

# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stabilization Grants

# This webinar will cover...

- Preparing Your Application
- Eligibility
- Application Process
- Required Attestation
- Expenses
- Payments
- Record Keeping
- Reporting and Monitoring



# Preparing Your Application for the Child Care Stabilization Grants

- Expenses
- Allowable Uses
- Record Keeping
- Reporting



# American Rescue Plan Act 2021

A close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The flag is waving, and the colors are vibrant. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT 2021' in white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT 2021**

Authorized on March 11, 2021

# Pennsylvania Enacted Budget



- Authorized the Child Care Stabilization Funds
- Set eligibility to align with federal language
- Established additional reporting for OCDEL
- Requires add-on for infant/toddler care



# Eligibility

## Child Care

1. Have a regular or provisional Certificate of Compliance on or before March 11, 2021;
2. At the time of application, be either open and available to provide child care or be in a temporarily closed status due to a COVID-19 pandemic related reason;
  - a) Providers in a temporarily closed status must plan to reopen by Sept. 30, 2021; and
3. At the time of application, a providers' Certificate of Compliance cannot be in the "Revocation or Refuse to Renew" status with the OCDEL Bureau of Certification Services.


**Important update to eligibility requirements:** Due to recent guidance provided to Pennsylvania by the Federal Office of Child Care (OCC), providers that have had their CCW service agreement revoked due to a conviction of fraud, or are under investigation for fraud, are not eligible for ARPA stabilization grants.

## Relatives

Some relative Child Care Works (CCW) providers may also be eligible for an ARPA Stabilization Grant. Information about the relative provider eligibility and application process will be shared directly with those providers.

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# Application

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- A silver laptop is shown from a front-facing perspective, slightly angled. The screen is white and displays a bulleted list. The laptop has a black keyboard and a silver trackpad.
- Simple
  - Online (PD Registry)
  - Rolling (for eligible providers)
  - Outreach

# Information Applicants Will Need

- Current enrollment as of date of application.
  - Regardless of part-time or full-time status, each child enrollment should be counted as "1".
- Current average monthly expenses
- Some questions are included based on federal reporting requirements
  - i. At minimum, lead agencies should collect the following information from child care providers receiving subgrants:
  - ii. Race and ethnicity of child care center director or family child care
    - Owner [In instances where the child care is a large corporation or non-profit, complete the information as it applies to the director.]
  - i. Gender of center director or family child care owner
  - ii. Whether the *eligible* provider is open and available to provide child care services or closed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Some information the system will pre-populate.
- The application will ask if you know what you will spend the funds on, if not there is an *I Don't Know* button.



# Required Attestation

## **By submitting this form, I attest to and will comply with the following:**

1. My facility is open and operating on a regular certificate of compliance or provisional certificate of compliance and available to provide child care services, OR my facility is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, but plans to reopen by Sept. 30, 2021, and follows protocols outlined in [Announcement C-20-13, Reopening of Certified Child Care Facilities Temporarily or Permanently Closed Due to COVID-19](#).
2. My facility was issued a regular certificate of compliance or a provisional certificate of compliance by OCDEL's Bureau of Certification Services on or before March 11, 2021.
3. My facility will meet all child care facility regulations based on my facility type, defined in the Pennsylvania Code (§3270 Child Care Centers, §3280 Group Child Day Care Homes, and §3290 Family Child Care Homes), which are enforced by OCDEL's Bureau of Certification Services.

# Required Attestation continued

## **By submitting this form, I attest to and will comply with the following:**

4. My facility, when open and operating and available to provide child care, will implement policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (available at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html) ).
  5. For each employee at my facility on the day of this application, I must pay at least the same or higher amount in weekly wages and maintain the same or higher benefits for the duration of the 6-month grant period.
  6. For each employee at my facility on the day of this application, I will not issue any involuntarily furloughs, layoffs, etc. through the duration of the 6-month subgrant period.
  7. To the extent possible, I will provide relief from copayments and tuition payments for the families enrolled at my facility. I will prioritize such relief for families struggling to make either type of payment.
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# Required Attestation continued

## **By submitting this form, I attest to and will comply with the following:**

8. After the final award payment is issued, I must report on how the total of grant award funds were utilized at my facility. This reporting must take place within three months of the final payment and based on the following categories:

