

Child Development Division 2020 Budget Updates

The Vermont Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division's goal is to increase access to high-quality, sustainable services that are developmentally beneficial for children, strengthen families, and meet their needs. We do this in partnership with families, communities, schools, providers and state and federal agencies.

Child Care Investment Changes

Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) Changes

Approximately \$5.8 million of additional funding was appropriated for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) to:



- Adjust the income guidelines to align with the 2019 Federal Poverty Levels (FPL)
- Changes in the income guidelines to provide a more gradual decrease in benefits to families as they earn more income.
- Align the preschool and school age Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFAP) rates with the 2014 Vermont Market Rate Survey
- Maintain the rates of reimbursement for infants and toddlers aligned with the 2017 Vermont Market Rate Survey.

For details on the income guidelines and new rates effective July 21, 2019 visit our website at: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd-blog/changes-child-care-financial-assistance-program>

Stabilization Grants

One million dollars was allocated for two purposes:



1. A Stabilization Grant program to support full day/ full year child care and early learning programs that serve infants and toddlers and maintain the enrollment of children receiving support through the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) at a level of at least 50% of total enrollment.
2. A grant program to support expanding infant and toddler child care capacity.

Details about eligibility and how to apply for grants will be available in early fall 2019.

One time child care funds reallocated from the state fiscal year 2019 will be used in a variety of ways. These funds are available only for state fiscal year 2020. These programs will be one-time programs and will not continue beyond June 2020.

Water Testing



Funds were transferred to the Vermont Department of Health to help pay for water testing of child care programs to comply with the new Lead Water testing requirements. For more information about those requirements see the memo from the division here: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd-blog/important-information-about-water-testing-all-regulated-child-care-programs>

Capacity Building Grants



Just over 1 million dollars to support one-time grants to new or existing regulated child care programs to build child care capacity in areas of the state where the need is greatest with a focus on serving infants and toddlers and vulnerable populations of children. More details on available funding and how to apply for these grants will be available in fall 2019.

Additional Child Development Division 2020 Budget Updates

Workforce Supports



\$300,000 in workforce supports for individuals employed in a regulated privately-operated center-based child care program or family child care home. Recommendations on use of this funding will be made by the Early Learning and Development Committee of Building Bright Futures.

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\$300,000 of funding was appropriated to facilitate the implementation a nationally accredited Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) curriculum in technical centers throughout the State, and to provide stipends and other incentives to tech center students preparing to enter early childhood professions..

Children's Intergrated Services (CIS)



\$309,714 in base general funding was preserved to support regional funding for non-Medicaid eligible children in Children's Integrated Services (CIS)

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\$128,221 was appropriated to expand Children's Integrated Services (CIS), Specialized Child Care transportation services for eligible children to child care to the Newport and St. Albans regions.

Parent Child Centers



One million dollars in one-time funds for grants to the Parent Child Centers in Vermont for infrastructure improvements.

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\$1.3 million dollars was appropriated to increase Parent Child Center Master Grants across the state to support the capacity of Parent Child to deliver 8 core services to children and families in their communities.

Additional Funds



The legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 to implement upgrades to the child care information system, currently called Bright Futures Information System to support future changes to the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.