

Child Care Services Emergency Grants assist existing programs who have experienced an emergency that directly affects their ability to provide care. Emergencies include natural disasters such as floods and tornadoes, weather-related damage not covered by homeowners or business insurance such as frozen pipes or hail, increased costs related to a pandemic, and other unforeseen circumstances.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who can apply for Emergency Grants?

Any program that is actively providing early learning services to children ranging in age from birth to school-age and is currently licensed with the Minnesota Department of Human Services or Tribal Government OR legally license-exempt, which include certified centers. If licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services, a program must have no current negative actions. Licensing violations such as a temporary immediate suspension, suspension, revocation, or a maltreatment determination where the facility was found responsible will prevent the issuance of a grant and/or will cause the withdrawal of a grant.

Programs that have received a Start-Up Grant or Regional Grant may also apply for an Emergency Grant.

2. How much money can my program apply for?

Programs can apply for up to \$5,000.

3. What items can my program apply for?

Programs may apply for funds to replace or repair materials damaged or lost due to an emergency, or to correct infractions flagged by licensing. The items you apply for must directly affect the quality and safety of your program and meet licensing requirements. The items you apply for must be comparable to the items lost. Your local Child Care Aware agency may have additional guidance about allowed purchases.

Any items purchased with this grant must be used in accordance with licensing requirements. Please contact your licensor if you have questions about this.

These grants can be used to cover the cost of materials for outdoor play area fencing or other minor construction projects as required by licensing to ensure child safety or meet other program standards. All materials must be new and must be purchased from a retail store, not a private party. In the event that a child care program wishes to have the cost of assembly and/or installation covered by a grant, the labor must be performed by a contractor following applicable state and local laws and regulations regarding registration and licensure. See <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/residential-contractors-remodelers-roofers> for more information.

These grants can be used for technology and software to replace lost business management systems.

Eligible items that are for 100% business use will be funded at 100%. Items that are shared with a household or organization (such as a church) will be funded at 50%.

4. What items are not eligible?

Due to a federal rule, Emergency Grants may not be used for the following:

Major Construction or Renovations: Major renovation means structural changes to the foundation, roof, floor, exterior or load-bearing walls of a facility, or the extension of a facility to increase its floor area; or extensive alteration of a facility such as to significantly change its function and purpose, even if such renovation does not include any structural change. Funds may be expended for minor remodeling of the designated child care space and for upgrading the designated child care space to assure that providers meet state and local child care standards, including applicable health and safety requirements.

Religious-based Curricula, Activities, Materials, or Counseling: Child care programs are allowed to purchase and/or use religious-based curricula or items in their program if they choose, but they must use their own funds; they cannot use Child Care Services Grants.

Expendable Supplies: Expendable supplies (diapers, wipes, soap, paper products), except as it pertains to Personal Protective Equipment (cleaning products, hand sanitizer, masks) used for recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health to keep children and staff safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Office supplies that are not directly used for early childhood quality improvement activities: Ink and paper used to print invoices for families would not be an allowed use of grants. Ink and paper used to print curriculum, worksheets, or a newsletter for families in the program would be allowed.

One-time field trips for children

Child care tuition (scholarships)

Items prohibited by licensing

All materials must be new and must be purchased from a retail store, not a private party.

CCDF federal restrictions can be reviewed at <https://ccdf-fundamentals.icfcloud.com/restrictions>

In addition, grants are not allowed to be spent on items considered to be part of the cost of doing business. This includes the following items:

- Accounting and legal fees
- Advertising
- Banking service charges
- Cleaning
- Food
- Insurance and warranties
- Licenses
- Taxes
- Rent or mortgage
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Wages and salaries other than those described under Education and Training

5. How many grants am I eligible to apply for?

You may receive only one Emergency Grant per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). A program can receive an Emergency Grant and a Regional Grant or Start Up Grant in the same fiscal year.

6. If my program receives a grant, what requirements do I have to meet?

Your program will need to sign and follow the requirements of a Participation Agreement. Please read the agreement carefully before signing.

7. If my program receives a grant, how will my program receive the money?

All grants are paid on a reimbursement basis and after all requirements are completed.

8. When is this grant available?

It is available on an ongoing basis, subject to available funds.

