Child Care Stabilization Stipend Opportunity

In response to the urgent need to stabilize the child care sector, the ARP Act included approximately $200 million for child care stabilization stipends in Nevada. The purpose of the funding is to stabilize the child care sector and to do so in a way that:

- rebuilds a stronger child care system that supports the developmental and learning needs of children,
- meets parents’ needs and preferences with equal access to high-quality child care, and
- supports a professionalized workforce that is fairly and appropriately compensated for the essential work that they do.

This notice outlines who can apply, how to apply, appropriate uses of funding and reporting requirements for the NV ARP Provider Stabilization Stipends.

Who Can Apply

MUST be an existing child care provider that is CCDF eligible* at the time of application:

- Child Care Centers Licensed in Nevada (with the exception of Head Start)
- Family or Group Child Care Licensed in Nevada
- Nevada Out of School Time (OST) Providers (excluding city and county parks and recreation programs) as defined by NRS 432A.0278
- License Exempt Family Child Care (Family, Friend and Neighbor) Provider Participating in Subsidy/CCDF

*CCDF Eligible includes any provider (including OST and Family, Friend and Neighbor providers) currently participating in the child care subsidy program through The Children’s Cabinet or the Las Vegas Urban League and all providers that are licensed through the State of Nevada or Washoe County, regardless of whether they are currently participating in the subsidy program.

Stipend Amounts

The Nevada ARP Provider Stabilization Stipends will provide up to six months of operating expenses for all eligible providers.

- Home-Based License-Exempt Subsidy/CCDF Providers (Family, Friend and Neighbor): Providers will receive a standard rate of $15 per hour, totaling $600 per week (approximately $2,600 per month) for up to six months. Stipend funds will be provided monthly upon
verification that the provider is continuing to provide care to at least one CCDF (subsidy) eligible child and that all funding requirements are met. The provider will be required to submit brief reports on the use and impact of the funds. Stipends will be provided in addition to any subsidy payments the provider currently receives.

- **Licensed Providers** (centers and family/group child care): Stipend amounts for all licensed providers will be based upon a standardized formula utilizing the Cost of Quality Calculator\(^1\) (see rate chart below). The rates will be multiplied by the provider’s capacity for each age group to determine the total amount of their award. The first allotment will be based on three months of operating expenses utilizing this formula. Prior to receiving the second allotment, providers must demonstrate that they have met all funding requirements. Stipends will not impact subsidy payments the provider currently receives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standardized Rates for Licensed Child Care Providers in Nevada</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age Group:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg. Monthly Cost of Care (per child):</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOTE: These rates apply to calculations for the ARP Stabilization Stipends only.</td>
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- **OST Providers**: Stipend amounts for all OST providers will be based upon average monthly operating expenditures for OST providers, as reported in the CRRSA applications or providers may submit new/updated operating budgets on their application. The first allotment will be based on three months of operating expenses for the provider. Prior to receiving the second allotment, providers must demonstrate that they have met all funding requirements. Stipends will not impact subsidy payments the provider currently receives.

**Eligible Uses of Funds**

Providers may use NV ARP Stabilization Stipends for the following expenses (bolded items represent new eligible uses of funds as compared to previous stipends through CARES and CRRSA):

- **Personnel Costs** – wages, benefits, payroll taxes, scholarships, paid sick/family leave, retirement, professional development/training, premium/hazard pay, staff bonuses, employee transportation, COVID-19 vaccination related expenses.
- **Rent, Utilities, Facilities Maintenance and Insurance** – mortgage, rent, late fees/charges and minor renovations to meet health/safety standards, provide care to more children or make programs inclusive and/or accessible to children with disabilities or special needs.
- **PPE, Cleaning & Other Health/Safety Practices** – supplies, services and related materials to meet COVID-19 health and safety practices, as well as other health/safety expenses, including funding for background checks & health/safety.
- **Equipment & Supplies** – purchases or updates to equipment & supplies to respond to COVID-19, including new business challenges (i.e.: technology upgrades to collect data and report to lead agencies).

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\(^1\) https://www.costofchildcare.org/
• **Goods and Services** – food, equipment, materials to facilitate play, diapering, safe sleep; **business training & automation, shared services**, food services, transportation, licensing fees/costs, etc.

• **Mental Health Services** – training, consultation or other mental health related services for staff, students and families.

• **Past Expenses** – any previous expenses that align with expenses outlined above as of 1/31/2020 *(May not include any expenses already covered through any other local, state or federal assistance/funding program – see list on page 4 of expenses that are NOT allowed)*.

