



Department of Children and Families, Child Development Division

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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Background

The Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations Act provides that, annually on or before January 15, the Department for Children and Families (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.

Legislation to establish the Extraordinary Relief Fund was passed in 2012 for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013. In 2014, additional language was introduced, allowing the Commissioner to allocate supplementary funds to certain high-risk programs. By 2024, the provisions were further expanded and clarified to enhance flexibility in fund distribution.

The primary goal of the funding is to safeguard Vermont families across the state from the closure of child care programs that offer full-time or part-time care for their children. The guidelines outline a process for child care programs facing imminent closure or struggling to open due to financial difficulties to seek short-term, extraordinary financial relief. Funds may also be used to support children transitioning from a closing program to a new one. This process does not guarantee rates beyond those established in the child care financial assistance program subsidy rate schedule or any other form of relief.

The [guidelines and application](#) can be found on the DCF website in the Child Development Division (CDD) section. These guidelines detail the purpose of the funds, the nature of the available relief, the criteria the Department will consider, the application procedure, and the relevant contact in the CDD.

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.

Applications and Awards

The table below outlines the amount of funding available, the amount of funds awarded, and the number of applications from SFY2013 to SFY2025. In 2021, when American Rescue Plan funds were directed to all programs, no applications were received.

SFY	Amount Available	Amount Awarded	Applications Approved	Applications Withdrawn/Denied
2013	\$217,616	\$101,743		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
2025	\$278,877	\$73,884	3	0

Legislative Report

In SFY25, CDD awarded \$73,884 in supplemental child care grants to three child care programs.

Applicant	State Fiscal Year	Location	Awards	Brief Description
Cabin Cub's Daycare	SFY25	Plainfield	\$11,123	The money was used to purchase a new furnace/hot water heater for the program. This expense would have otherwise forced the program to close.
Little Angels Nursery and Preschool	SFY25	Danby	\$41,761	The program had recently expended available funds to make upgrades and improvements to the building. A few months later, the septic system failed and required replacement. This money was used to purchase and install a new septic system.
Turn to Joy	SFY25	Grand Isle	\$21,000	A change in management led to a discovery of inefficient program business structures and unpaid bills. The program was at risk of closure. The money was used to catch up on overdue bills while the program worked with First Children's Finance on business modeling, planning and finance management.