

# Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grants

## Webinar Q&A

### General Eligibility

**Q: Are sites that are in the process of getting licenses eligible to apply for the grant?**

A: Newly-licensed providers as of July 1, 2020, or later may be eligible for a grant. Providers must be open and providing care to children.

**Q: Temporarily I have no children in my care, but I have been open throughout the pandemic, so can I still apply for the grant?**

A: To apply for this grant, you must be open and caring for children.

**Q: I opened up a center July 1st 2020. Will I be eligible for the grant?**

A: Newly-licensed providers as of July 1, 2020, or later may be eligible for a grant.

**Q: I had to close because I contracted COVID-19 in July. I re-opened in August. Would I be eligible under the reopening criteria?**

A: If you received a previous grant, you would not be eligible under the reopening criteria. If you did not receive a previous grant, you may qualify under the reopening criteria.

**Q: What if you fall into two criteria, reopening and expansion, which one do we apply for?**

A: The criteria are not separate grants, just different ways you can qualify for the grant. There is only one grant application for the DCYF Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant. Please fill out the application completely, and the review committee will determine which criteria best aligns with your application.

**Q: What do you consider as being open throughout the pandemic?**

A: Any provider who has been open and providing care to children during the pandemic. Providers who temporarily closed due to COVID-19 may be eligible under the reopening criteria if they did not receive a previous DCYF COVID-19 grant and are now open and providing care. Providers who never closed and did not receive a previous DCYF COVID-19 grant may be eligible under the sustainability criteria.

### Eligibility Criteria: Reopening

**Q: I received the first DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant, but I lost my business on August 1<sup>st</sup>, am I eligible?**

A: No. Unfortunately, if you previously received a DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant and then closed your license, you would not be eligible for an additional grant.



**Q: If you reopened before August 1, you can still apply under the reopening criteria?**

A: If you had to close your program as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and you have since reopened, and you did not already receive a previous DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant, then you may be eligible to apply for a DCYF Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant under the reopening criteria.

**Q: We were closed at the end of March through June 15. We have been open since then. We did not receive a previous DCYF grant. Are we eligible?**

A: Providers who were closed as a result of COVID-19, did not receive a prior DCYF Child Care COVID-19 grant and have now opened are eligible to apply for a grant.

### **Eligibility Criteria: Expansion**

**Q: Would you get the full grant amount if you meet the expansion criteria, even if you previously received a DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant?**

A: If you meet the expansion criteria and received a DCYF COVID-19 Grant in the spring you are eligible to apply for a Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant. Approved applicants would receive the full amount.

**Q: Are seasonal camps for school-age children that are functioning outside of their license eligible to apply for the DCYF Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant?**

A: No. The Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant is available to licensed providers.

**Q: Does it count under expansion if my enrolled child became Kindergarten age, but stayed enrolled/did not start school because Kindergartens are closed?**

A: "School-age child" means a child who is between five years of age through twelve years of age and who is attending school (including remote school). If, as a result of the pandemic, you have started serving a child who is enrolled in Kindergarten, you may be eligible for the grant under the expansion criteria.

**Q: Is there a difference between enrolled Kindergarten or children who are five years old?**

A: Yes, a five-year old who is attending school (including remote school) is considered school-age, and a five-year old who is not enrolled in Kindergarten is not considered school-age.

**Q: I had a child who was graduating out to begin school, but with no school starting I agreed to keep him and do virtual learning here with him. He's a kindergartner. They have gone back to school, but his mom is not comfortable with him going back, so he's staying here and I'm assisting him with his schooling. Does that qualify me?**

A: "School-age child" means a child who is between five years of age through twelve years of age and who is attending school (including remote school). If, as a result of the pandemic, you have started serving a child who is enrolled in Kindergarten, you may be eligible for the grant under the expansion criteria.

**Q: If I opened my facility to school-age children that are full-day and doing distance learning from here, do I qualify under the expansion criteria?**

A: If you started serving school-age full-day in response to the pandemic, you may be eligible for the grant under the expansion criteria.

**Q: What if we converted some slots, so that we could serve school-age full-day? Does that meet the expansion criteria?**

A: If you are providing care that has expanded to now include school-age or now serve school-age children full day instead of before and after school as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible for a grant under the expansion criteria.

