

EFFECTIVE
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NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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TITLE 392 CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

CHAPTER 5 CHILD CARE GRANTS

001. CHILD CARE GRANTS. If eligibility requirements are met and funds are available, grants may be awarded to child care facilities in order to increase the number of licensed child care slots that are available to families who are receiving Child Care Subsidy.

001.01 START UP OR EXPANSION CHILD CARE GRANT. Grants may be awarded to increase the license capacity of an existing child care program. The following programs are eligible for startup or expansion child care grants:

- (A) New, not yet licensed programs;
- (B) Programs that are expanding and increasing the license capacity; or
- (C) Programs that are expanding from a Family Child Care Home I to a Family Child Care Home II or from a Family Child Care Home II to a Child Care Center.

001.02 CHILD CARE MINI GRANTS. Mini grants assist licensed home-based and center-based child care facilities with purchases required to maintain provisional and operational licenses.

002. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS. A provider seeking a grant must meet all eligibility requirements.

002.01 CHILD CARE LICENSE AND SUBSIDY ENROLLMENT. Applicants for child care subsidy grants must be in good standing with the Department.

002.02 ABUSE REGISTRIES. Applicants whose names appear on the Central Registry are not eligible. Individuals applying for grants must consent to a Central Registry check. Applicants must be in compliance with child care subsidy program requirements and public health licensing requirements.

003. SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS. A provider must fill out an application to request a grant.

003.01(A) AWARD AMOUNT LIMITATION. Applications requesting funds in excess of the specified award amount are not considered.

003.01(B) MULTIPLE CHILD CARE SITES. Entities operating multiple child care sites are eligible to submit one application per site.

- 003.01(B)(i) INELIGIBLE PROGRAMS. Preschool only and drop-in-care-only programs are ineligible.
- 003.02 GRANT AWARDS. Maximum grant awards are \$5,000 for home-based child care programs and \$10,000 for center-based child care programs.
- 003.03 MINI GRANT AWARDS. Maximum grant awards are \$1,000 for a child care program with a provisional license and \$2,000 for a program with an operating license.
- 003.04 MAXIMUM AWARDS. Applicants requesting funds in excess of the maximum amounts will not be considered.
- 003.05 SELECTED PROPOSALS. Applicants who are selected for funding have 60 days from the award date to accept the grant and sign and submit all necessary paperwork. Grants not accepted within 60 days of the award date are considered abandoned.
- 003.05(A) FUNDING LIMITATION. Child care grants are funded in accordance with the limitations in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-2624.
- 003.06 PROPOSALS NOT SELECTED. If not selected, a provider may reapply during a future funding cycle.
- 003.07 GRANT AWARDS. A proposal may be fully or partially funded. Funding decisions are not subject to appeal.
- 003.07(A) USE OF GRANT FUNDS. Grant funds must not be used for reimbursement of any item purchased before the grant has been awarded.
- 003.08 TIME LIMIT FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS. All grant funds must be spent within one year of the date of award.
- 003.09 AUDIT OF EXPENDITURES. The child care facility must submit a report of expenditures along with receipts for purchases made with the entire grant.
- 003.10 CONTRACT BREACH AND COLLECTION. If a child care facility does not comply with the terms of the grant contract, all or a prorated amount of the original grant award must be refunded to the Department. If a grant recipient's license is revoked or subsidy enrollment cancelled within three years from the date of the award, the full amount of the grant award must be refunded to the Department.
- 003.11 CHANGE IN DIRECTOR OR LICENSEE. If there is a change in the director or licensee of the program of a grant recipient, the grant obligation terms must be assumed by the new director or licensee. If the grant terms are not assumed, the grant amount must be refunded to the Department.

004. APPLICATION. Each applicant must submit all of the following:

- (A) Applications must be completed and signed. Failure to abide by application requirements and subaward terms, may result in revoking of the grant and refunding of subaward. Unsigned or incomplete application forms will be denied; and
- (B) Statement of assurances, including an agreement:
 - (i) To not discriminate against children with disabilities or children whose care is funded by any state or federal funds;
 - (ii) To participate in an external evaluation or site visit as determined by the Department;
 - (iii) To obtain and maintain licensure with the Department;
 - (iv) To keep records for fiscal audit and program evaluation, and to provide the information to the Department;
 - (v) To ongoing participation in training;
 - (vi) To continue to provide child care services for three consecutive years after the grant has been awarded;
 - (vii) To serve families who receive Child Care Subsidy; and
 - (viii) To accept the grant award within 60 days of notification.