

GRANT INFORMATION GUIDE

Governor's Child Care Stabilization Grant Program

Maryland State Department of Education

200 West Baltimore Street Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Deadline

August 29, 2022 No later than 11:59 p.m. EST

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Program Description

On January 17, 2022, Governor Larry Hogan announced that the State of Maryland would provide an additional \$50 million in grant funding to support child care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Maryland State Department of Education has administered two rounds of stabilization grants totaling \$285 million of federal funding. With federal funds exhausted, the governor is taking action in his Fiscal Year 2023 budget to extend the program and provide additional relief to licensed child care providers.

Licensed child care providers can apply for a grant payment to cover expenses associated with providing or preparing to provide child care during the COVID-19 pandemic. These expenses may be personnel costs, rent or mortgage payments, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), mental health support for children and employees, as well as prior expenses.

NAME OF GRANT PROGRAM

Governor's Child Care Stabilization Grant Program

PURPOSE

To address the hardships faced by child care providers and to address the instability of the child care market as a whole.

AUTHORIZATION

House Bill 89, "Child Care Stabilization Grants"

Senate Bill 480, "Child Care Stabilization Grants" fiscal and policy note

DISSEMINATION

This Grant Information Guide (GIG) was released on August 3, 2022.

DEADLINE

Applications are due no later than 11:59 p.m. on August 29, 2022.

GRANT PERIOD

August 3, 2022 - December 31, 2022

FUNDING AMOUNT AVAILABLE

\$50 million

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF GRANTS

7,099

GRANT AMOUNT

Grant amounts are determined on a formula-basis and are weighted according to priority area from HB89/SB480.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Grant applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. August 29, 2022 through the online application.

STATE RESPONSIBILITIES

The MSDE is responsible for providing required information, data, documentation, and technical assistance to facilitate the grantee's performance of the work and will provide such additional assistance when requested.

PROGRAM CONTACT

Andre Murray Program Manager (410) 767-0583 childcaregrants.msde@maryland.gov

Eligibility

This funding opportunity is designed for all Maryland licensed child care providers. Applicants may be a family home child care provider, a large family home child care provider, a child care center, or an education program under a Letter of Compliance. It is not the intention of this program to fund the startup of new child care programs that are not yet operating.

To be eligible for a grant payment under this funding, applicants must meet both criteria listed below.

License / Regulation	Status
My program was licensed or registered by the Maryland State Department of Education on or before May 1, 2022.	My program is open and available to provide child care services as of the date of the application.

Notes:

Applicants who received funding in previous rounds are still eligible to receive funding again in this round.

Applicants who own or operate more than one child care location must submit a separate application for each site.

Additional information can be found on the Child Care Stabilization webpage.

Funding Priorities

Funding amounts for all eligible providers will be determined based on the following criteria:

	Priority	Funding Amount Per Licensed Child Care Slot and Data Criteria
1.	Stabilization Award for all Licensed Slots	\$75 – Every licensed slot, by provider, from a snapshot count of May 2, 2022
2.	Providers that have not received a stabilization grant in a prior application cycle (HB89/SB480 (b)(2))	\$150 - Whether or not a provider, by license number and provider ID, had not received a stabilization grant payment from the federal childcare stabilization rounds one and two (in Fiscal Year 2022)
3.	Providers that participate in the Child Care Scholarship Program (HB89/SB480 (b)(3))	\$25 - Whether or not a provider had received child care scholarship payments in FY 22 through at any time before May 2, 2022
4.	Providers located in areas designated by the State Department of Education as lacking child care slots (HB89/SB480 (b)(4))	\$75 - Whether or not a provider is located in a county with an above-median gap in supply and need for licensed childcare slots, as measured by the bipartisan policy center childcare gap assessment
5.	Providers that have a demonstrated financial hardship that poses significant risk of the provider's business closing within the next 12 months (HB89/SB480 (b)(1)) AND providers that serve primarily low-income populations in areas of high poverty (HB89/SB480 (b)(5))	\$100 - Whether or not a provider's location has a Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) value of greater than 0.6. SVI is a proxy for both measures as the CDC index represents "potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health" (e.g., disasters and global pandemics). 13 measures comprise the index, including community poverty, language spoken in a home, local educational attainment, etc.)
6.	Providers that serve children with special needs (HB89/SB480 (b)(6))	\$50 - Whether or not a provider was eligible to enroll children with an IEP or IFSP as of the snapshot count of May 2, 2022
7.	Providers that serve children 2 years old and under (HB89/SB480 (b)(7))	\$30 - Whether or not a provider enrolled children age two or under, as measured by whether or not the provider was licensed for infants, as of the May 2, 2022 data snapshot