**Q: Does expanding to serve school-age or children receiving subsidy mean expanding capacity, too?**

A: No. A provider does not need to increase capacity in order to qualify for the grant under the expansion criteria. You may be eligible for a grant under the expansion criteria if you started serving school-age children or were newly authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy, or expanded how you offer care (such as expanded hours, serving school-age children full day instead of before and after school) as a result of the pandemic.

**Q: Does increasing licensed capacity count under the expansion criteria?**

A: Change in licensed capacity does not affect expansion criteria. You may be eligible for a grant under the expansion criteria if you started serving school-age children or were newly authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy, or expanded how you offer care (such as expanded hours, serving school-age children full day instead of before and after school) as a result of the pandemic.

**Q: Do you have to serve children receiving subsidy and serve school-age children? What if you only offer school-age care but do not serve children receiving subsidies?**

A: If you started serving school-age children or were newly authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy, or expanded how you offer care (such as expanded hours, serving school-age children full day instead of before and after school) as a result of the pandemic, you may be eligible for the grant under the expansion criteria.

**Q: Does the expansion criteria include emergency waivers that DCYF approved?**

A: Expansion criteria includes providers who started serving school-age children, expanded the hours they were serving school-age children, or were newly authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy. This criteria does not include serving more children who do not meet the criteria listed above. A provider who is approved for a DCYF Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant will receive funding associated with their licensed capacity, including emergency capacity waivers.

**Q: Do you need to have requested and received a waiver for school-age expansion in order for the criteria to be met? What if we did not receive a response to our request, or no waiver was needed due to ages/licensing circumstances?**

A: expansion criteria is not associated with a capacity waiver. If a child care program is now serving school-age children and was not previously serving school age children, then they may be eligible for a grant under expansion criteria. Please be sure that your site has the proper license/waiver in place that allows you to expand who you serve in this way.

**Q: What if we asked for an age limit extension on our license to serve school-age children? Does that mean I am eligible?**

A: If you started serving school-age children or were newly authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy, or expanded how you offer care (such as expanded hours, serving school-age children full day instead of before and after school) as a result of the pandemic, you may be eligible for the grant under the expansion criteria.

**Q: Does having a waiver to add extra numbers to allow for school-age children to be enrolled full day meet the expansion criteria?**

A: If you started serving school-age children or were newly authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy, or expanded how you offer care (such as expanded hours, serving school-age children full day instead of before and after school) as a result of the pandemic, you may be eligible for the grant under the expansion criteria.

**Q: If our license is for students up to age 12, but we only serve up through pre-K, but then started serving school-age - does this qualify if a waiver wasn't requested?**

A: If you started serving school-age children in response to the pandemic when you previously were not serving school-age children, then you are eligible to apply for the grant under the expansion criteria.

**Q: I am licensed for ages 5-13; I only serve school-age children. During the school year I am only open for before and after school care. Due to school closures in my area, I am now open for the full day with remote learning support. I did receive the first DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant. Do I meet the expansion criteria?**

A: Yes.

**Q: What if we normally have school-age children full days during summer and before and after school during school. Now due to no school we have school-age children full time. Does that qualify?**

A: Yes, under the expansion criteria.

**Q: I had school-age children full time over summer, but not during school year. Am I eligible under the expansion criteria?**

A: No. To qualify under the expansion criteria, you need to have started serving school-age children or be newly-authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy, or expanded

how you offer care (such as expanded hours, serving school-age children full day instead of before and after school) as a result of the pandemic.

**Q: Can you please clarify the required timeline for the "change in program for school-age children." For example, if we served school-age in the spring full days when schools closed (these children had been before and after), AND now have officially changed our program for this fall to include full time care (instead of our normal before and after care), would this meet the expansion? I am trying to determine if the expansion has to be specific to August 1st or later?**

A: You may qualify for the grant under the expansion criteria if you started serving school-age children or were newly authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy, or expanded how you offer care (such as expanded hours, serving school-age children full day instead of before and after school) as a result of the pandemic.

**Q: If we are serving school-age all day, but the children are slowly phased back into school, does that make us still eligible under the expansion criteria?**

A: Yes, if you started to offer full-day care to include school-age as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic you may qualify for the grant under the expansion criteria, even if the children are beginning to be phased back into school.

