

Updates and New Federal Stimulus Funds for Child Care Impacted by COVID-19



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Agenda for Today's Briefing:

- Welcome and Introductions: Kathy Glazer
- Greetings: First Lady Pamela Northam
- Briefing: Jenna Conway
- Q&A: Jenna Conway and Tara Ragland
- Closing: Kathy Glazer

VIRGINIA'S FIRST LADY PAMELA NORTHAM

JENNA CONWAY

Chief School Readiness Officer

TARA RAGLAND

Director of Licensing Programs, VDSS

CURRENT SITUATION IN THE COMMONWEALTH

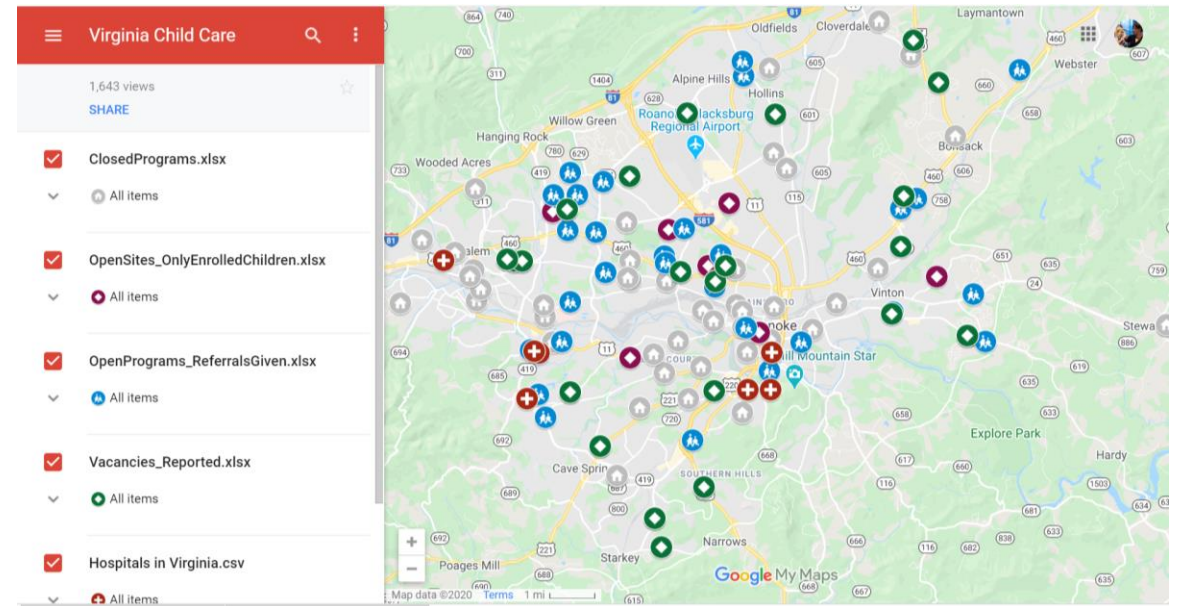
- As of 4/15/2020,
 - 63% of child centers are closed
 - 63% of religious exempt preschools are closed
 - 24% of family day homes are closed

Altogether, ~2,700 child care programs are closed - a **loss in capacity of ~210,000**

- Child care is allowed to be **open** and child care educators are **essential** personnel
- The Department of Social Services and Department of Education have produced a [letter for the field](#) that indicates that child care is essential and should be a priority for critical supplies (e.g., food, cleaning).
- Current priority areas:
 1. Ensuring there is enough **emergency child care**
 2. Determining how to use the **\$70 million in CARES Act Child Care funding** to support the field

ENSURING ENOUGH EMERGENCY CHILD CARE

- Child Care Aware of Virginia has developed a new [map](#) to reflect the current state of child care in Virginia in response to community needs.
- Map enables community planners, partners, the child care workforce and even parents to see what is happening in their localities and across the Commonwealth.
- This map highlights programs that have closed and those that remain open – differentiating between those serving only children who were enrolled prior to the COVID-19 crisis (still serving a need), and those who report willingness to take in new children, as well as available vacancy data that Child Care Aware of Virginia is now collecting. The map also shows care in relation to hospital locations.