All providers that employ staff including centers, group/family child care and OST will be required to use a portion of their stipend funds to support both staff and parents. Providers must demonstrate in their application and in their reporting documents that they:

• Use at least 20% of their total award to provide financial supports and/or benefits to staff which may include, but are not limited to: bonuses, stipends, salary increases, paid leave, transportation assistance or other compensation/benefits that are in addition to their normal wages and/or benefits; AND

• Use at least an additional 20% of their total award to provide financial relief to parents enrolled in their program which may include, but is not limited to: waiver of enrollment fees, reduced/waived tuition, waiver of copayments and/or the provision of no-cost supports or services that parents would otherwise provide payment.

All family child care and family, friend and neighbor providers that do not employ staff will be required to use a portion of their stipend funds to provide financial relief to families. Providers must demonstrate in their application and in their reporting documents that they:

• To the extent possible, use at least 20% of their total award to provide financial relief to families which may include, but is not limited to: reduced/waived tuition, waiver of copayments and/or the provision of no-cost supports or services that parents would otherwise provide payment. Providers who are unable to meet this requirement due to low copayments or limited number of children served may request a waiver.

**ALL providers will be required to post and/or provide a notice of ARP Stabilization Funding to all families enrolled in their program to provide notification of the opportunity to receive financial assistance. The notice will be sent to all providers upon approval of their application.**

NV ARP Stabilization Stipends may NOT be used for the following:

• Any expenses already covered through any other local, state or federal assistance program including, but not limited to: CARES Act grants, Payroll Protection Program (PPP), Economic Disaster Injury Loans (EDIL), deferred tax payments, or CRRSA Child Care Assistance Stipends. **This does not include subsidy/CCDF reimbursement for care from The Children’s Cabinet or the Las Vegas Urban League.**

• Capital improvements or major renovations including:
o Structural changes to the foundation, roof, floor, exterior or load-bearing walls of a facility (minor renovations are allowable)

o Alteration of a facility such as to significantly change its function and purpose, even if such renovation does not include any structural change

o The purchase or improvement of land and/or facilities

o Single equipment purchases over $5,000 without prior approval

Provider Certifications

All providers will be required to provide the following certifications on their application, including a brief narrative of how they will meet the following requirements:

- Adhere to CDC health and safety guidance.
- Maintain wages and benefits for all staff/employees from date of application submission through the duration of the funding period (no involuntary furloughs or layoffs).
- Provide relief from copayments & tuition payments for families enrolled, to the extent possible, and prioritize relief for families struggling to make payments.

How to Apply

1. Review this Notice of Funding Opportunity to determine eligibility.
2. Attend one of the ARP Provider Stabilization Stipend Application Webinars based on Provider Type (registration links will be available at https://nevadachildcare.org/financialassistance/):
   - Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Providers:
     - Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 5:30pm OR
     - Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 10:30am
   - Licensed Child Care Providers (Centers, Family/Group Home):
     - Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 10am OR
     - Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 5:30pm
   - Out of School Time (OST) Providers:
     - Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 9:00am

   If you are not able to attend one of the webinars above, the recordings will be posted on the website afterward.

3. Applications will be available at https://nevadachildcare.org/financialassistance/

   Home-Based License Exempt Providers (FFN): Applications will be available beginning September 20, 2021 and must be submitted no later than December 31, 2021.

   Licensed and OST Providers: Applications will be available beginning October 18, 2021 and must be submitted no later than February 28, 2022.

4. Complete all sections of the application.
5. Attach a copy of your child care license, if applicable, unless previously submitted with your CRRSA application and no capacity changes since it was submitted.

6. Submit grant per instructions on the application.

**Stipend Awards**

All eligible providers will be notified of their stipend award within 30 days of when their application is received.

**Reporting Requirements**

- If approved, payments will be awarded in two allotments for all licensed providers and in monthly installments for all family, friend and neighbor providers.
- An expense-tracking workbook will be provided to document all expenses to apply toward the stipend amount. The workbook must be provided with documentation as proof for all expenses indicated on the tracking workbook.
- The expense-tracking workbook will also include reporting requirements for the number and type of assistance provided to staff and parents, as required above.
- All funds must be fully expended by September 30, 2022, regardless of when the application was submitted/awarded. Any funds not expended by this date must be returned to the issuing agency.

**Questions and Submission Information**

**Licensed Child Care Providers and Out-of-School Time Providers Statewide:**

If you need assistance determining eligibility, completing your application, or have any questions, please contact Anthony Kharrat at ecegrants@childrenscabinet.org or 702-209-9975.

**Family, Friend & Neighbor (FFN) Providers:**

- **Southern Nevada** - For home-based, license-exempt providers in Southern Nevada, please contact Barb Revis at ffngrant@lvul.org or 702-473-9400 ext. 442 for assistance.
- **Northern Nevada** - For home-based, license-exempt providers in Northern and Rural Nevada, please contact Anthony Kharrat at ecegrants@childrenscabinet.org or 702-209-9975.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity, applications and any frequently asked questions (FAQs) will be available online at [https://nevadachildcare.org/financialassistance/](https://nevadachildcare.org/financialassistance/).