**Q: I have been open the whole time, did receive a previous DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant, and expanded to serve school-age children all day and have a capacity of 45. Would I be eligible for a grant of \$9,000 (\$200 x 45)? Or would my previous grant amount be subtracted?**

A: If you expanded to serve school-age children full day as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, then you are eligible to apply for the full grant under the expansion criteria. If you were eligible under the expansion criteria you could apply for the full \$9,000. If you did not meet the expansion criteria, then you might be eligible for a difference payment.

**Q: I expanded from 12 to 16 to accommodate school-age children and children receiving subsidy. Does that include your own children as well?**

A: To qualify for the grant under the expansion criteria, you need to start serving school-age children when you previously were not, become authorized to serve children receiving subsidy when you previously were not, or expand your hours of care to serve school-age children full-day instead of before and after school only. If your own children are staying home and participating in remote learning but you did not change anything else, this does not count under the expansion criteria.

**Q: What if I have been serving school-age children previously and the children are currently private pay, will I be eligible to apply?**

A: It depends. If you did not receive a DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant in the spring, you would be eligible under the sustainability criteria. If you did receive a grant previously, you could still be eligible under the expansion criteria if you started serving school-age children or were newly authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy, or expanded how you offer care

(such as expanded hours, serving school-age children full day instead of before and after school) as a result of the pandemic.

**Q: What about providers who expanded to serve infants from birth, instead of 1 month? Would they qualify for the grant under the expansion eligibility?**

A: No, to qualify for the grant under the expansion criteria, a provider would need to start serving school-age children or become authorized to serve children who receive subsidy.

**Q: Would we be eligible for the expansion if we have significantly increased the amount of children we serve who receive subsidy?**

A: No. To qualify under the expansion criteria providers must have become authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy when they previously were not serving children receiving subsidy prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Q: Can we apply for the expansion grant and a difference in payment request in the same application?**

A: No. The difference payment is only available to providers who do not qualify under the criteria for sustainability, reopening, or expansion. If you qualify to apply for the grant under the expansion criteria, you do not qualify for a difference payment.

### Difference Payment

**Q: How much is the difference payment for providers who received a previous DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant and have remained open this entire time?**

A: The difference payment is the difference of the current grant amount minus the previous grant amount you received.

**Q: If we previously received the DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant and we meet all criteria including the community of concern, can we receive \$6,500 again or just the additional \$650?**

A: If you meet the expansion criteria you may apply for at least the minimum \$6,500 and an additional amount for serving in a community of concern. If you do not meet the expansion criteria, you may qualify for a difference payment.

**Q: I received \$6,500 on the first DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant, am licensed for 36 and my center is in a community of concern. Could you give an example of what I would qualify for?**

A: If you are not eligible for the sustainability, reopening, or expansion criteria, then you may be eligible to apply for a difference payment of \$1,420.

This would be \$7,200 for the licensed capacity of 36 (36 x \$200), plus an additional 10% for being in a community of concern (\$720), and then subtracting the \$6,500 you previously received, to get \$1,420.

**Q: When our school received the DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant, the criteria was that for a center with licensed capacity 0-49 children you receive \$6,500. In the slides from the webinar**

**I saw that any center with a licensed capacity of more than 32 children then the child center receives \$200.00 per child. Does that mean that I will receive the difference in payment?**

A: If funds are available, you may apply to receive the difference payment if the current grant amount is greater than the grant amount you received previously.

**Q: If we received a DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant in the spring, will we be able to receive the full amount now if we qualify?**

A: Only if you qualify under the expansion criteria. If you do not qualify under the expansion criteria, you may be eligible to apply for a difference payment, if the current grant amount is higher than the previous grant you received.

**Q: I received a previous DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant and do not fit the other criteria, but I am in an area of concern, could I still get the \$650 of additional funding?**

A: Yes, that would be your difference payment.

**Q: The grant payment this time would be almost \$30,000 and in the spring I only received \$14,000. Am I not eligible for the grant unless I expand my services?**

A: Providers that received a previous grant, are still open, and have expanded services may be eligible for the DCYF Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant under the expansion criteria. Without meeting the expansion criteria, you would not qualify for an additional grant, but you may be eligible for a difference payment.

