

Congress released the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 \(CAA\)](#) on December 21, 2020. This legislation includes COVID-19 relief specifying [appropriations provisions](#) to governors, state and local educational agencies (LEAs), and higher education institutions.

Louisiana’s Birth to 12th Grade Education Stabilization Funds Summary

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF II)- **\$1,160,119,378**
- Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF II) - **\$22,985,320**
- GEERF II funds for nonpublic schools - **\$55,566,230**
- Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) - **\$198,319,710**

Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)

As the Lead Agency for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), the Louisiana Department of Education is the agency responsible for administering these funds. This one-time funding is to be used for the purpose of cleaning and sanitation, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs, including for fixed costs and increased operating expenses. This new federal funding will be critically important to ensure child care providers do not close their doors permanently, thereby removing the ability of families to enter, re-enter, or stay in the workforce in Louisiana.

Louisiana Allocation Period of Availability		
Grant Fund	LDOE Total Award Amount	Period of Availability
Child Care and Development Block Grant	\$ 198,319,710	12/27/20* - 9/30/23*

**All funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2022 and liquidated by Sept. 30, 2023.*

The Department’s Plan to Support Early Childhood

Based on feedback from the public and stakeholders, the Department is planning to focus on the following strategies when administering CAA21 CCDF funding and planning for transitions to the next school year.

- Strategy 1:** Child care is stabilized immediately, with a focus on providers and the early childhood workforce.
- Strategy 2:** Communities expand child care supply and increase access to opportunities for high-quality early childhood care and education this year.
- Strategy 3:** Teachers are prepared to lead classrooms and provide high-quality interactions for children every day.
- Strategy 4:** Families with young children who experienced unfinished learning this year are given opportunities and support.

The Department will release guidance to support early childhood communities and providers to use this funding strategically and in a way that aligns with the [Department’s Key Priorities](#).

Timeline	Action
February 25, 2021	LDOE submits preliminary plan for use of funds to Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care by Feb. 25, 2021
March 4, 2021	LDOE releases first round of LaCAP grant applications in 2021 for child care providers
March 11, 2021	Deadline for child care providers to apply for first round of LaCAP grants in 2021
March 30, 2021	LDOE releases additional guidance and funding opportunities related to stimulus funding



The Administration for Children and Families released [CCDF Frequently Asked Questions in Response to COVID-19](#).

CCDF Allowability

The funding is one-time funding and is to be used for the purpose of cleaning and sanitation, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs, including for fixed costs and increased operating expenses.

The funds can be used for the following:

1. Supporting the **stability of the child care sector** to help providers afford increased operating expenses;
2. Continued **payments and assistance to child care providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures**, and to assure the providers are able to remain open or reopen;
3. **Delinking provider reimbursement rates from child attendance** and a provider's closure due to COVID-19;
4. Costs of providing **relief from copayments and tuition payments for families** and for paying that portion of the child care provider's cost ordinarily paid through family copayments;
5. Technical assistance to **help child care providers implement practices in line with guidance from State and local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding health and safety**;
6. Providing **child care assistance to health care sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, and other workers deemed essential during the response to the coronavirus**, without regard to income eligibility; and
7. Any other allowable CCDF uses.

For questions regarding the use of these funds, please email LDOE.grantshelpdesk@la.gov.

