



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Updated 06/12/2023

*Q: Am I eligible to receive this grant?*

A: To be eligible to receive this grant, an applicant must:

- Be Interested in becoming a licensed Family Child Care provider with DHS
- Be able to meet all health and safety requirements necessary to receive and retain licensure
- Complete the online orientation webinar. You can find the link here: [DHS Licensing Orientation for Family Child Care Home Providers \(English\) - Center for Early Learning Professionals \(center-elp.org\)](https://center-elp.org/center-elp-orientation)
- Submit the pre-licensure information to the Department of Human Services. You can find this here: [https://center-elp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Orientation-One-Pager-Criteria\\_English.pdf](https://center-elp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Orientation-One-Pager-Criteria_English.pdf)

You may be eligible for this grant if you are a recently licensed Family Child Care provider, licensed a maximum 30 days prior to submitting this grant application

Previously licensed Family Child Care providers (that is, provider who are not currently licensed but have been licensed in the past) may also be eligible for this grant as they reopen their program, given their previous license was in good-standing at DHS.

*Q: When do I apply?*

A: The application window will be open from October 3, 2022 to December 15, 2023. This program is first-come, first-served, so we encourage interested applicants to apply as soon as possible.

*Q: How do I apply?*

A: The application link will be posted on <http://kids.ri.gov/cabinet/funding-opportunities/>. The application is hosted on a web-based tool called GrantsConnect. To submit an application, you will be prompted to create an applicant profile. Directions on how to create an applicant profile are also found on <http://kids.ri.gov/cabinet/funding-opportunities/>

*Q: How much money might I be awarded?*

A: One-time grants of \$2,000 will be issued to each approved applicant. Grant funds must be used to support programs with the following allowable costs associated with the licensure process:

- Quality improvement items
- Fire-related repairs and/or health and safety items (fire extinguisher, plug covers, etc.)
- Lead and radon inspections
- Liability insurance

*Q: Do I need to pay this money back?*

A: This grant is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF), as appropriated by the Governor and the General Assembly, and as such, do not need to be paid back. However, DHS does reserve the right to recoup funds where a provider fails to maintain the terms of the grant application.



# Rhode Island Department of Human Services

## Family Child Care Start-up Grant

**Q: What if I need help completing my application?**

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

View online resources, including:

- (1) Grant Program Overview: This document outlines key information about this opportunity.
- (2) Process Guide: How to create an application profile within the online application system
- (3) Application Tips: How to navigate the online application.

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

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

**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 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. *Applicants are recommended to cash their check immediately upon receipt. Failing to deposit a check within 90 days will delay the release of funds.*

**Q: What are the tax implications of these bonuses?**

A: Grant funds are subject to state and federal income tax, as they may be considered income. Taxes have not been withheld from the awarded grant funds. Please consult a tax professional or accountant for more information on how these funds may impact you.

**Q: Why is the application asking me to submit my social security number?**

A: A Social Security Number (or Tax Identification Number) is required in the application. This information will be used by Public Consulting Group (PCG, the fiscal intermediary disbursing payments) to issue a Form 1099-MISC. This tax form will be issued to all awarded applicants in January 2023 related to funds received in 2022, (or January 2024 for funds received in 2023), as these funds are considered income by the Internal Revenue Service.

### Staying Alert

With the influx of federal funds 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%20Governmentnet%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



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gift cards, please do not respond. These are scams.” The link provides 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 application will come from [Childcaregrants@pcgus.com](mailto:Childcaregrants@pcgus.com). If at any time, you are concerned or unsure if the person contacting you related to this program 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.

**Please note:** sensitive information, such as a Social Security Number or banking information should never be sent via email. Similarly, our team will never ask you to confirm this information over the phone.

***If you have any additional questions or need technical assistance, please contact:*** [ChildCareGrants@pcgus.com](mailto:ChildCareGrants@pcgus.com) or call our toll-free number **833-930-3540** for assistance in English or Spanish