

Child Care Restoration Grants

The Illinois General Assembly has directed at least \$270 million of the state's Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (CURE) Fund to support the economic health of child care providers as our economy reopens in the coming months. As part of CURE, the Business Interruption Grants (BIG) Program is specifically designed to support businesses who endure lost revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Child Care Restoration Grants are part of the BIG Program.

Employers from all industries are concerned about the availability of child care as [Restore Illinois](#) reopens the economy and specifically [child care](#). Foundational to their economic success is their staff's ability to access child care that works for them. We know our state's recovery relies on the economic survival of our child care system.

The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in partnership with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) is charged to develop the grant program for licensed child care. The Child Care Restoration Grants will be administered by the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (INCCRRA).

Per public health guidelines, child care programs will need to operate at about 30% reduced capacity in Phases 3 & 4 of Restore Illinois to allow for social distancing. However, despite reduced enrollments, operating costs for programs will remain constant or increase, as staffing and other fixed costs such as rent and utilities will not change. The current child care business model—which is dependent upon per-child tuition revenues—makes reduced capacity unsustainable without the Child Care Restoration Grants to help sustain them through this difficult time.

Who will be eligible for these grants?

The Child Care Restoration Grants will be for licensed child care home and licensed center-based providers who have had their operating capacity reduced as a result of public health guidelines for reduced capacity in regulated care settings.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the 'business interruption' to their revenue due to newly issued child care guidelines for [Licensed Centers](#) and [Licensed Homes](#) by the Department of Children and Family Services.

Child care programs must be open and currently caring for children.

How can I apply for a grant?

The first step in the process asks child care providers to complete an "Intent to Apply" questionnaire to help DCEO and IDHS better understand the financial challenges child care providers are experiencing. While this step is not mandatory, we appreciate your input. The results from that survey will inform the final design of the grant program.

To access the 'intent to apply' questionnaire, you can visit <https://www.research.net/r/ccrgita>. The questionnaire is available now and will be open through June 19th in order to process the information received and release the full application for funding shortly thereafter.

The full grant applications will be available in July with anticipated grant awards being made in August 2020.

How are these grants being funded?

The Child Care Restoration Grants program, and the overall Business Interruption Grants (BIG) program of which it is a part, is funded through the federal CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund and being developed collaboratively by The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Illinois Department of Human Services. The program will be administered by the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA).

More information will be added to <https://www.ilgateways.com/financial-opportunities/restoration-grants>. Please continue to check back frequently for information and resources.

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Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor





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Frequently Asked Questions | June 2020

What are Child Care Restoration Grants?

The Child Care Restoration Grants is a program intended to support the economic health of licensed child care providers over the coming months who endure lost revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Per public health guidelines, [child care](#) programs will need to operate at approximately 30% reduced capacity in Phases 3 & 4 of [Restore Illinois](#) to allow for social distancing. However, despite reduced enrollments, operating costs for programs will remain constant or increase, as staffing and other the fixed costs such as rent, and utilities will not change. The Child Care Restoration Grants program is designed to help sustain them through this difficult time.

Where is the money coming from to fund these grants?

The Child Care Restoration Grants Program is part of the state's Business Interruption Grants (BIG) program and is made possible with funding through the federal CARES Act. There is at least \$270 million dedicated to financially assist child care programs.

Who can apply for these grants?

Licensed child care homes and licensed centers in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State are eligible to apply if they can demonstrate a 'business interruption' due to regulatory changes to child care due to public health and safety guidelines due to COVID 19.

Both non-profit and for-profit providers are eligible to apply.

What does it mean to be in good standing with the Illinois Secretary of State?

The Illinois Certificate of Good Standing, sometimes called the Certificate of Existence, shows whether a business has a good standing status with the Secretary of State. This document is used to verify the existence of most business entities in the state to include registered partnerships, corporations and Limited Liability Companies (LLC) in Illinois that are authorized to transact business in the state.

Who is running this grant program?

The funds will flow through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) in partnership with the Illinois Department of Human Services. DCEO will contract with the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) as a third-party intermediary to administer this program.

Do I need to do anything before the actual application in order to 'qualify' to apply?

Yes. There is an ['intent to apply'](#) survey that we ask you to fill out to help us develop the grant application program. However, it is not necessary to complete this survey in order to apply for a grant.

The application will be made available through the Gateways to Opportunity Registry. Your registry membership needs to be current and you will need access to the Director Portal for your program in order to complete the application. You can ensure both of these things are done in preparation for the application being made available.

[Join or Renew Gateways Registry Membership](#)

[Request Access to the Director Portal](#)

This grants program is also 'exempt' from the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) so there is nothing else you need to do to 'qualify' to apply for this grant.

If I received a stipend as an emergency child care provider, can I still apply for this grant?

Yes.

Can I apply for a grant if I am still closed and not caring for children?

No. You must be open and caring for children when you submit the full grant application in order to qualify for a grant.

How will grant amounts be based?

We are still determining the formula by which the grant amount will be determined. Information received from the 'intent to apply' survey will help us with this calculation.

When will the application for the Child Care Restoration Grant program be released?

The applications will be released in July 2020.

When will I get the money?

Initial funds will be disbursed to awardees in August 2020.

What will I need to submit in order to apply?

The supporting documentation needed to apply is still being determined. This will be clearly spelled out in the application.

Will there be an information-session offered when the applications are released to explain the program and process to apply?

Yes. INCCRRA will host an information session upon release of the application to help providers understand the program and the process to apply.

Additional supports will also be made available as the program develops to support providers in the application process.

Am I eligible to apply if I am a for-profit child care providers?

Yes. Licensed non-profit and for-profit providers are eligible to apply if they can demonstrate a 'business interruption' due to COVID and they are open and currently caring for children.

Is this program just for providers who care for low-income children through the IDHS Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)?

No. Any provider in the state of Illinois who meets the eligibility criteria is encouraged to apply.

Is this a one-time grant payment or will this grant program be around for as long as we are operating under the Restore Illinois plan?

How much and for how long grants are available is reliant on the amount of total funds dedicated to the Child Care Restoration Grants Program. The current appropriation is at least \$270 million.

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