Notes:

For priority areas in #5, the MSDE will be using the Social Vulnerability Index score using the address of the licensed child care site.

For the purpose of the grant award, MSDE determines eligibility in priority area #3 based on whether or not a program has invoiced the MSDE for payment between January 1, 2022 and April 24, 2022.

See the Child Care Gap section below for more detailed information about the calculation method for the child care gap priority (priority area #4).

The grant amount will differ for each provider depending on whether the provider meets one or more of the priorities above.

The balance of any unutilized funds made available from providers not seeking a grant award will be distributed to all grant-awarded providers evenly, per licensed slot.

The MSDE will use the number of licensed child care slots on record at the Division of Early Childhood Education as of May 2, 2022 to calculate program funding amounts.

The Child Care Scholarship Program (formerly known as Child Care Subsidy) provides financial assistance with child care costs to eligible working families in Maryland. For more information, visit the Child Care Scholarship program webpage.

CHILD CARE GAP

For the purposes of the Governor's Childcare Stabilization Grant, the MSDE designated an area as lacking child care slots if it is below the median percentage of available slots to potential, eligible-aged students, as identified in the Bipartisan Policy Institute's Child Care Gaps Assessment of Maryland data, by county.

According to the Bipartisan Policy Institute, the childcare gap refers to:

The number of children who potentially need care but whose families cannot reasonably access formal care by driving. Each census block group—the census's best available household location estimate—was assigned a service area of a specific driving radius. It was assumed that families with children five and under in a given block group could reasonably access the child care facilities within their service area. Thus, potential child care need within each block group was proportionally allocated to the child care providers within each service area until all provider capacity was filled. Urban block groups were assigned service areas with a 3.5-mile driving radius, while rural block groups were assigned service areas with a 10-mile radius to reflect the distances parents in those communities are willing to drive. This methodology enabled BPC to quantify the number of children without access to child care by location. See the report for a detailed explanation of the methodological decisions made in this analysis by visiting the Child Care Gaps Assessment webpage.

The table below details the child care gap data, by Maryland county, the median gap for the state, and the counties the MSDE designates as an area as lacking child care slots.

Jurisdiction	Child Care Gap	Gap Percentage	Median Gap	Designated as an Area Lacking Child Care Slots
1. Allegany	650	0.247	0.1455	Yes
2. Anne Arundel	5910	0.200	0.1455	Yes
3. Baltimore County	7660	0.185	0.1455	Yes
4. Calvert	140	0.033	0.1455	No
5. Caroline	0	0.000	0.1455	No
6. Carroll	1230	0.155	0.1455	Yes
7. Cecil	650	0.147	0.1455	Yes
8. Charles	920	0.121	0.1455	No
9. Dorchester	310	0.182	0.1455	Yes
10. Frederick	1320	0.109	0.1455	No
11. Garrett	330	0.342	0.1455	Yes
12. Harford	1920	0.150	0.1455	Yes
13. Howard	2490	0.155	0.1455	Yes
14. Kent	0	0.000	0.1455	No
15. Montgomery	8200	0.144	0.1455	No
16. Prince George's	7440	0.142	0.1455	No
17. Queen Anne's	1	0.000	0.1455	No
18. St. Mary's	73	0.013	0.1455	No
19. Somerset	110	0.139	0.1455	No
20. Talbot	0	0.000	0.1455	No
21. Washington	67¹0	0.111	0.1455	No
22. Wicomico	950	0.171	0.1455	Yes
23. Worcester	660	0.329	0.1455	Yes
30. Baltimore City	6250	0.193	0.1455	Yes

