



DCCECE Commission Report

July 2023

Child Care Provider Monthly Calls: DCCECE is continuing to host monthly Zoom calls with child care providers. These calls occur the first Tuesday of every month at 12:00 p.m. The next call will be held on August 1, 2023.

- To join by phone: 301-715-8592 (ID: 959 5436 3354)
- To join by computer: [Click Here](#) (ID: 959 5436 3354)

Child Care Development Block Grant Fund/Family Support Unit: Family Support has continued to work in partnership with the Federal Child Care Development Fund Regional Office to implement the following resources.

- **ACF Children’s Bureau Learning and Coordination Center Project** –Arkansas was one of only two states selected to discuss our work on behalf of young children with challenging behaviors. DCCECE staff and Behavior Help team partners were interviewed and recorded for a video to be released later this year.
- **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) Funding-** DCCECE received \$119,264,607 in February 2021. DCCECE has obligated 100% of the funding awarded.
- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)-** Final approval September 17th,
 - Stabilization – \$286 Million- 90% or \$258 Million of these funds must go directly to providers who were operating before March 11th, 2021. The purpose of this funding was to support licensed providers remain operational, improve quality, sustain operations and expand. Applications opened on October 7th, 2021 for existing Facilities. \$25 Million was set aside for Supply Building. \$3 Million for Administration

▪ **Grants Awarded and Obligated as of December 16, 2022:**

	Child Care Expansion	Operational	Quality Improvement	Sustainability	Start-up	Totals
Amount Obligated (Paid + Approved)	\$16,927,500	\$36,368,499	\$96,930,849	\$82,948,200	\$3,565,100	\$236,740,148
Number of Applications Received	311	1550	1489	1342	30	4722
Approved Applications (Paid + Approved)	186	1480	1413	1224	30	4333



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Number of Paid Applications	185	1477	1409	1193	30	4294
Amount Distributed to Providers	\$16,902,500	\$35,760,999	\$94,625,849	\$80,963,200	\$3,565,100	\$231,817,648
Average Distributed per Provider	\$91,365	\$24,212	\$67,158	\$67,865		\$53,986

- **Workforce Support:** Each provider can budget grant funding to support the workforce. As of December 19, 2022, the following amounts have been budgeted:
 - \$49 million for personnel costs
 - \$16 million for staff bonuses
 - \$7 million for substitutes
 - \$4 million for fringe benefits
 - \$3 million to offset costs of new staff salaries for expansion
- **Expansion and Supply Building Grants:** The expansion grants for existing facilities licensed on or before March 11, 2021, are currently under review. There were two rounds of supply building grant applications that were due April 15, 2022 and August 15, 2022. Grants have been awarded to serve 7,279 children:
 - 2,154 Infants
 - 2,791 Toddlers
 - 3,478 School-Age
 - 123 Homes
- Supplemental Discretionary – \$175 Million - This funding covers \$130 million for Essential Worker Child Care assistance. \$40 million for the national TEACH and WAGE programs for early childhood teachers to obtain a degree in the field and recognize the accomplishment financially. \$ 8 million for administration. Expended \$87 million for essential workers to be completely utilized by December 31, 2022.



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Alternative Funding/Essential Workers - As of June 20, 2023, we are currently serving the following using our Alternative /Essential Worker Funding:

- 561 families
- 872 children
- **Deep Cleaning Reimbursement-** DCCECE has remaining funds for deep cleaning following a positive COVID-19 case in either a staff member or child. This resource has allowed providers to continue to safely operate during the pandemic. Invoices should be sent to DeepCleaning@dhs.arkansas.gov within one month of services provided. This will be continued until funding is exhausted.
 - **Better Beginnings Tiered Quality Improvement System –**
 - Level 1 – 183
 - Level 2 – 508
 - Level 3 – 571
 - Level 4 – 97
 - Level 5 – 38
 - Level 6 - 50

Health and Nutrition Unit: CACFP waivers will remain active until June 30, 2023.

- All waivers ended on June 30, 2023; however, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has implemented some new guidance the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).
- The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has amended the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) regulations to strengthen program integrity by clarifying, simplifying, and streamlining program administration to facilitate compliance with program requirements.

Commodities Unit:

- USDA Foods received by program:
October - December 2022



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Award	# of Cases	Value	Pounds
TEFAP	61,087	\$2,006,261.98	1,690,276.50
TEFAP-CCC	43,489	\$1,382,311.97	814,843.10
Sub-Total	104,576	\$3,388,573.95	2,505,119.60
NSLP	4,991	\$406,559.78	159,320.00
CACFP	0	0	0
Sub-Total	4,991	\$406,559.78	159,320.00
Total	109,567	\$3,795,133.73	2,664,439.60

- Average number of clients served per month (based on entire year):
 - 2019: 147,000
 - 2020: 179,642
 - 2022: 154,454
- The Commodity Distribution Unit has received a second round of grant funds in the amount of \$3,389,687 million which will be used to purchase food from local farmers who are considered socially disadvantaged and distribute those foods to underserved areas of the State. This brings the total amount of funds received for this grant to \$7,089,687.

Child Care Licensing:



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DCCECE currently has 1,974 licensed facilities including Early Intervention Day Treatment programs monitored by Division of Provider Support and Quality Assurance.

1. Trained several ADE staff on the Enterprise Licensing System
2. Hiring a GS11 position that will oversee the Placement & Residential Unit