**Q: What about if our center experienced a license transfer? We have new owners as of August 1st.**

A: A license transfer is not a new license and therefore not a new provider. If the center previously received a DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant, then they are not eligible for the Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant as a new provider, or under the sustainability or reopening criteria. However, if the center started serving school-age children, or was newly authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy, or expanded how they offer care (such as expanded hours, serving school-age children full-day instead of before and after school) as a result of the pandemic, then the center may be eligible to apply under the expansion criteria.

### **Communities of Concern**

**Q: What is a community of concern?**

A: Communities of concern refer to 22 counties identified by DCYF through the Community Outcome and Risk Evaluation (CORE) data. Examples of specific risk factors included in the CORE data: little or no child care services; use of state-funded drug and alcohol services; arrests for domestic violence; unemployment and state welfare assistance; and rates of referrals for victims of child abuse and neglect.

**Q: The county I live in is not on the list of communities of concern. Does this mean I cannot apply for the Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant?**

A: No, providers in all counties can apply for this grant. If you meet the criteria under sustainability, reopening, or expansion, you may apply for the base amount for your licensed

capacity. If you are not located in a community of concern, you will not be eligible for the additional funding intended for those specified communities.

**Q: Where are the communities of concern by county?**

A: The communities of concern include: Asotin, Clallam, Cowlitz, Ferry, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom, and Yakima counties.

**Q: I live in King County and I didn't see King County on the list.**

A: King County has not been identified as a community concern. If you receive a Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant, you will not be eligible for the additional funding for providers offering care in communities of concern.

**Q: Will you evaluate our applications against the CORE data to determine if we serve communities of concern or are we supposed to determine that ourselves? Will the CORE categories be included in the application questions?**

A: DCYF will determine whether you are in a community of concern by the location of your licensed child care facility. We will not be collecting CORE data or asking questions related to the communities of concern.

**Q: Does the CORE amount imply or require expansion of enrollment?**

A: No, to receive the additional funding amount for providers in communities of concern, providers just need to be serving in an area identified as a community of concern.

**Q: We provide service to King and Snohomish clients. The daycare is on the King side of border. Are we eligible for the additional community of concern funding?**

A: No. The additional funding is based on the location of the child care facility.

**Grant Amounts**

**Q: Will we need to return the money?**

A: No, grant funds will not need to be returned.

**Q: What if we can't stay open, but accept the funds?**

A: Providers must attest that they will remain open through the end of the 2020-2021 school year. If a provider accepts the funds but cannot stay open through the school year, they must return the funds to DCYF.

**Q: Are the grant amounts based on licensed capacity?**

A: Yes. However, if you are operating under a DCYF emergency waiver, your license may not reflect the capacity you are serving. In that case, the grant amount will reflect the capacity allowed by the DCYF waiver.

## Prioritization

**Q: During COVID-19 we have had multiple centers open, but one received a small DCYF Restricted Grant. For prioritization criteria, would we qualify or not qualify for #1 “Did not receive a previous CDYF COVID-19 Grant but stayed open?”**

A: Each center counts as its own licensed facility and will need to meet eligibility requirements individually.

**Q: Who is approving? What makes one applicant stronger than the other?**

A: A review committee will make the decision. The makeup of that team is not yet decided. Applicants will be prioritized based on the below criteria, in order of priority.

Providers who:

1. Did not get a previous DCYF COVID-19 grant but stayed open. (*Sustainability*)
2. Were previously temporarily closed and have now opened, and did not get a previous DCYF COVID-19 grant because they were closed. (*Reopening*)
3. Started serving school-age children or were newly authorized to serve children and families accessing subsidy, or expanded how they offer care (such as expanded hours, serving school-age children full-day instead of before and after school) as a result of the pandemic. (*Expansion*)
  1. *School-age, subsidy*
  2. *Newly licensed providers as of July 1, 2020, or later*
4. Those who received a prior DCYF COVID-19 grant, qualify in no other categories, have been open and agree to stay open. These providers receive a “difference payment.” This does not include “closed” licenses who received a prior grant.
  1. *School-age, subsidy*
  2. *Providers in communities of concern*

**Q: The building where our previous center was housed was sold in the midst of the pandemic. We just were able to open a new center (with a new name) and receive our license. Is it possible for us to be listed as a reopened center so that we would have a higher priority?**

A: A new license for a new center opening in a new location will be treated as a new provider. The reopening criteria is for providers who temporarily closed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and then reopened.

