
**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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Report Date: January 15, 2022



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 in areas of the state with high poverty rates from the closing of a child care center that provides full time or part time 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. Notice of availability of this extraordinary relief was sent to all regulated child care providers with a link to the new materials in 2012.

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.

In 2021, the CDD did not receive any applications and therefore did not distribute any Extraordinary Relief funding. We believe that the federal Coronavirus relief funding, including specifically the funds that the CDD managed and distributed in 2020 and in 2021 (outlined in Part III), assisted programs in resolving issues that might have resulted in applications for extraordinary relief funding.

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

Part III: Federal Funding

The chart below reflects the federal funding programs managed by the DCF Child Development Division in calendar years 2020 and 2021.

Program	Funding	Timeframe
Child Care Business Stabilization	\$5,820,343	March – May (closure period)
Essential Person Child Care and Incentive	\$3,898,943	March – May (closure period)
Restart Stipends	\$6,607,605	Reopening – summer 2020
Operational Relief Grants (ORG)	\$12,798,485	Fall 2020
School Age Care (Hubs)	\$3,299,564	Fall 2020
Child Care Workforce Stabilization	\$3,991,190	Covered staff working through fall 2020
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA)	\$12,177,542	April – December 2021
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	\$3,530,839	November 2021-October 2022 (This figure reflects November and December 2021 awards)
Total	\$52,124,511	2020-2021