

Child Care Restoration Grants

The Governor and the Illinois General Assembly have directed at least \$270 million of the state's allocation of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) established through The CARES Act to support the economic health of child care providers as our economy reopens in the coming months through the Business Interruption Grants (BIG) Program. The BIG Program is specifically designed to support businesses who endure lost revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

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 regulated 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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