Early Childhood and Family Support
COVID-19 Pandemic Funding
Project Summary

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) - $10,113,887
- Coronavirus Relief Fund - $68,075,745
- Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) - $42,563,312
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Supplemental Child Care Block Grant Funding - $28,379,759
- ARPA Child Care Stabilization Grants (Approved) - $57,320,761
- ARPA Child Care Stabilization Grants (Seeking Approval in January, 2022) - $38,054,340

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)
Coronavirus Relief Fund
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Supplemental Child Care Block Grant Funding
ARPA Child Care Stabilization Grants (Approved)
ARPA Child Care Stabilization Grants (Seeking Approval in January, 2022)
ECFSD Covid-19 Pandemic Child Care Past Funding

CARES Act

Supplemental Payments to Licensed/Registered Child Care Providers (Two Rounds of Payments Averaging $4,244)
- 888 providers received supplemental funding to mitigate the impacts of COVID including health and safety

Best Beginnings Child Care Scholarships Full Coverage ($1,419,479)
- 3,500 families continued to receive child care assistance even if temporarily out of work due to COVID-19
  - Paid full authorized amounts regardless of attendance
  - Three months of co-pay relief for BBS families

Temporary/Short Term Child Care for Essential/Emergency Personnel ($782,771)
- 15 new programs received funding to provide temporary child care for 549 children

Coronavirus Relief Fund

A Third Round of Supplemental Payments to Licensed/Registered Providers Averaging $9,620 Per Provider ($8,005,000)
- 888 providers received supplemental funding to mitigate the impacts of COVID including health and safety

Special Circumstance Scholarships to Offset Costs Related to In-Home Child Care and Remote Learning Support ($15,651,000)
- 4,000 Families received $2,000 scholarships

Grants to Community-Based School-Age/After School Programs ($33,664,761)
- 327 school-age programs received funding to guarantee school-age child care services

Support for Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
- Seven Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies received funding to administer new COVID-19 funding/programs
ARPA Child Care Stabilization Grants

$28,379,759 Funding

Performance Period
December 27, 2020 38% September 30, 2023

Best Beginnings Scholarship (BBS) Guaranteed Payment for Child Care Slot
- An average of 617 licensed child care providers have received full authorized amounts each month regardless of attendance to hold child care slots for families

Eligibility Increase From 150% to 185% FPL
- 287 additional families served due to eligibility increase

Co-Payments Limited to $10 per Family
- 1,940 families have received co-pay relief since June

Cost of Background Checks Covered for all Required Staff Members ($40,120)
- 1,337 background checks covered

Grants to Parents to Pay for Summer School Age Child Care/Camps ($4,841,910)
- 2,080 families received grants

Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)

$68,075,745 Funding

Performance Period
October 1, 2020 42% September 30, 2023

Stabilization Grants to Cover Operating Costs for Licensed/Registered Child Care Businesses, Including eligible In-Home Providers (FFN’s)
- 440 applications received to date, intent to award letters going out the end of December 2021, first part of January 2022
- Projections indicate the state will expend full allocation for 80% of eligible providers (at a rate of about 45% of the child care businesses operating costs for one year)

HAC approved $38,054,340 which includes administration funding. Seeking Approval in January 2022 for $30,021,405
ARPA Supplemental Child Care Block Grant Funding

$42,563,312

Funding

$0

$42.6M

100%

Percent Allocated

1%

Percent Obligated

1%

Percent Spent

Performance Period

October 1, 2020 31% September 20, 2024

Current Status

Temporary Child Care Assistance for Health Care Workers
- Currently accepting and processing applications

Specialized Training, TA and Business Consultation
- A request for proposal (RFP) is being drafted now, and should release in December with the intent to award in February

Future Plans

Child Care Innovation/Start-Up/Expansion Grants
- An RFP will be released in January, 2022

Child Care Workforce Supports
- Staff in child care businesses will be eligible to receive workforce incentives through MSU Early Childhood Project

Child Care Resource and Referral Pilot in Eastern Montana
- Preliminary discussions with DCC in Miles City to design pilot have been initiated

Ongoing

Child Care Resource and Referral Licensing Regulatory/Business Process Review Project
- Rules related to group sizes in facilities in accordance with SB 142 recently published
- Currently surveying interested parties
- Focus Groups to begin soon
- Reviewing regulations
- Shadowing staff and conducting business process review in progress
- Anticipate rule changes
  - Immunizations
  - School-age child care