

2022 Child Care Stabilization Grant FAQs

Updated 2/9/2022

Below is a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) related to the Child Care Stabilization Grant program. This list will be updated with new questions that arise out of customer service support sessions.

1. What is the Child Care Stabilization Funding Program?

The Division of Early Childhood within the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is providing this funding opportunity to address the hardships faced by child care providers and to address the instability of the child care market as a whole. For more information, visit the Child Care Stabilization Grant program guide, [here](#).

2. What is different about stabilization round two?

The MSDE streamlined the application process and created additional customer support. This funding round has less total money available (\$128 million compared to \$158 million) and has a different base allocation than the first round (\$10,000 compared to \$15,000). Also, this funding round is also open to providers licensed by the MSDE after March 11, 2021. For more information, visit the grant program guide, [here](#).

3. Who is eligible?

To be eligible for a grant payment under this funding opportunity, applicants must meet one criteria from each column below:

| License / Regulation | Status |
|---|--|
| My program was licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education on or before March 11, 2021 | My program is available to provide child care services on the date of the application. |
| Or | Or |
| My program was licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education after March 11, 2021 | My program is temporarily closed due to financial hardship or COVID-related reasons, but will be open to provide child care services by March 7, 2022. |



4. How much are grant payments?

All eligible providers will receive a base award in the amount of \$10,000. Additional funds will be provided for eligible providers who meet the following criteria:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Infants (6 weeks to 12 months) | an additional \$126.00 per licensed child care slot for providers who serve infants |
| Toddlers (13 months to 23 months) | an additional \$126.00 per licensed child care slot for providers who serve toddlers |
| Child care scholarship | an additional \$126.00 per licensed child care slot in for providers who enroll children that participate in the Child Care Scholarship program |
| Maryland EXCELS | an additional \$126.00 per licensed child care slot for providers who are participating in the Maryland EXCELS program |
| Social vulnerability | an additional \$126.00 per licensed child care slot for all eligible providers located in a census tract with a Social Vulnerability Index of greater than .6 |

For more information about the funding formula, visit the grant program guide, [here](#).

5. What is Social Vulnerability? How do I calculate my SVI?

“Social vulnerability refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health.” For more information, visit the grant program guide, [here](#).

Click [here](#) to look up your address on the interactive map and see the SVI score for your address.

6. What are some examples of grant award amounts?

For examples of grant award amounts, please see page 5 of the grant program guide, [here](#).

7. How do I apply for a grant payment?

To apply for a grant payment, providers must complete the online application. This funding opportunity, including all attachments and updates, are found on the Division of Early Childhood website, [here](#).

8. What documents and information do I need to complete the application?

- Your Provider ID number (a 6-digit number found on your inspection report)
- A digital copy of your license or certificate of registration; or letter of compliance
- Your license or registration number (found on your license or certificate of registration)
- An updated W-9 form (download a copy here)

- A direct deposit form, if you wish to receive your payment via Direct Deposit (download a copy [here](#))

9. What is the grant timeline?

The grant timeline can be found on page 7 of the grant program guide, [here](#).

10. What happens after I submit my application?

The MSDE will begin processing grant applications on a rolling basis. Once an application is submitted, the MSDE will review the application to confirm eligibility and match the provider to their respective award amount (award amounts determined as per the formula described in this resource and in the grant application). To keep reading about what happens after you submit an application, visit the grant program guide, [here](#).

11. What is the payment process?

Grant funds will be disbursed in one payment on a rolling basis. Providers can indicate how they wish to receive payments (direct deposit or check via USPS) at the end of the grant application. To read more about direct deposit or checks, visit the grant program guide, [here](#).

12. What can I spend the funds on?

Providers can spend the funds on personnel costs, rent/mortgage, utilities, maintenance, insurance, personal protective equipment, cleaning and safety practices, equipment and supplies, goods and services and mental health services. For a description of these categories, visit the grant program guide [here](#).

13. Do I need to save receipts?

Yes. Use of the grant funds is subject to audit. Be sure to keep accurate and complete accounting records. If grant funds are not spent on Allowable Expenses, or are otherwise misused, you may be required to pay those funds back. These receipts and documentation do not have to be sent to MSDE unless it is requested.

14. Who do I contact if I have a question?

If you have questions about the application or the process prior to the opening of the application window, you can contact MSDE staff via:

EMAIL: childcaregrants.msde@maryland.gov

FORM: [View our inquiry form](#)

A customer service specialist will respond to all inquiries within 24 hours or the next business day.

Please note: the MSDE will be closed on January 17, 2022.

Once the grant application window opens, the MSDE will provide a dedicated phone number for additional customer support, including a dedicated financial representative.

15. What if I need help with the application?

The MSDE will hold virtual customer service support sessions throughout the application window for providers that have questions about the application and process. Information about how to register and join a session will be provided at a later date. Check the Office of Child Care website for updates, [here](#).

16. Are Head Start and Early Head Start programs eligible for this grant.

No, Head Start and Early Head Start programs not eligible to receive ARP Stabilization Grant funds.

17. Are before and after school providers eligible for a grant?

Yes, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

18. For the Child Care Scholarship category, would a program receive \$126 for only the children enrolled on scholarship or all slots?

All slots.

19. I have a W-9 on file. Do I still need to submit a new form?

Yes, we need an updated W-9 form all applicants.

20. Can I use the funds to cover 100% of my mortgage?

Please consult with your tax professional for this question.

21. What is considered a minor renovation?

Minor renovation, including to make programs inclusive for children and family members with disabilities may also include, but not limited to:

- Upgrading the kitchen to add safe electrical outlets and fix plumbing fixtures
- Repainting walls with a non-toxic paint ☐ Renovating and updating a bathrooms (e.g., sink, faucet, toilet, etc.) to ensure age-appropriateness and child safety
- Replacing cabinets with an adequate storage space for each child’s personal belongings
- Installing rails and ramps that are accessible to individuals with disabilities
- Updating a sidewalk to provide a safe pathway for children ☐ Building or upgrading a playground Replacing fire sprinklers, carbon monoxide detectors, and smoke detection systems
- Replacing windows or doors
- Completing a minor roof repair.
- Removing non-load bearing walls to create additional space for social distancing

22. I have multiple locations; do I need to complete an application for each location?

Yes, an application must be completed for each location. Each open and operating location is eligible for a grant. If the program has a license/registration number, you will need to submit a separate and complete application for each program.

23. My name is on not on the Received Application list, what should I do?

If your name is not on the received list then we have not received an application with for your program. Please complete the application again and check the list the following business day.

24. Can I login and see my payment?

Yes, you can login to your General Accounting Division (GAD) portal. If you don't have one, you can register here: <https://interactive.marylandtaxes.gov/extranet/gad/GADLogin/login.asp>

25. My GAD portal shows a payment that is stopped/in process/waiting, etc. Why is my payment stopped? When will MSDE release it?

MSDE corrected an early batch of payment amounts. When MSDE did that, MSDE stopped payment. If you see that in your portal, you will continue to see that payment since MSDE will not be releasing those funds. Instead, MSDE will (if it hasn't already) process a new, separate payment of the correct amount, which will appear in your portal.

26. My GAD portal shows a payment that is stopped/in process/waiting, etc. but I also received the correct payment. Will I be getting more? Is that an error?

MSDE corrected an early batch of payment amounts. When MSDE did that, MSDE stopped payment. If you see that in your portal, you will continue to see that payment since MSDE will not be releasing those funds. Instead, MSDE processed a new, separate payment of the correct amount. In this case, your payments are correct! Please keep the amount you have received and please know you will not be receiving the payment that is shown as stopped.