



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Early Learning Division



## Stabilization Grants Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Child Care Stabilization Fund?**

Congress allocated funds through the American Rescue Plan Act to support child care providers following the pandemic. Oregon received approximately \$250 million in child care stabilization funds. The funds were given to states with specific requirements around applications and distributing the funds.

### **When will providers receive more grant funding?**

Providers can expect to apply for additional funding in mid-September from the Child Care Stabilization Fund. Grant applications will be posted on the Early Learning Division website. All applicants who meet the requirements will receive funding.

### **How are the Child Care Stabilization Funds different from the previous grants offered by the Early Learning Division?**

The Child Care Stabilization funds are meant to support child care programs, strengthen the child care industry, and support the child care workforce. The federal government requires states to gather specific information from providers receiving these grants. The applications and reporting for these funds will require applicants to provide additional information that was not required with the Emergency Child Care grants.

### **Will these funds be taxable?**

Congress has not designated these funds exempt from federal tax. These funds may be subject to tax. Please consult your tax authority.

### **How much money will providers receive?**

The Early Learning Division is seeking input from child care providers and stakeholders to establish principles to create an equitable funding formula. The federal legislation requires states to consider a funding formula based on the type of child care program and the cost associated with operating a child care program.

### **Who will be eligible for these funds?**

Funding will be available to a broad range of providers, including licensed family child care, center based care, and license-exempt providers receiving child care subsidy. To be eligible for these funds, providers must be currently operating. These funds cannot be used to start a new program. The Early Learning Division is looking at how to use other funding to support programs to reopen or open new child care programs.

### **How can providers use the funding?**

These funds can be used to reimburse providers for allowable expenses incurred during the pandemic and during the defined grant period. Below is a list of allowable expenses:

- Wages and benefits
- Workforce recruitment and retention
- COVID-19 vaccines, time-off, and transportation
- Rent and utilities
- Cleaning and sanitization of supplies and services
- Equipment and supplies (including information technology)
- Goods & services to maintain or resume child care services (including licensing fees)
- Reimbursements to themselves for expenses prior to ARPA
- Mental health services (including the ability to "opt in" to certain services)

These funds cannot be used for capital improvements such as major construction or purchasing a building or land.

### **How will providers be able to apply for the funds?**

Applications will be available on the Early Learning Division's website. Providers will be notified when applications are available. The application period will be open for several months allowing providers time to apply.

### **Will there be an application in Spanish (or other languages)?**

The application will be in Spanish and English and the Early Learning Division (ELD) is exploring ways to make the application available in additional languages. The ELD is committed to ensuring all eligible child care providers will have the support needed to apply for this grant opportunity.

### **Will it be a one-time grant?**

Providers will only need to apply once for these funds but will receive multiple payments. The exact time period for these payments is still being determined.

### **How will the Early Learning Division be getting input from child care providers?**

The Early Learning Division is working with a stakeholder group and conducting focus groups with providers to advise on the development of this grant program. Focus groups will be conducted in English, Spanish and Russian and will include providers from licensed family child care, licensed centers and licensed-exempt providers receiving child care subsidies.

### **Will this be a competitive grant?**

This grant is non-competitive. All eligible applicants will receive funding based on the availability of funds.