



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Updated 9/24/2021

Q: Am I eligible to receive this grant?

A: Any licensed child care provider (or active license-exempt), in the state of Rhode Island, that is open, available to provide care, or temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic is eligible to receive a grant. The following providers are eligible:

- Licensed Child Care Center
- Licensed Family Child Care Home
- Licensed Group Family Child Care Home
- Active License-Exempt Provider

Q: When do I apply?

A: The application will be open from mid-October 2021 through February 4, 2022. Applications will be reviewed and accepted on a rolling basis. During this application window, Group/Family Child Care Home and License-Exempt providers may apply once to receive a lump sum payment of 6 monthly grants.

Child Care Centers will also be eligible to apply from mid-October 2021 through February 4, 2022. Child Care Centers will receive 3 monthly grants in 1 lump sum payment. Child Care Centers who are awarded during this period will be eligible for an additional 3 months of funding (for a total of 6 months) and the Staff Bonus Add-on by completing a recertification application. The recertification application will be sent directly to providers once they are eligible to apply (approximately 3 months after initial award). This payment will be disbursed in a lump sum payment.

The table below summarizes the application and funding details by provider type:

Provider Type	Application Type	Application Window	Anticipated Funding Amount
Family Child Care Home	Initial Application	October 20, 2021- February 4, 2022	6 monthly grants in 1 lump sum payment
Group Family Child Care Home			
License-Exempt			
Child Care Centers	Initial Application	October 20, 2021- February 4, 2022	3 monthly grants in 1 lump sum payment
	Recertification	January 2022- April 2022	3 monthly grants + 10% Staff Bonus Add-on (if eligible) in 1 lump sum payment



Rhode Island Department of Human Services

Reinvigorate Child Care Stabilization Grants

Q: How do I apply?

A: The application links (one for Child Care Centers and one for Group/Family Child Care Homes and License-exempt providers) will be available on **October 20, 2021** at <http://kids.ri.gov/funding-opportunities.php>. The link will also be sent by email to the provider email on file with DHS. You will navigate to the application link to log-in to your applicant profile (or create an applicant profile, if this is your first time applying). This will allow you to save your application and return to the portal to see the status of your application and update any information.

For guidance on how to set up an applicant profile, visit the grant resources provided at <http://kids.ri.gov/funding-opportunities.php>.

Q: How were grant amounts determined?

A: Monthly grants were calculated using the 75th percentile of full-time private pay tuition rates from the 2021 Child Care Market Rate Survey and reflect the lost revenue associated with a 25% reduction in enrollment as reported in the Fall 2020 Child Care Provider COVID-19 Impact Survey series.

Q: How much money will my program be awarded?

A: DHS aims to issue 6 monthly grants per licensed program.

Family Child Care Homes, Group Family Child Care Homes, and license-exempt providers will apply for the grant through one application and will be issued one payment for 6 monthly grants.

Child Care Centers will apply for the grant through two separate application windows and will be issued two payments of 3 monthly grants each (for a potential total of 6 monthly grants). A Child Care Center must submit their application by February 4, 2022 to be eligible for the second payment round. If a provider does not submit their initial application by this date, they will only be eligible to receive 3 monthly grants and will not be eligible to complete the recertification application to request the additional 3 monthly grants or the Staff Bonus Add-on.

The following table summarizes grant amounts by provider type:

Provider Type	Grant Amount	Payment Amount
Child Care Center	Varies based on number of classrooms and licensed capacity. Grants begin at \$4,500 (per classroom) and are capped at \$50,000 per month.	Varies. Centers may receive two rounds of payments based on an application (3 monthly grants) and recertification application (additional 3 monthly grants + 10% Staff Bonus Add-on).
Family Child Care Home	\$2,000	\$12,000
Group Family Child Care Home	\$3,000	\$18,000
License-exempt provider	\$400	\$2,400

Q: If I have more than one Rhode Island location, am I eligible to receive more than one grant?

A: Yes. Every licensed child care program is eligible for a grant; this includes multi-site programs. Every program with a distinct license number will need to apply individually.



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Q: Do I need to pay this money back?

A: These grant funds come from a federal bill, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and as a grant, do not need to be paid back. However, as part of the application, you will be required to attest to remaining open and in good standing with the State for the duration of the grant period. Where a program's license closes or is no longer in good standing, the State may take action to recoup part or whole of grant awards issued.

Q: What if I need help completing my application?

A: RI DHS has provided several resources to assist you throughout the grant application process:

View online resources, including:

- (1) Stabilization Fund Overview: This document outlines key information about this grant opportunity.
- (2) Process Guide: How to create an application profile within the online application system.
- (3) Application Tips: How to navigate the online grant application.
- (4) "How to complete an application": This is a step-by-step walk through of the application (including screenshots of the application).

Note: Links to these online resources are located at <http://kids.ri.gov/funding-opportunities.php>.

Watch a webinar. DHS has developed webinars to guide your program through the grant process. Your program will receive an email with links to these webinars which detail an overview of the grant, eligibility, how to apply, and how to plan to spend the grant award. Webinars will also be posted online at <http://kids.ri.gov/funding-opportunities.php>.

Contact us! Reach out to our team, in English or Spanish, at: ChildCareGrants@pcqus.com or 833-930-3540 (toll-free call line).

Q: My program is a: (1) Head Start, (2) Early Head Start program, or (3) State PreK class. Are we eligible for this grant?

