children to access care during remote learning days.

Supports for Early Childhood Educators:

- **Frontline Workers Hazard Pay Program** (new program from one-time federal funds):
 - One-time financial support for categories of specified workers, including early childhood educators who provided care to children of essential workers during the Stay Home, Stay Safe order.

- **Prospective Workforce Stabilization Program** (new program from one-time federal funds): \$4 million
 - One-time financial support of \$938 per person for early childhood educators providing care for the remainder of 2020.

Non-CARES Act Investments:

- **CCFAP Investments:**
 - Increase to bring reimbursement rates for preschool and school-aged children to align with 2015 market rate survey
 - Increase in eligibility to the 2020 Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- **Capacity grants** for infants and toddlers: \$800,000
- **Early childhood education workforce supports:** \$150,000
- **Waiver** for universal pre-K partner programs that lost their licensed teacher – this waiver would allow programs that were prequalified as of March 15, 2020 to continue participating under Act 166 through the 2020-2021 school year even if they cannot rehire a licensed teacher.
- **Total increases in state budget: Est. \$2.75 million**