

**Pierce County CARES Act Child Care Provider Grants  
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Who is eligible to apply for the grant?**

Any licensed provider in Pierce County, open or closed, serving children age 0-12 is eligible to apply (not available to school age only programs).

**What are the grant amounts?**

Grants will be awarded in the following amounts:

<b>Base Grant Amount</b>	<b>Licensed Capacity Number of Children Served Age 0 - 12</b>
\$2,500	Providers who are closed but plan to re-open within 30 days of receiving award
\$6,500	0-12
\$8,500	13-29
\$10,500	30-49
\$12,500	50-74
\$14,500	75-99
\$16,500	100+

A \$500 bonus will be awarded to child care providers who have accepted the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) subsidy in the past 12 months, and for providers who have accepted the homeless subsidy in the past 12 months. Providers may receive up to a \$1,000 bonus if they have accepted both WCCC and the homeless subsidy in the past 12 months. The bonus will be in addition to the base grant amount listed above.

**Do providers need to operate at full licensed capacity to be eligible?**

No. Providers do NOT need to be operating at a fully licensed capacity to be eligible.

**Is a provider required to serve children of families accessing the Working Connections Child Care state subsidy to be eligible?**

No. Any licensed provider in Pierce County can apply, whether they take Working Connections Child Care or not.

### **What can these funds be used for?**

Funds must be spent on items which sustain the child care business receiving the grant. Items solely for personal use may not be purchased with the grant award. Examples of allowable expenses include:

- Salaries for employees
  - In the case of Family Child Care programs, the business owner
- Business rent/mortgage
  - Family Child Care providers - this would be the percentage of your home used for your child care
- Business utilities such as phone, internet, electricity, gas, water, and garbage services
- Materials and supplies for the classroom
- Personal protective equipment, sanitation, and cleaning supplies
- Appliances and fixtures necessary to the business operation
- Technology expenses such as tablets, computers, and internet access
- Food for meals served at the child care program

### **What can these funds NOT be used for?**

Building or facility repairs, modifications, and additions that require a permit are considered capital improvements and are not approved expenditures.

### **Will the grants be given in full, or reimbursed once receipts have been submitted?**

The full grant amount will be awarded up front, after the application is approved. Providers will be paid by check, to the mailing address listed on the grant application, within 3-5 business days of award announcements.

### **Do the funds have to be spent within a certain timeframe?**

Yes. If you are a provider with a business address and zip code in the City of Tacoma, you must spend the grant funds by October 25, 2020. If you are a provider with a business address in Pierce County, but not Tacoma, you must spend the grant funds by November 25, 2020. However, providers in Tacoma and Pierce County can use the grant funds to cover expenses beginning July 1, 2020. All expenses must be recorded in a report template that will be provided, and receipts must be included.

These dates are deadlines set by the federal government. First 5 FUNdamentals and Child Care Resources are unable to extend the spending period.

### **Why is the reporting timeline different for Tacoma vs. Pierce County locations?**

The dollars available to providers in Tacoma are coming from the City of Tacoma CARES Act dollars. The dollars available to providers in Pierce County are coming from Pierce County CARES Act dollars. Each of these agencies has a different reporting deadline to the Federal Government regarding the use of their CARES Act dollars.

### **Is my zip code located in Tacoma or Pierce County?**

Tacoma providers are those whose business address falls within the Tacoma City Limits.

### **Are the grant funds taxable?**

Grant funds are considered income. For purposes of taxes, grants should be treated similarly to other income received by your business.

### **Do providers need to save and submit receipts associated with this grant?**

Yes. Providers awarded the grant must complete this report template, include receipts, and submit it to Child Care Resources. Providers in the City of Tacoma must submit a completed report template and all receipts by October 25, 2020. Providers in Pierce County (not in Tacoma) must submit a completed report template and all receipts by November 25, 2020.

### **Is there a deadline to apply for this grant?**

Yes, the deadline to apply is September 20, 2020 at midnight.

### **Are these grants competitive?**

No, grants are non-competitive. However, it is unlikely there will be enough money to award all providers who apply. Therefore, awards will be prioritized based on the following.

1. 40% of the grant total grant dollars will be awarded to providers in Tacoma, 60% of the grant dollars will be awarded to providers in Pierce County
2. Awards will be prioritized to eligible providers whose business is in a child care desert. See below for a list of zip codes and more information about child care deserts.

### **What is a child care desert?**

A child care desert is similar to a food desert, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture defines as “parts of the country void of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods.”<sup>1</sup> Simply put, deserts are when a neighborhood or community is lacking something essential. The Center for American Progress defines child care deserts as places where there are so few child care providers that there are more than three children for every one licensed child care slot.<sup>2</sup>

**How were the priority zip codes selected?**

Child care deserts in Pierce County were identified by comparing the number of licensed child care providers by zip code, to the estimated number of children age 0-5 (using census data) in each zip code. The table below shows the child care demand for each zip code. The demand number is the estimated number of children who need child care for every one available child care slot. For example, 98329 is the highest demand zip code in Pierce County, with 38 children needing care for every one licensed child care slot.

Zip Code	Demand Number		Zip Code	Demand Number		Zip Code	Demand Number
98329	38		98422	6		98371	4
98333	15		98387	6		98390	4
98388	14		98404	6		98466	3
98406	14		98372	6		98396	3
98424	12		98321	6		98335	3
98338	12		98360	6		98374	3
98373	10		98409	5		98407	3
98445	10		98328	5		98433	3
98467	9		98498	5		98354	2
98443	9		98499	5		98405	2
98391	9		98418	5		98394	2

<sup>1</sup> "Child Care Deserts - Child Care Aware." 1 Sep. 2016, <https://usa.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Child-Care-Deserts-report-FINAL2.pdf>. Accessed 31 Aug. 2020.

<sup>2</sup> "Mapping America's Child Care Deserts - Center for American ...." 30 Aug. 2017, <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2017/08/30/437988/mapping-american-child-care-deserts/>. Accessed 31 Aug. 2020.

98375	8		98580	5		98465	1
98446	7		98444	4		98402	1
98408	6		98327	4		98438	0
98332	6		98403	4			

**Why were deserts chosen as the criteria for prioritizing grants?**

We recognize the financial needs of child care providers are immense right now, no matter where you are located. However, some families already had inequitable access to child care prior to COVID-19, based on the zip codes in which they live. Prioritizing deserts is an effort to provide families living in these neighborhoods with an equal opportunity to access child care.

**How does a provider apply for a grant?**

Beginning September 11, 2020, providers can access the grant application by visiting the Project Child Success website at [www.projectchildsuccess.org](http://www.projectchildsuccess.org). The provider will click on the link to the grant application, where they will answer a few short questions including your business name, address, and provider license ID number.

The grant application is available online, and in pdf format, in both English and Spanish. The pdf application may be printed, completed, and submitted to [info@first5fundamentals.org](mailto:info@first5fundamentals.org).

For additional questions or support completing the application, please contact your Child Care Resources Coach. If you do not have a Coach, call the Child Care Resources provider line at 1-800-446-1114.

**What if a provider needs help filling out the application?**

Contact your Child Care Resources Coach for assistance. If you don't know who your Coach is, call the provider line at 1-800-446-1114.

**How and when will a provider receive a grant payment?**

Final award announcements will be made the week of September 21st. All providers will be notified of their award status via email. Providers will be paid by check, to the mailing address listed on the grant application, within 3-5 business days of award announcements.