9. How does my program apply for this grant?

Please contact your local Child Care Aware of Minnesota Grants Administrator for additional guidance about this grant funding. You must fill out the application form and mail it to the address listed at the end of this document.

GRANT SPENDING CATEGORIES

The following charts give suggestions for items that you may want to purchase with your grant. This is not an all-inclusive list, but it will help you identify which spending category to use when describing your proposed purchases on the budget pages of the application.

Health and Well-Being			
Children do better when early care and education programs are safe and healthy, provide nutritious meals and snacks, and offer many opportunities for active play. This foundation allows children to take full advantage of learning opportunities.			
Alarms and Detectors		Transportation Safety	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoke alarms Carbon monoxide alarms Radon detectors Lead content detectors (for toys and other child items which could be put in the mouth) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate vehicle child restraint systems for the ages of the children in care Safety helmets for children riding bicycles or tricycles Strollers that meet safety specifications 	
Emergencies		Environment Safety and Health	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First aid kits Fire extinguishers Choke tubes (for gauging choking potential of small objects) Disaster kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hand-washing kits and posters Healthy habits posters Food group activities Safety kits and posters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety gates Appliance locks Electrical outlet covers Refrigerator thermometer Hot liquids thermometer Window blind and curtain cord tension or tie-down devices Air purifiers, humidifiers, dehumidifiers Light fixtures containing shielded or shatterproof bulbs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fireplace, heater and wood-burning stove screen covers Closet door latches to prevent a child from being trapped inside a closet Locks for cabinets or locked storage units for medicines and cleaning agents Panic hardware for exterior doors
Child Safety		Facilities and Operations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child toothbrushes and individual toothpaste containers Cribs, mattresses that meet safety standards Cots, mats and linens for sleeping Highchairs that meet safety standards Changing tables 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Egress windows Lead-free environment Facility improvements such as repairing steps, installing railing if flagged by licensing. Gates 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground safety surfacing Large outdoor umbrella Sandbox covers Infant bucket swings for outdoor playground swing sets Swings with soft or flexible seats Fencing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shock-absorbent or loose material such as sand under outdoor climbing equipment Outdoor play equipment that meets safety standards Replacement of wooden barriers that contain creosote or arsenic Guardrails on stairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antibacterial wall dispensers Secured garbage cans and wastebaskets, hands-free covered waste disposal cans Purchase of safe plastics that do not contain polycarbonates for serving food Consultation with a Child Care Health Consultant in Family Child Care Homes for health, safety, nutrition, infectious disease control and/or advice on the care of a child with special needs Bibs and Eating utensils Special needs items such as positioning equipment, eating utensils, cups and plates, adapted toys 	

Requirements (Program Materials Required by Licensing)

These items may be required by licensing. You should consider purchasing these items if you don't already have them in your program or if they are in poor repair.

Room Equipment and Furniture		Active Play	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables • Chairs • Coat, cubby units • Storage units • Centers: book, listening, writing • Computer table 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cots or mats • Classroom activity carpets • Activity mats and gyms • Classroom displays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycles, Tricycles, Wagons • Scooters, scooter boards • Balance beams • Tumbling mats • Play tunnels or hoops • Basketball hoops, balls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground equipment, climbers, swing sets, slides • Large unit blocks • Rocking boats • Parachutes • Large motor games, such as bean bag, ring toss
Manipulatives		Science and Technology	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials that link, construction sets • Puzzles • Beads, lacing sets • Pegs and pegboards • Pre-writing stencils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pounding benches • Tools and tool benches • Block play materials • Small design blocks • Sensory materials • Manual dexterity vests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration kits • Nature activities and materials • Magnifying glasses, microscopes • Weather charts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals/rocks • Magnets • Prisms • Science kits • Computers • Educational computer software
Social Concepts		Cognitive Development and Perception	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costumes • Play masks • Dramatic play equipment • Dolls, doll houses and furniture • Other play buildings (e.g., barn, firehouse, school, etc.) • Animal collections • Puppets • Plush animals • Posters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miscellaneous such as purses, cameras, phones • Multicultural games, activity kits, craft kits and books • Bilingual language materials • Youth cookbooks • Cooking utensils, pots, pans, and food items • Woodworking materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age-appropriate books • Storytelling kits and materials • Materials that promote phonological awareness. • Materials that promote print awareness. • Materials that promote alphabet awareness. • Early language concept activities such as object matching, sorting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geometric forms and boards • Patterning activities and materials • Math awareness materials • Tactile numbers and tracing activities • Measurement kits • Clocks and time activities and materials • Calculators, money • Discovery boxes • Infant and toddler toys
Sensory			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music, Headphones, rhythm instruments • Art supplies including stencils and sponges • Sand and water tables and toys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feely boxes • Sensory balls • Sight and sound tubes 		