¹ Data obtained July 2022 through the <u>Bipartisan Policy Center's Child Care Gaps Assessment</u>

SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX

For the purposes of the Governor's Childcare Stabilization Grant, the MSDE designated an area According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), "social vulnerability refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health." The Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) tracks data by census tract and rates vulnerability on 15 key social and demographic indicators. "Census tracks" are subdivisions of counties and are ranked on 15 social factors including poverty, lack of vehicle access, and crowded housing. Specifically, this measure uses (See Figure I below):

≥		Below Poverty	
	Socioeconomic	Unemployed	
	Status	Income	
≞		No High School Diploma	
<u> </u>		Aged 65 or Older	
ு	Household	Aged 17 or Younger	
Overall Vulnerability	Composition & Disability	Civilian with a Disability	
	Disability	Single-Parent Households	
	Minority Status	Minority	
	& Language	Speaks English "Less than Well"	
8		Multi-Unit Structures	
6	Haveing Toma 9	Mobile Homes	
	Housing Type &	Crowding	
	rransportation	No Vehicle	
		Group Quarters	
	Transportation	No Vehicle	

Providers can also visit Social Vulnerability Index webpage for more information and documentation about the Social Vulnerability Index.

² Source (obtained 05/12/2022) through the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's Social Vulnerability Index

SAMPLE SCENARIOS

SCENARIO 1

A child care provider with 50 licensed slots who is in an area that lacks child care slots (Baltimore County), serves a primarily low-income community AND was more likely to be severely and disproportionately affected by the Pandemic, including related economic uncertainty and risk of closure (as measured via an SVI score of .721) would receive:

- 50 slots X Base Award (\$75) = \$3,750
- 50 slots X child care desert (\$75) = \$3,750
- 50 slots X financial hardship/low-income community (\$100) = \$5,000
- Total = \$12,500

SCENARIO 2

A child care family provider with 8 licensed slots is eligible to enroll students with IEPs or IFSPs, is licensed for infants, and did not apply for or receive a federal stabilization grant award (stabilization round one /two) would receive:

- 8 slots X Base Award (\$75) = \$600
- 8 slots X ability to enroll students with IEPs or IFSPs (\$50) = \$400
- 8 slots X first time stabilization grantee (\$150) = \$1,200
- Total = \$2,200

Use of Funds

Funds may be used for the following:

Category	Description
Personnel Costs	Includes wages and benefits for child care program personnel; increases in compensation for any staff in a child care center or family child care providers and their employees; health, dental, and vision insurance; scholarships; paid sick or family leave; retirement contributions; ongoing professional development or training; premium or hazard pay; staff bonuses; employee transportation costs to or from work; resources to support staff in accessing COVID-19 vaccines, including paid time off for vaccine appointments and to manage side effects, and transportation costs to vaccine appointments
Rent/Mortgage, utilities, facilities, maintenance, and insurance	Late fees or charges related to late payment; facility improvements including, but not limited to, building or upgrading playgrounds, renovating bathrooms, installing railing, ramps, or automatic doors to make the facility more accessible, removing non-load bearing walls to create additional space for social distancing; maintenance and minor renovations to address COVID19 concerns; improvements that make child care programs inclusive and accessible to children with disabilities and family members with disabilities are encouraged; refer to licensing regulations to ensure compliance

