

Extraordinary Financial Relief for Child Care Providers Program Guidance

Purpose

To preserve access to child care for Vermont families, regulated child care providers can ask for Extraordinary Financial Relief if they are:

- At risk of closing
- Unable to operate, open or expand as planned
- Enrolling children from a program that is closing

This program is established in and guided by Vermont law [33 V.S.A. § 3505](#).

Program Overview

Extraordinary Financial Relief is only given if families' access to child care is at risk. The program is intended to address unplanned or emergency needs.

To receive help, regulated child care providers submit an application to the Child Development Division that explains the potential impact on families, the reason they need help, and their financial need.

After looking at the information from the applicant, the Department for Children and Families Commissioner may decide to:

- Provide an advance against Child Care Financial Assistance payments
- Provide a cash grant
- Offer other suitable help

The Commissioner will consider the provider's financial, management, quality, and operational conditions when making a decision. The recommendation will be written down, explained, and made public. The Secretary of the Agency of Human Services will review it and make the final decision, which cannot be challenged in court.

Criteria for Getting Help

The Commissioner will look at:

1. What events or circumstances led to the application
2. Whether the provider might close (or not be able to open or expand as planned) in 90 days without help
3. If there are other possible funding sources and if the provider has tried to get them, including proof of loan denials
4. If the financial relief will actually keep the provider open or help it open or expand as planned
5. If the financial relief is necessary to allow a provider to enroll children from a provider that is closing
6. The quality of care, especially if the program is rated 3, 4, or 5 stars in the STARS program
7. The need for child care in area, especially those in areas with high poverty
8. Any other important factors

How to Apply

Regulated child care providers must fill out a written application using the approved form and prove they need help. Make sure to answer all questions fully and include all required documents. Be sure to include the signed cover page with your application.

If more information is needed, the Division will ask for it. If the application doesn't have enough information, it will be denied unless more proof is given.

The Department aims to provide a decision within 10 business days after getting a complete application and all documents.

For more information, please reach out by [email](mailto:ahs.dcfcd@vermont.gov) to ahs.dcfcd@vermont.gov.