APPLYING FOR AN EMERGENCY GRANT

Participation Agreement: Your program will need to sign a Participation Agreement that details all requirements. The agreement lays out the responsibilities of programs receiving grants. Please read the agreement carefully before signing.

Two-Year Requirement: If you are awarded a grant, your program will be required to provide active licensed or license-exempt child care services in Minnesota for a minimum of two years from the date of your award letter. If for any reason your program ceases to provide active child care services within the required timeframe, you will be required to repay grant dollars on a prorated basis.

Expenditures: Be specific on your expenditure pages. Only items that were approved on your application will be reimbursed. If any substitution needs to occur, this **must** be approved by your local Grant Administrator, prior to making the purchase. A budget change can only occur once in a grant cycle.

Grant Payment Information: All Emergency Grants are paid on a reimbursement basis after all requirements are completed.

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

Fill out your application form completely in ink. Your application should be neat and easy to read and stapled together in order. Do not submit grant applications in folders or binders, professionally bound or store-bought.

1. Send in one complete packet, including the application with all required attachments stapled to it.
2. Keep one copy of the completed application form and all required attachments for your records. You will need to refer back to your application if you are awarded a grant.
3. Mail or email the original completed application packet to:

CAPLP Child Care Aware
891 Belsly Blvd
Moorhead, MN 56560
Email: grants@caplp.org

Checklist

Your application packet must include:

- The application form, including the participation agreement, with all questions completed.
- Copy of your current child care license (*if applicable*) and documentation from your licensor and/or fire marshal that the items in your grant application are needed to meet licensing requirements.
- Estimate or bid (*if applicable*). This is required for the installation of fences, windows, or construction, as required by licensing, or equipment assembly projects. If a child care program wishes to have the cost of assembly and/or installation covered by a grant, the labor must be performed by a contractor following applicable state and local laws and regulations regarding registration and licensure. See <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/residential-contractors-remodelers-roofers> for more information.
- Pictures (*if applicable*). A picture from a catalog or online is recommended if the item(s) may be questioned by the reviewers.



Child Care Services Emergency Grant Application

Organization Name (as listed in Develop): _____

Organization Account ID# in Develop: _____

DHS License or Certification #: _____ Tribal License #: _____
(If Tribally licensed, please include a copy of your Tribal license)

Program is license exempt:

Program Type:

- Licensed Child Care Center Family Child Care School-based License Exempt Program
 Head Start School-age Only Certified Center

Original license date if licensed: _____

LOCATION

Address: _____ City _____

Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Phone #: _____

Mailing Address *(if different than above)*: _____

City _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT

Contact Name (First/Last): _____

Email Address: _____

Phone #: _____

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Licensed Capacity: _____ Number of Classrooms/Groups: _____

Please enter the number of children by age group for which you provide care. In addition, enter the number of children who need intensive support in each age group. A child should be counted as needing intensive support if they are from

families experiencing poverty (at or below 200% poverty rate) or otherwise in need of special assistance and support, including children with diagnosed disabilities or developmental delays, who are dual language learners, who reside on American Indian lands, who are migrant, experiencing homelessness, or in foster care.

Total number of children currently enrolled: _____

Number of infants: _____

Number of infants who meet the criteria for intensive support: _____

Number of toddlers: _____

Number of toddlers who meet the criteria for intensive support: _____

Number of preschoolers: _____

Number of preschoolers who meet the criteria for intensive support: _____

Number of school-age: _____

Number of school-age who meet the criteria for intensive support: _____

Please fill out the section below if the information is known. If not known, it can be left blank. This information is for data collection purposes only and does not affect the scoring of a grant application.