A: Yes. Head Start, Early Head Start, and State Funded PreK programs are eligible to apply for this grant if they have expenses not covered by their Head Start stimulus or state allocated funding streams. These providers should thoroughly review all ACF guidelines to ensure they are not supplanting funding. Further, providers should retain documentation demonstrating the distinct uses of various funding sources.

Q: Will the number of children currently enrolled in my program affect the amount of grant money I am awarded?

A: No. The number of children currently enrolled in your program has no bearing on your award amount. Child Care Centers will receive awards relative to the number of classrooms they have licensed capacity for. DHS has requested that you provide the percentage of open seats available in your program, in an informational capacity, to better understand, assess, and address the impact of COVID-19 on child care providers in Rhode Island.



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Q: How and when will I receive the funding?

A: There are two payment options: (1) Direct Deposit/ACH, or (2) Paper Check. DHS expects for payments to be made within 30 business days of receipt of a completed application.

Electing to receive funds by check may delay payment up to an additional 30 business days due to processing and mail delivery.

Please note, for providers who received a Child Care Stabilization Grant in Spring or Summer of 2021 through this application portal, payments will be disbursed using the banking information submitted in the application earlier this year. If this information needs to be updated, please reach out to childcaregrants@pcqus.com.

Q: What can the funds be used for?

A: The following spending categories are delineated by the American Rescue Plan Act. Providers are required to spend in at least one of the following categories.

Allowable use of funds	Examples
Equipment or supplies	Purchases of or updates to equipment and supplies to respond to the COVID–19 public health emergency, such as business software upgrades, room dividers, or floor stickers for social distancing.
Goods or services	Goods and services necessary to maintain or resume child care services. Goods may include: food, equipment and materials to facilitate play, learning, eating, diapering/toileting, and safe sleep. Services may include business automation training, child care management services, food services, or transportation. This may also include fees associated with licensing and costs associated with meeting licensing requirements.
Mental Health Supports	Mental health supports for children and employees. This may include: infant and early childhood mental health consultation, or mental health consultations for staff.
Personnel Costs	Personnel costs, including payroll and salaries or similar compensation for an employee (including any sole proprietor or independent contractor), employee benefits (such as health, dental, or vision insurance; paid sick or family leave; and retirement contributions), premium or hazard pay, or costs for employee recruitment and retention. Personnel costs may also include: ongoing professional development or training, premium or hazard pay, staff bonuses, and employee transportation costs to or from work.
Personal Protective Equipment	Personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitization supplies and services, or training and professional development related to health and safety practices.
Rent or mortgage	Rent (including rent under a lease agreement) or payment on any mortgage obligation, utilities, facility maintenance or improvements, or insurance.

Funds may also be used to pay for past expenses incurred after January 31, 2020 related to the public health emergency.



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Q: What is the 10% Staff Bonus Add-on incentive for Child Care Centers?

A: DHS will incentivize Child Care Centers to commit 10% or more of their grant award to direct payments to their workforce via one or more of the following:

- Increase in wages- a long-term or permanent increase in wages
- Hazard pay- a temporary increase in wages
- Spot-bonuses- a one-time additional payment

Those programs who successfully execute on this vision will receive an additional payment (10% of the initial grant award) to their recertification award.

Example: A center commits (minimum) 10% of their first 3 monthly grants to spot bonuses for all staff members and receives a 10% add-on to their second 3 monthly grants upon attestation of their commitment within their recertification application. The 10% add-on would not need to be applied to wages but would be added to the second lump-sum payment for the program's discretionary spending, within the allowable spending categories.

Staying Alert

With the influx of federal grants related to COVID-19, many scammers are looking to take advantage of providers by collecting their personal data. Please review the following resources to better identify scamming methods:

- **Government Grant Scams:** This website covers the topics: How Government Grant Scammers Try to Trick you; What to Know About Government Grants; What to do if you Paid a Scammer; and Report Government Grant Scams. <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/government-grant-scams#How%20Governmnet%20Grant%20Scammers%20Try%20To%20Trick%20You>
- **The US Department of Treasury COVID-19 Scams:** This site advises "If you receive calls, emails, or other communications claiming to be from the Treasury Department and offering COVID-19 related grants or stimulus payments in exchange for personal financial information, or an advance fee, or charge of any kind, including the purchase of gift cards, please do not respond. These are scams." The link providers contact methods to report these scams to the FBI: <https://home.treasury.gov/services/report-fraud-waste-and-abuse/covid-19-scams>

Please be aware all communications related to your grant application will come from Childcaregrants@pcgus.com. If at any time, you are concerned or unsure if the person contacting you, related to the Reinvigorate Child Care Stabilization Grant opportunity, is acting in good faith, please call our toll-free number **833-930-3540** to confirm the representative is from the Public Consulting Group or the RI Department of Human Services.



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If you are completing an application on this portal for the first time...

Q: How do I fill out a W-9 Form?

A: Check out this video to learn how to complete a W-9 Form:

<https://www.irsvideos.gov/Business/Resources/HowToCompleteFormW-9>

The blank W-9 Form may be downloaded at: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>

Q: Does my business have a DUNS number? Where can I find it?

A: Watch this video (less than 1 minute long) to learn about DUNS numbers and where to find yours:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1R80AjnI90&list=PLvkTYu1HshZirHpsEQ0RcsF0MQCXhmJ8Z&index=16>

This video will explain how to search for an existing DUNS number or apply for a new one:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ELR9-AAAtc0&list=PLvkTYu1HshZirHpsEQ0RcsF0MQCXhmJ8Z&index=5>

If you have any additional questions or need technical assistance, please contact:

ChildCareGrants@pcqus.com or call our toll-free number **833-930-3540** for assistance in English or Spanish