

DSS is here to help and support local child care centers as they make the decision of whether and when to reopen. A one-time grant has been made available to licensed and registered child care providers to assist them in remaining open or reopening quickly and safely.

Funds are designed to help child care providers that have had to close or have lost revenue due to low enrollments during the last several weeks 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.

Please use this link to access the grant application: <https://benefitsportal.dss.sc.gov/#/benefits/cceo/application>

How much are the emergency grants, and what are the conditions?

Grant amounts will be determined based on the chart below:

Child Care Centers (Based on Licensed Capacity)	Grant Amount
Up to 49 children	\$10,000
50-99 children	\$13,000
100+ children	\$15,000
Family/Group Child Care Homes	\$5,000

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 who have closed and continued to charge private pay families are strongly encouraged to use a portion of these grant funds to offset the cost to parents.
- 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.

Is the emergency grant only available if we are closed or if enrollment is low?

The grant is available for either scenario. The provider may have closed or may have low enrollment and are facing closure. These grants are meant to support child care programs that have lost revenue from their private pay families.

How long will it take to receive grant funding?

Payments will be received within 10 days of approval. 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 I am a licensed or registered child care provider and NOT in the ABC Quality program, what will I need to provide to receive payment?

- If you operate under an Federal Tax Identification Number (FEIN), you must provide a signed, completed W-9 and a copy of your IRS letter (147-C or SS4). The name on these two documents must match.
- If you operate under a Social Security Number (SSN), you must provide a signed, completed W-9 and a copy of your Drivers' License and a copy of your SSN card. The name on these documents must match.

Please forward this information to: DECEGrants@dss.sc.gov.

Can grant funds be used to pay child care staff if we closed?

Yes, this funding can be used to pay the child care staff in order to retain the supply of child care.

If a provider has multiple sites does each site have to apply for the grant funding?

Yes, each site must apply individually.

Will programs hear anything back once they submit the grant application?

Yes, programs will receive a system generated email from the SC Voucher System for the following events:

- Application has been received in the SC Voucher System.
- Application has been approved.
- Application has been processed for payment by SCEIS, SC State Government accounting system.

Additionally, a link will be provided so child care providers may check on the current status of their application.

<https://benefitsportal.dss.sc.gov/#/benefits/track>

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