Personal protective equipment, cleaning, and other health and safety practices	Costs 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, including those related to the prevention and control of infection diseases, prevention of sudden infant death syndrome and use of safe sleep practices, administration of medication (consistent with standards for parental consent), prevention and response to emergencies due to food and allergic reactions, building and physical premises safety, prevention of shaken baby syndrome and abusive head trauma and child maltreatment, response planning for emergencies from a natural disaster or a mancaused event, handling and storage of hazardous materials and the appropriate disposal of bio contaminants, appropriate precautions in transporting children, pediatric first-aid and CPR, and recognition and reporting of child abuse and neglect
Equipment and supplies	Purchase of or updates to equipment and supplies to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. So long as the equipment and supplies are in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, they 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
Goods and services	Includes any material good or service necessary for the operation of a child care program; examples of goods are food and equipment and materials to facilitate play, learning, eating, diapering and toileting, or safe sleep; examples of services are business automation training and support services, shared services, child care management services, food services, and transportation; also includes fees associated with licensing and costs associated with meeting licensing requirements
Mental health services	To support the mental health of children and employees; for example, infant and early childhood mental health consultation (IECMHC), an evidence-based, prevention-based strategy that teams mental health professionals with people who work with young children and their families to improve their social, emotional, and behavioral health and development in the settings where children learn and grow; the wellbeing of caregivers is also important to stabilizing the child care sector because the mental health and wellbeing of staff impacts training, recruitment, and retention as well as the level of care provided to children; mental health consultations for staff and other types of mental health supports to staff are also allowable

Application

Providers who wish to apply for a grant payment must do so through the Child Care Stabilization online application. A sample application is provided in the appendix.

Application Review

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).

If the application is complete and a provider is eligible, the MSDE will notify the provider of the award and the award amount. If the application is incomplete or the MSDE records a provider as ineligible, the MSDE will notify the provider and give the provider one week (7 calendar days) to resolve any identified issues.

Given the rolling basis of grant application review, the MSDE anticipates that it will complete the processing of grants as early as the beginning of October 2022. The MSDE will complete all award processing by October 28, 2022. This means: the MSDE will have submitted all awards to the Comptroller for payment issuance on or by this date. After the MSDE sends payment information to the Comptroller for processing, providers can expect to receive funds from the state 3-4 business days for ACH (direct deposit) payment or within 30 days for checks sent via regular mail. Please note that post office delays can result in further time between payment processing and check receipt.

Scenario 1

A provider submits their application on August 29, the final day of the application window, but it is incomplete - the provider accidentally attached the incorrect file when attempting to load a digital copy of their license. The MSDE reviews application and documentation and responds on August 29, requesting that the corrected information be provided within 7 calendar days. On September 2, the provider sends in the updated file. The additional information is reviewed by the MSDE by September 7. The MSDE then begins its internal accounting processes and completes its accounting on September 19. The MSDE sends the payment information to the Comptroller to be processed on September 26. The provider chose to receive funds as a direct deposit, which is processed, and funds arrive in the provider's bank account around 3-4 business days after September 26.

Scenario 2

A provider submits their application on August 11 - the application is complete and all documents are correct. The MSDE reviews the application and notifies the provider of award on August 20. The MSDE then begins its internal accounting processes and completes its accounting in early September. The MSDE sends the payment information to the Comptroller who issues a check to the provider and mails the check via USPS few weeks later (depending upon USPS delivery times).

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.

Direct Deposit

If you were awarded a grant payment during the first round, you are still at the same address, you are operating under the same license, and you received your payment through direct deposit, then the MSDE already has your direct deposit information.

If not, and you would like to receive your grant payment through direct deposit, then you must complete a Direct Deposit form and send it via mail or fax to the Comptroller's Office, which triggers a identityidentification process. Please allow 14 days from the date of verification for the Comptroller's Office to process your request.