## Grant Uses

**Q: Groceries were allowed with the last grant, is that not allowed on this one?**

A: Food and groceries are allowable purchased with this grant.

**Q: Will mortgages count as rent/space costs for family home child cares?**

A: If a family home child care provider has a personal mortgage, it is suggested that they work with their financial advisor or accountant to determine the portion of the home that is dedicated as the child care business. Once a percentage is determined and documented, that is the percentage that could be used.

**Q: If we have an existing business but would like to expand and open another can we use this grant money for that purpose? If we get denied for expanding to a new facility can we still use this money for the existing business that is currently open?**

A: No, this grant is not intended for that use.

**Q: Can providers buy tables chairs and miscellaneous supplies for the school-age environment?**

A: Grant funds should only be used for approved expense categories. The approved expense categories are listed as follows:

- Business utilities such as phone, internet, electricity, gas, water, and garbage services
- Payroll/benefits for employees
  - In the case of Family Home Child Care programs, the business owner
- Rent/space costs
  - Family Home Child Care providers - this would be the percentage of your home used for your child care
- Food
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (masks, gloves)
- Cleaning supplies related to COVID-19
- Technology and/or internet service

**Q: Will providers who receive this grant be taxed for it?**

A: Yes. Providers who receive a grant will receive a 1099 form for their 2020 tax filing.

**Q: How does payroll become a part of the grant?**

A: The DCYF Fall COVID-19 Grant may be used for payroll/benefits associated with the licensed child care facility. Funds may be used on any employee, including the owner.

**Q: Please explain what personal protective equipment can be purchased with this grant.**

A: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are items such as masks and gloves, worn to protect the wearer from exposure to COVID-19.

**Q: The DCYF Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant will be released in 2020, so taxed this year correct?**

A: Yes. Providers who receive the grant will receive a 1099 form for their 2020 filing.

**Q: Would air purifiers qualify as Personal Protective Equipment or COVID-19 related supplies?**

A: Yes.

### **Timeline, Application and Communication**

**Q: When will notifications go out if we were/were not awarded the grant?**

A: Written notifications will go out early to mid-December.

**Q: Will we be notified when the application becomes available?**

A: Yes, DCYF will announce when the application opens.

**Q: Where do providers access the grant application? Where can I find my license info?**

A: Providers can access the grant application, when available, and find license information in the provider portal: [https://wacompass.force.com/PP\\_LoginPage#](https://wacompass.force.com/PP_LoginPage#).

**Q: When will awarded grants go out to providers?**

A: Early to mid-December.

**Q: Is the application process similar to the first time around? Are the questions the same?**

A: Yes, the application process will be similar, but it will not be the exact same application.

**Q: Is there a time limit when the money has to be spent**

A: Funds must be spent by June 30, 2021.

**Q: Will the application be available in Spanish as well?**

A: Good news! The Provider Portal now utilizes a Google Translate Tool to support non-English speaking providers. The Google Translate feature is available in the application in the top right-hand corner of the Provider Portal as shown below. Providers are encouraged to utilize this new feature to access the benefits of an online application process. Additionally, a PDF application will be available in Spanish and Somali.

**Q: Will we need to provide information about when we received the previous DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant?**

A: No, but you will be asked if you did or did not receive a previous DCYF Child Care COVID-19 Grant. This information will be verified during the review and verification process after the grant application window is closed.

### **Misc. Questions/Feedback**

**Q: Is there an increase in child care subsidy rates for school-age children?**

A: No. Families who receive child care subsidies did have the option to work with DCYF for more child care hours, but there is not a plan to increase subsidy rates at this time.

**Q: Are FFN providers eligible to apply for this grant?**

A: Family, Friends and Neighbor (FFN) providers are not eligible for the DCYF Fall Child Care COVID-19 Grant. FFN providers will receive a \$250 incentive payment separate from the grant. They will not complete the same application process as licensed child care providers. FFN providers will receive a focused communication from DCYF soon.