<https://vachildcare.com/data/va-child-care/>

CHILD CARE FUNDING IN THE CARES ACT

- The bipartisan [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#), was passed by Congress and enacted on March 27, 2020.
- It provides Virginia with an \$70 million in Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding to Virginia for FY2020.
- This funding is explicitly intended to support parents of young children whose participation in the workforce is of critical importance during this pandemic, such as health care employees, emergency responders, and sanitation workers.
- Funding may be used to continue payments to providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures, to ensure they are able to remain open or reopen, and providers are encouraged to use funds to continue paying staff.
- Funds are not limited to those who were receiving CCDBG prior to the coronavirus.
- These funds do not require matching funds from states, do not fall under spending requirements for quality or direct service, and can be used in a variety of ways without waivers.

VIRGINIA'S APPROACH

Virginia's Goal	How Virginia Will Use the Funding
Support providers who are open to serve children during the pandemic	Child care providers that are open and serving essential personnel will be eligible for a new grant program that will provide direct cash assistance each month (April – June) based on program size.
Support low-income families who rely on child care subsidies	Families in the Child Care Subsidy Program will <u>not</u> have to make co-payments from April 1 - June 30. Co-payment amounts will be automatically included in provider payments for this period.
Support providers in the Child Care Subsidy Program, even if they are temporarily closed	Child Care Subsidy providers that are temporarily closed may request absence payments for additional days for participating children. This parallels a provision for open Subsidy providers.
Ensure back-up emergency child care is available as needed	Funding will supplement costs of back-up, emergency child care in public schools as needed.

SUPPORTING OPEN CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

- Virginia plans to use at least half of the new CARES child care (CCDBG) funding to support child care programs that are open during the pandemic.
- This is not limited to programs in the Child Care Subsidy Program. Licensed child day centers, religious-exempt child day centers, licensed family day homes, voluntarily-registered family day homes as well as Subsidy providers are eligible.
- Eligible programs will receive a monthly payment of \$25 times half of their total licensed capacity for each week you provide care to children. For example, if a site's total capacity is 50 children, the grant amount would be 25 (half of the total capacity) times \$25, for a total of \$625 per week, or \$2,500 for each four-week period.
- To be eligible, the program must:
 1. Be open for the month applied for (April, May and/or June);
 2. Be providing or are willing to provide care care for children of essential personnel;
 3. Comply with the enhanced health and safety requirements; and
 4. Apply.

HOW TO APPLY

- Child care providers that are open, available to essential personnel, and want to apply for the new grant program should look for information at <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19.html>. Questions may be submitted to ask4care@dss.virginia.gov
- Providers participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program should consult the communications that will be emailed directly to them and the FAQs available at childcareva.com. Questions may also be submitted to vendor.services@dss.virginia.gov.
- Public schools considering emergency child care should email superintendent@doe.virginia.gov.
- Families participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program should consult the FAQs available at childcareva.com or contact their [local department of social services](#).

Virginia Department of Social Services	CARES Grant Application Form open to current CDC, FDH, VR, RECD, and unlicensed subsidy vendor programs	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Application <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal Application Grant # _____ submit signed application to: ask4care@dss.virginia.gov or fax (804) 726-7132 ATTN: Marty Jo Quade
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Section 1. PROVIDER/FACILITY INFORMATION	
Provider/Facility Name (payment made to)	
Street Address/City/State/Zip Code	
Payment Address (if different from above)	
Phone Number	Email Address
Contact Person Name	Contact Person Phone Number
Type of Child Day Program (select one)	



QUESTIONS?

Resources

- [VDSS COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [VDOE COVID-19 Resources](#)