Check via USPS

If you elect to have payment sent as a check via USPS, the check will be mailed to the physical address provided in the application. Checks sent via USPS will arrive later than payments sent by direct deposit. MSDE is unable to provide tracking and delivery information for payments sent through USPS.

Reporting Requirements

Use of the grant funds is subject to audit. If grant funds are not spent on Allowable Expenses, or are otherwise misused, you may be required to pay those funds back. Be sure to keep accurate and complete accounting records.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The Maryland State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry/national origin, color, disability, gender identity/expression, marital status, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. For inquiries related to Department policy, please contact:

Equity Assurance and Compliance Office Office of the Deputy State Superintendent for Operations Maryland State Department of Education 200 W. Baltimore Street - 2nd Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2595 410-767-0123 - voice 410-767-0431 - fax 410-333-6442 - TTY/TDD

The General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), Section 427

Each application must develop and describe the steps the applicant proposes to take to ensure equitable access to, and equitable participation in, the project or activity to be conducted with such assistance, by addressing the special needs of students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries in order to overcome barriers to equitable participation.

Customer Service Support Sessions

The MSDE will hold several customer service support sessions for interested applicants. During these sessions, MSDE personnel will review what applicants need to get started and walk through the online application, as well as answer any questions participants may have. To register for a session, click on a date below:

- Tuesday, August 9 from 1:00 -2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 11 from 6:00 -7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 13 10:00 -11:00 a.m.
- Monday, August 15 from 1:00 -2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 16 from 6:00 -7:00 p.m.

Questions

If you have questions about the application or the program, you can contact MSDE staff via:

EMAIL: childcaregrants.msde@maryland.gov FORM: Complete this online inquiry form

PHONE: 1-855-476-5010

A customer service specialist will respond to all inquiries within 24 hours or the next business day and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) and answers will be posted to the Child Care Stabilization webpage following customer service support sessions.

Grant Application Timeline

This funding opportunity, including all attachments and updates, are found on the **Child Care Stabilization** webpage.

Date	Program Milestone		
August 3, 2022	The Grant Information Guide and the application are released		
August 9 from 1-2pm	The MSDE will hold virtual customer service support sessions for		
August 11 from 6-7pm	interested providers		
August 13 from 10-11am			
August 15 from 1-2pm			
August 16 from 6-7pm			
August 29, 2022	The grant application period closes		

Appendix

SAMPLE ONLINE APPLICATION

DIRECT DEPOSIT FORM

W-9 FORM



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Intro

Welcome to the Governor's Child Care Stabilization Program round 3 application!

The State of Maryland is providing additional funding to support child care providers during the pandemic. Grant funds can be used to cover expenses associated with providing, or preparing to provide, child care during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as personnel costs, rent or mortgage payments, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), mental health support for children and employees, as well as prior expenses.

We hope that this streamlined application process will make it easier for providers to apply for funding. Please note that applicants who operate more than one child care location must submit separate applications for each site. All applications are due by Monday, August 29, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.

Center Info

Please provide the name, license number, address, and phone number of your child care program.

Note: For programs with multiple locations, a separate online application must be completed for each location.

Child Care Program

	Qualtrics Survey Software
Name (as printed on your license or registration)	
Child Care License Number (Example Provided Below)	
Provider Identification Number (Example Provided Below)	
Address Line 1	
Address Line 2 (for apartment or suite number. If this does not apply, write n/a)	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
Phone Number (#########)	

POST IN CONSPICUOUS PLACE - This license or approval is not transferable to another operator, location, or address.