- a. Personnel (i.e. wages, benefits, professional development and training, hazard pay)
- b. Facility costs (i.e. rent, mortgage, utilities, maintenance, insurance, minor renovations)
- c. Personal Protective Equipment/Professional Development – health and safety practices
- d. Equipment and supplies – in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- e. Goods and Services (i.e. business automation services, shared services, food, transportation)
- f. Relief from copayments and tuition payments for the families
- g. Mental Health Services for children and staff
- h. Paying for past COVID-19 expenses not covered by other funding
- i. Paying for reopening expenses from being on a temporary closed status

9. I understand that by accepting grant funding, my facility may be monitored by the ELRC as part of program integrity and fiscal accountability measures.

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# Required Attestation continued

**By submitting this form, I attest to and will comply with the following:**

10. I understand that if my facility permanently closes during the 6-month subgrant period, I am responsible for immediately reporting the closure to my OCDEL Certification Representative and local ELRC office, and my award will be adjusted accordingly.
  11. I attest that the information I provide about my facility in the grant application, to the best of my knowledge, is accurate and true for the purposes of determining the grant award amount.
  12. I affirm that my estimated operating expenses are \$\_\_\_\_\_
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# Start Thinking **NOW** About Use of Funds



# Personnel

## Personnel Costs

- Wages and Benefits
- Ongoing professional development or training
- Premium or hazard pay
- Staff bonuses
- Employee transportation costs to or from work

Child care providers may also use resources to support staff in accessing COVID-19 vaccines, including paid time off for vaccine appointments and to manage side effects, as well as transportation costs to vaccine appointments.

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# Rent, Utilities, Facilities Maintenance, and Insurance

Rent (including rent under a lease agreement) or payment on any mortgage obligation, utilities, facility maintenance or improvements, or insurance.

It also may include late fees or charges related to late payment.



# Personal Protective Equipment, Cleaning, and Other Health and Safety Practices

- Personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and sanitization supplies and services, or training and professional development related to health and safety practices.
  - Uses of funds under this category are not limited to those designed specifically, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and may include equipment, supplies, services, and training that support meeting state and local health and safety guidelines.
  - Agencies can use resources to fund background checks and health and safety training for child care staff.
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# Equipment and Supplies

- Includes purchases of or updates to equipment and supplies to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
  - May include indoor and outdoor equipment and supplies that facilitate business practices consistent with safety protocols and developmentally appropriate practice, as well as business items needed to respond to new challenges, such as business software and upgrades.
  - Also includes technological upgrades that programs can use to collect data and report to lead agencies.
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# Goods and Services

Any material good or service necessary for the operation of a child care program.

## **Examples:**

- Food and equipment and materials to facilitate play, learning, eating, diapering and toileting, or safe sleep.
  - Business automation training and support services, shared services, child care management services, food services, and transportation.
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# Support the Mental Health of Children and Employees



# No Major Renovations!





# Payments

- Will be individual to each applicant
- Will receive six monthly installments.



# Record Keeping



- Maintain documentation of enrollment at the time of application
- Maintain record of the use of funds

# Reporting - OCDEL

- REGARDLESS of whether you included in the application your intended use of funds, you **MUST** report after the grant period is over.
  - OCDEL is required to report to both the Office of Child Care (OCC) and Pennsylvania Legislature.
  - Will need understanding of number and amount of grant funds out to providers, understanding that all eligible providers are going to make application or decline.
  - Amount of funds attributed to each of the categories we discussed earlier
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# Monitoring

- ELRC will monitor, similar to other grants
- Up to 15% of providers will be randomly selected for monitoring



# Making the Application

- The application, when posted, will be available until at least **Jan. 31, 2022.**
  - Providers may have reason to not make application right away
    - Current enrollment is low, and provider anticipates increasing
    - Collecting information
    - Making decisions for what to use funds
    - Need approval to apply from a Board or larger parent organization
    - About to move up in Keystone STAR Designation
    - Providers operating under Appeal of a Revocation or Refuse to Renew, unless they are successful in their appeal
    - Short-term temporarily closed and working to increase enrollment
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There is a robust amount of funding,  
but as with all things,  
**grants are based on  
the availability of funds.**

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