Race of Children Enrolled

Number of American Indian/Alaskan Native: _____

Percent of enrolled: _____

Number of Asian/Pacific Islander: _____

Percent of enrolled: _____

Number of Black/African American: _____

Percent of enrolled: _____

Number of Hispanic/Latino: _____

Percent of enrolled: _____

Number of Bi/Multi-Racial: _____

Percent of enrolled: _____

Number of White: _____

Percent of enrolled: _____

Number of enrolled children speaking English as a second language: _____

Percent of enrolled: _____

What kind of programming is your organization licensed for? (*Select all that apply*)

- Part day (less than 5 hours per day)
- Full day (5 or more hours per day)
- Full week (5 or more days per week)
- Part week (less than 5 days per week)
- Evenings (after 6 p.m.)
- Weekends (Saturday and/or Sunday)
- Full year
- School year only

Does your program have a Parent Aware Rating? Yes No

Have you signed a Participation Agreement with the intent to become Parent Aware Rated? Yes No

Did your program receive a Child Care Services Grant last year? Yes No

GRANT REQUEST SUMMARY

Give a brief summary (*approximately 50 words*) of the reason for your grant request. What is the immediate emergency and how does it affect your ability to provide care? To keep this summary anonymous, do not include your name or your program's name in your answer or anywhere on this page.

Impact

Describe the impact, if any, that this emergency has on your compliance with licensing standards. (If a correction order was issued, please indicate the date that it was issued).

Steps

Describe the steps you have already taken to respond to the emergency, including other agencies you have contacted for assistance.

Funding Plan

Describe what you will do if you are not fully funded.

Careful Planning

Describe why this expenditure is the best way to address the emergency. Have you explored insurance or warranty? Have you obtained estimates for repair and replacement?

EXPENDITURE TOTALS

Total number of expenditure pages included with this application: _____

Total Grant Request: \$ _____

PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Program Responsibilities

I understand to be eligible to apply for and receive a Child Care Services Start-Up Grant, my program must have been licensed for the first time within the past 6 months, will soon be licensed and has been visited by the licensor, is a new program (less than 6 months in operation) that is exempt from licensing, or is an existing program that is expanding to take more children.

I understand that if my program knowingly submits false or fraudulent information during any part of the grant application process, my program will no longer be eligible for funds. Any funds reimbursed during this grant process would be required to be repaid and appropriate authorities would be notified.

Upon application and notification of funding award, my program agrees to:

- Provide active licensed child care in Minnesota for a minimum of two years from the date of the grant fund notification.
- Enroll interested families participating in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) without discrimination if my program has vacancies.
- Not use funds to supplant expenditures for which there is another federal, state, Tribal and/or local public funding source.
- Make services available to families regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, public assistance, age, sexual orientation, or familial status.
- Participate in any requested surveys and report forms related to funding awards.

I understand the prior to receiving any funds, my program must:

- Register my program's Organization Profile in Develop, The Minnesota Quality Improvement and Registry Tool (developtoolmn.org); create and name classrooms on the Classrooms tab; and complete the number of children served at the time the application is submitted, including all questions regarding them.
- Ensure that all staff in a child care center or providers in a family child care home document their training and education in Develop. This means each person must:
 - Hold a current Individual Membership in Develop (including a Career Lattice step) AND
 - Identify you as their current employer by listing the MN DHS License ID# or Develop Organization ID# for your program AND
 - Be verified as an employee AND
 - Be connected to a classroom with the correct employment title.

Data Sharing

I understand that by signing this participation agreement, I am agreeing to allow Minnesota Department of Human Services to share information with contracted agencies for the following purposes:

- Administer the grant application process
- Analyze data on use of grant funds
- Analyze the effectiveness of the grant administration process

The data that could be shared about my program is listed below:

- All data submitted, on paper or via www.developtoolmn.org, related to my program's participation in grant activities and grant documentation, including all information in my Organization Profile.
- The Learning Records of any early education professionals who have reported employment my Organizational Profile in Develop.
- Information on purchases made with the funds.
- Information regarding the grant administration process, including fund reimbursement to my program.

Disbursing Funds

I understand that if my program is awarded a grant, funds are:

- Paid on a reimbursement basis after training requirements are verified, unless otherwise noted.
- Reimbursed **only if funds were used in the intended purpose** as per the grant application and award letter.

Print Name

Name of Program

Signature

Date

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