



CARES Act Funding Breakdown for Head Start Programs

On Monday, April 6, 2020, Dr. Deborah Bergeron, director, Office of Head Start and Office of Early Childhood Development; Ann Linehan, deputy director, Office of Head Start; Colleen Rathgeb, director of policy, Office of Head Start; Heather Wanderski, director of operations, Office of Head Start; and Belinda Rinker, senior policy analyst, Office of Head Start hosted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding to Support Head Start Programs, Children and Families webinar to inform programs on the supplemental funding available due to the CARES Act which was signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020. Below are highlights and important dates you need to know if you plan to apply for these funds.

Includes \$750 million for programs under the Head Start Act to support preventative, preparedness, and response activities to the coronavirus.

- \$500 million available for programs to operate supplemental summer programs. Up to \$500 million is available to fund existing Head Start grantees that can demonstrate the capacity to deliver high-quality summer learning experiences to promote school readiness and successful transitions to kindergarten are eligible to apply. Programs may not receive funds for days during the summer when they would already be fully operational.
 1. Prioritize enrollment for currently enrolled children who are entering kindergarten for the 2020-2021 program year and currently enrolled children with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).
 2. Pending availability of funding, programs may be able to serve other vulnerable populations that would greatly benefit from a summer program
- Application and Funding
 - The application for supplemental funds is titled "Summer Program Supplement" and will be released in HSES, anticipated in mid-April
 - All applications will be reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis
 - Applications are due by May 15, 2020, and these requests will be reviewed and processed.
 - If funds are still available, the Office of Head Start (OHS) may continue to accept and award applications until June 15, 2020.
 - Application for these funds is voluntary
 - Funding will be awarded on a non-competitive basis
- Intent to Apply:
 1. Submit an "Intent to Apply" form in the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES) by April 13, 2020.
 2. The purpose of the "Intent to Apply" is to provide grantees with information on the funding opportunity, and for OHS to gauge interest, and estimate the amount of incoming requests.
 3. The "Intent to Apply" form will be available in HSES under the "Financials" tab and "Add Amendment" icon

4. The "Intent to Apply" is not your application for supplemental funds.

- \$250 million available for a wide range of one-time programmatic activities in response to the coronavirus. All Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grantees are eligible to receive this one-time funding.
 1. For this funding, each grantee will be able to apply for a proportionate amount based on their total funded enrollment.
 2. These funds will be added to the existing FY 2020 Cost-of-Living-Adjustment and Quality Improvement (COLA/QI) applications due on May 15, 2020.
 3. OHS will work with programs following the submission of COLA/QI applications, including further guidance and instruction. Awards are expected to be processed beginning in June.

- One-Time Activities in Response to the Coronavirus
Activities could include:
 1. Mental health services, supports, crisis response, and intervention services
 2. Coordination, preparedness, and response efforts with state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments and other relevant agencies
 3. Costs of meals and snacks not reimbursed by USDA
 4. Training and professional development for staff on infectious disease management
 5. Purchasing necessary supplies and contracted services to sanitize and clean facilities and vehicles
 6. Other costs that are necessary to maintain and resume the operation of programs, such as substitute staff, technology infrastructure, improvements to air conditioning systems, or other emergency assistance

- Extension of enrollment reporting
 - OHS is extending the deadline to submit March's enrollment report in the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES) from April 7 to April 15.
 - OHS will be issuing a Q&A document to provide general guidance on enrollment inquiries related to COVID-19 program closures
 - OHS will provide specific guidance and flexibility related to the grantees participating in the Full Enrollment Initiative.

- Non-federal Share Waivers
 - The Head Start Act recognizes that lack of resources in a community adversely impacted by a major disaster may prevent Head Start grantees from providing all or a portion of their required non-federal contribution.
 - OHS will approve all requests for waiver of non-federal match associated with the following funds for the 2020 fiscal year:
 1. COLA
 2. Quality Improvement
 3. Funding associated with coronavirus.

- To request a waiver of the non-federal match, place the amount of \$0 in Section C of your SF 424A. No separate waiver request is required. The issuance of a notice of award constitutes approval of the requested waiver.

To view a copy of the slides from this webinar, [click here](#).