

COVID-19 Child Care Relief Funding: Timeline & Deadlines



The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on child care providers, causing widespread layoffs and closures nationwide. Significant declines in enrollment paired with steep increases in operating expenses have created an unsustainable financial situation for an industry that traditionally relies on razor-thin margins. Recognizing the essential role of child care for children, working families, and the economy, Democrats and Republicans in Congress have sought to prioritize funding and other relief opportunities for child care providers as part of ongoing COVID-19 recovery efforts.

In each of the four major relief packages Congress has passed, the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) has been a primary mechanism for providing funding to child care providers and for ensuring access to child care for thousands of working families – including essential workers. This timeline details when the bills were enacted, when the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) allocated funds and provided guidance to states, and deadlines for reporting and spending the dollars.

	Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act	Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act	CCDBG – American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act	Stabilization Grants – American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act
2020	Mar. 27	\$3.5 billion appropriated		
	Apr. 14	ACF allocates funds to States, Territories, and Tribes		
	Apr. 29	ACF issues overview and guidance on CARES supplemental discretionary funds		
	Dec. 27		\$10 billion appropriated	
2021	Feb. 3	ACF allocates funds to States, Territories, and Tribes		
	Feb. 12	ACF issues Program Instructions with requirements and directions for submitting planned use of funds reports within 60 days of CRRSA enactment		
	Mar. 11		\$14.99 billion appropriated	\$23.975 billion appropriated
	Mar. 24	ACF publishes CRRSA 60-Day Planned Use Reports		
	Apr. 14	ACF issues overview and guidance on CRRSA supplemental discretionary funds	ACF allocates funds to States, Territories, and Tribes	ACF allocates funds to States, Territories, and Tribes
	May 10			ACF issues non-regulatory guidance
	TBD		ACF to issue non-regulatory guidance	
	July 1			Lead agency must include plans for the funding in 2022-2024 CCCDF State Plans
	Dec. 11			Lead agency must notify ACF if it is unable to obligate < 50% of funds
2022	Apr. 1			Lead agency must notify ACF if any funds cannot be obligated by 9/30/22 - identified funds will be recaptured and reallocated to other lead agencies
	Sep. 30	Funds must be obligated	Funds must be obligated	Funds must be obligated
2023	Sep. 30	Funds must be liquidated	Funds must be liquidated	Funds must be liquidated
2024	Sep. 30		Funds must be liquidated	