MARYLAND STATE DES EDUCATEQUITY AND EXC	FION	Care issues	this license pu , an approval i	CHILD	Office DEVELOPM Legal Nar 23 Street St Operated by Legion Article. Sections	Department of Education of Child Care ENT PROGRAM LICENSE ne of Business City, MD 12-345 al Name of Business 2-5-101 through 9.5-110. Sections 9.5-401 through Section 2-206, Annotated Code of Maryland a	Region: County: License Number: Pirst thermorRegistation Issued. School Number: Approved Since: the proved Since: gh 9.5-420, and COMAR 13A.16.0119. and COMAR 13A.16.16.
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This Child Care Center License is issued to the licensee named above on condition that the licensee agrees to comply with all applicable child care center licensing laws and regulations. Pailure to comply with agapticable lows and regulations may result in an enforcement action against this License, including but not limited to suspension or revocation of the License or denial of a pew License. The licensee must sourised the Complex of Child Care upon suspension, revocation, voluntary closure, or denial of a new License. The licensee must soulf the Colfice of Child Care upon suspension, revocation, voluntary closure, or denial of a new License. The licensee must soulf the Colfice of Child Care upon suspension, revocation, voluntary closure, or denial of a new License. The licensee must soulf the Colfice of Child Care upon suspension, revocation, voluntary closure, or denial of a new License. The licensee must soulf the Colfice of Child Care upon suspension, revocation, voluntary closure, or denial of a new License. The licensee must soulf the Colfice of Child Care upon suspension, revocation, voluntary closure, or denial of a new License. The licensee must soulf the Colfice of Child Care upon suspension, revocation, voluntary closure, or denial of a new License. The licensee must soulf the child care center prior to state of the colfice of Child Care upon suspension and upon suspension and upon suspension are upon suspension.							
Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. State Superintendent of Schools							
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MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Office of Child Care - Licensing

FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME INSPECTION REPORT

	INSPECTION DATE/TIME/DURATION:	INSPEC		N TYPE Application	AGES	Registered for	# Enrolled	# Present	Resident
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	HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE COVE		EXP DATE:						
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Page 1 of 4

Please provide the	e name and contact information for your child care
program.	
First Name	
Last Name	
Email	
Phone Number (###############)	

Block 7

Upload an <u>updated W-9 form</u> from the provided link.

Complete, sign, and upload the documents. Grant recipients must have a W-9 on file to receive a grant. Applicants will not be able to move forward with their application without uploading an updated W-9 form.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding through this round of Child Care Stabilization Grants, child care programs must meet two criteria. Please affirm that the two requirements below are true.

Department of Education on or before May 2, 2022.
○ Yes○ No
My program is available to provide child care services on the date of this application.
YesNo
CriteriaFail

Based upon the information you have provided, you are not eligible for this round of Child Care Stabilization Grants. We thank you for your time. If you believe that you are eligible and have reached this screen in error, you may resubmit your application with corrected information. Additionally, please review the Child Care Stabilization Grants information guide for clarifications on eligibility and you may contact the MSDE with any questions or concerns.

SupportDocs

FILE

Does your child care program serve children who come from homes where English is not the primary spoken language?

Note: This question is for information purposes and will not affect

eligibility for Child Care Stabilization Grants nor the quantity of received. This information is purely for data collection purpos to enable the MSDE to better serve this population with future and initiatives.	ses in	order
Yes		
○ No ○ Prefer not to answer		>
Cert		
I agree to the terms and conditions associated with opening a operating safety amidst the COVID-19 pandemic:	and	
	l agree	l disagree
I understand that I must have a current child care center license, letter of compliance, family child care certificate of registration or large family certification of registration.	\bigcirc	\circ
I agree to notify a licensing specialist and the local health department (LHD) if there are any children, family members, or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 and/or they receive a positive test result. I also agree to follow all guidance given by the LHD and the regional licensing office.	0	\circ
I agree to follow all guidance on the MSDE website as it relates to this grant.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
I agree to report all suspected cases and/or positive cases of COVID-19 to the local health department and the licensing specialist and I will follow all closing guidance given.	\bigcirc	\bigcirc
I understand that not reporting suspected cases and/or positive cases of COVID-19 to the local health department and the OCC licensing office could result in an action taken against my program that may include sanctions, emergency suspension, and revocation.	0	0
		

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