

DSS is issuing a third round of Child Care Operating Grants to help child care providers that have had to close or have lost revenue due to low enrollments during the last several months as a result of COVID-19. This grant opportunity is available to assist providers in paying for their child care facility expenses, including rent/mortgage payments, utility bills, cleaning or sanitation costs, and personnel costs.

Grants will be issued to licensed or registered child care centers, group child care homes, and family child care homes. Head Start facilities, as well as 4K/preschool programs operated by public schools, are not eligible for an Operating grant.

In order to ease the burden on providers and make this funding available as soon as possible, **child care providers who applied for and received one or more Operating Grants since May 2020 will automatically receive a third round of grant. This grant funding will start rolling out on April 8, 2021.** Providers who are currently in the ABC Quality program and set up for direct deposit will have their funds deposited into this same account. If a provider applied for and received a CARES Act Emergency Operating Grant earlier this year, the COVID Support funds will be deposited into the same account as the previous grant.

If your facility applied for and received one or more Operating Grants from DSS since May 2020 and you **DO NOT** wish to accept a third grant, please email DECEGrants@dss.sc.gov or call 1-800-763-2223 **before April 7th**.

Grant amounts will be determined based on the chart below:

Child Care Centers (Based on Licensed Capacity)	Grant Amount
Up to 49 children	\$16,000
50-99 children	\$21,000
100+ children	\$26,000
Family/Group Child Care Homes	\$7,000

The terms and conditions of the grant are as follows:

- Providers will use the grant funds to offset child care business expenses, including rent/mortgage payments, utility bills, cleaning or sanitation costs, and personnel costs.
- Providers will maintain documentation supporting the expenditure of grant funds which may include records of application approval, receipts, invoices, and/or any other supporting documentation indicating how funds were used. Documentation must remain on file at the facility for a period of three (3) years from the date the grant is completed as needed to satisfy a possible audit. Documentation may be requested at any time by DSS and, if requested, will need to be provided within fifteen (15) calendar days of the request.

If you are a licensed or registered child care provider who did NOT receive an Emergency Operating Grant previously, please contact us at DECEGrants@dss.sc.gov or call 1-800-763-2223 to inquire about applying.

Also if you have questions, please email DECEGrants@dss.sc.gov or call 1-800-763-2223.