

Discretionary CARES Act Funds Report

Period ending March 5, 2021

Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economics Security Act (CARES Act), the State of Connecticut was awarded \$23,504,479. The Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, as the CCDF Program administrator for the State, has developed and implemented a number of programs during the pandemic to help stabilize our child care infrastructure. As of March 5th, 2021, we had expended \$16,097,068.80, with an additional \$6,640,030 obligated. That leaves about 3% (or \$767,380) to be combined with the CRRSA planned activities. This is exclusive of any CRF or GEER funds provided to OEC.

Projects – \$15,377,867.30

1. CTCARES for Child Care (CCCC): \$5,631,025.00

- a. The CTCARES for Child Care program provided an incentive to licensed child care programs who provided child care for the children for essential workers, as outlined in Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7H, during the initial COVID-19 outbreak. Connecticut was at risk of not having a sufficient supply of child care to support essential workers due to operational challenges for programs that were open. Additionally, the funds supported smaller class sizes, PPE supplies, and cleaning in operational programs to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in child care programs. This program provided additional funding for any licensed child care providers — centers, group family child care homes, and family child care homes — who remained open and served essential workers during the COVID-19 emergency (a list of CT's essential workers can be found here: <https://www.ctpost.com/news/coronavirus/article/Full-list-of-essential-businesses-15149788.php>). These funds were used to supplement program operations due to lost revenue because of class size restrictions, and for additional costs of cleaning, required PPE, and other expenses. Licensed family child care homes who served between 1 to 2 full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments of children of essential workers received \$200 each week, with each additional child of an essential worker earning the provider \$50 per each .5 FTE per week. Licensed child care centers that served 1 to 5 full-time equivalent children received \$275 each week, centers that served 6 to 12 full-time equivalent children received \$550 each week, and centers that served 14 or more full-time equivalent children received \$825 each week. There were 1,033 programs that received payments in the CTCARES for Child Care program, which served a total of 11,878 children of essential workers with child care this program ran from April 4th to July 3rd.

2. CTCARES for Child Care Businesses (CCCB): \$9,746,842.30

- a. CTCARES for Child Care Businesses includes a number of subsidies to help reduce business expenses to support early childhood programs that were experiencing higher costs of operations and reduced revenue due to COVID-19. The various subsidies were to stabilize existing child care providers, and incentivize providers to reopen who were forced to close due to COVID-19. Six-hundred thirty Child Care Centers, 830 family child care and group family child care homes, and 26 camps utilized this program by applying for either one or both of the following grants:
 - i. Expense Kickstart Grants: This is a lump sum for expenses like payroll, utilities, and rent or mortgage to help programs be open.
 - ii. Supply Subsidy: This funding is designed to help cover the added costs of maintaining a healthy environment for children, families, and staff. It is intended to help cover the costs of increased cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE), and nurse/medical consultation during COVID-19.

Miscellaneous – \$719,201.50 (*additional \$6,640,030 obligated*)

1. Supply Distribution: \$11,000.00

- a. These organizations distributed supplies and received a small stipend: Lulac and New Haven School Readiness; TEAM, Waterbury; TVCCA, Norwich; Action Early Learning/CAAWC, Danbury, ABCD/Alliance for Community Empowerment; HRA New Britain; First Congregational Church Child Dev Ctr, Bloomfield; CSEA/SEIU, Hartford; Norwalk School Readiness; AOK-Stamford; Stamford School Readiness

2. Supplies: \$110.94

- a. Shoe coverings for licensing inspection staff.

3. Standards Crosswalk: \$7,125.00

- a. Developed NAEYC Accreditation criteria as compared to licensing standards.

4. Women's Business Development Council (WBDC) Contract: \$500,000

- a. The mission of the WBDC is to support economic prosperity for women and strengthen communities through entrepreneurial and financial education services that create and grow sustainable jobs and businesses across Connecticut. Child care businesses need help in business skills so that they may create documentation that allows them to be ready to apply for, be awarded, and file required follow up for funding opportunities, as well as to understand the resources at hand. Through this contract, the WBDC offers business expertise, training, and ties to lending institutions for our child care provider population, beginning with approximately 1,400 licensed

centers and group homes and 1,900 licensed family child care providers. There is no greater time of need for this dedicated support. The child care industry was fragile prior to COVID-19, and various state agencies have sought to bolster the health of these businesses over time, recognizing their integral part in supporting the greater workforce, while also being composed of a mainly women and minority workforce itself. Recent minimum wage increases have helped, but now with COVID-19 negatively impacting this infrastructure, the OEC needs to protect the state investment in licensed child care programs and support economic recovery by having a supply of available child care programs for families. The industry is in dire need of business support to get through the pandemic and the longer-term recovery.

i. Remaining Obligation: \$1,500,000

5. O'Donnell Company: \$121,195.19

- a. Development and dissemination of informational content related to helping educate the Child Care industry – providers and parents – on relative COVID-19 topics.

i. Remaining Obligation: ~\$50,000

6. EdAdvance: \$23,040.00

- a. Family Child Care Network/Workforce Development Project. Goal of this project is to increase the availability of child care in the State of Connecticut by increasing the capacity of staffed Family Child Care Network (SFCCN) staff to support prospective family child care providers.

7. Background checks: 56,730.37

- a. The Office of Early Childhood has continued to pay for the required background check for providers.

i. Remaining Obligation: ~\$443,000

8. United Way of Connecticut: \$0.00

- a. Provider training related to operating child care programs

i. Remaining Obligation: \$646,760