



# Minnesota's Children's Cabinet

Dear Family Child Care and Center-Based Child Care Providers:

The Peacetime Emergency ended on Thursday July 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. We are providing important updates and information for your work. Thank you for all you do as you care for our littlest Minnesotans.

## End of Peacetime Emergency: Impacts to DHS Child Care Waivers

The Department of Human of Human Services (DHS) has been granted from the Legislature a **60-day off-ramp period for COVID-19 waivers** for the purpose of transitioning programs back to operating without the waivers in place. **DHS will be sending out guidance to providers with additional details.** In the meantime, the best procedures to follow are the ones you've been following for the past several months. Watch your email for program specific guidance in the coming weeks.

## Parent Aware Policies extended through Dec. 31, 2021

The department temporarily changed some requirements for Parent Aware, Minnesota's Quality Rating and Improvement System, providing flexibility for child care providers in meeting requirements and deadlines for applying for ratings during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency, and making Parent Aware coaching available online or over the phone, and training available online. Many of these requirements have been extended through December 31, 2021.

- The requirement that programs must actively serve children to maintain a Rating is waived.
- Programs with Ratings scheduled to expire on or before Dec. 31, 2021 will have the option to have end dates extended for six months.
- The CLASS observation requirement for child care centers seeking a Three- or Four-Star Rating is waived through Dec. 31, 2021.
- Building Quality and CLASS coaching, professional development advising and technical assistance services, to earn or maintain a rating, will be offered virtually (i.e. Zoom, Skype, Vidyo, phone, email), and requirements to meet in person are waived.

- For Accelerated Pathway programs, deadlines to submit a renewed accreditation certificate are extended through Dec. 31, 2021.
- Training and coaching will continue to be offered online in addition to face to face to give providers options for how to receive these services

For more information, see the updated [Frequently Asked Questions for child care providers](#) or [Frequently Asked Questions for school-based prekindergarten and Head Start programs and their child care partners](#). Questions about changes for child care providers can be emailed to [DHS.child.care@state.mn.us](mailto:DHS.child.care@state.mn.us), and questions about changes for school-based prekindergarten and Head Start programs can be emailed to [MDE.ELS@state.mn.us](mailto:MDE.ELS@state.mn.us).

### Feedback Requested

The past 16 months have provided many learnings. We want to hear from you about what worked and didn't work regarding the modifications provided through the waivers and other flexibilities. Send your feedback to the [Children's Cabinet](#).

### June Child Care Stabilization Grant Program

Applications for the June Child Care Stabilization Grant Program opened on July 1. DHS will be sending emails with application information and a link to a personalized application to eligible providers by **10 a.m. on July 1, 2021**. The application will close on **Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 4 p.m.** DHS has extended the application period to ensure providers have time to complete the June application.

### *New Application Requirements*

DHS will continue to use the online application process. Based on federal funding requirements and to inform program implantation moving forward, the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program requires additional information be collected from applicants. This includes information about:

- Child enrollment
- Staffing
- Financial information
- Number of COVID closures

This information will be gathered from all providers who apply for June funding, however, the information will not impact the amount of the June award for eligible providers. The data collected will be used to inform the Child Care Stabilization Grant Program planning moving forward.

**Applicants are encouraged to complete a worksheet provided in the application email (sent on Thursday, July 1) in advance of completing the application. DHS advises that providers plan extra time to gather the necessary information needed to complete the application prior to the deadline.**

#### *New Child Care Stabilization Grant Program FAQ*

A new [FAQ](#) specific to the Child Care Stabilization Program was posted on June 30, 2021. Be sure to carefully read the FAQ, as requirements and allowable uses for these funds are different than previous funding opportunities. The federal law requires that programs who receive Child Care Stabilization Grant funding implement policies, when open and providing services, that are in line with guidance and orders from corresponding state, tribal, and local authorities and, to the greatest extent possible, implement policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>). Although the state requirements associated to the Peacetime Emergency has expired, programs will attest to implement policies in line with public health guidance.

#### *June Payment Amounts*

The payment amount for the June funding round will be:

- \$600 for licensed family child care providers
- \$4,250 for licensed child care centers with licensed capacity of 75 or fewer
- \$5,500 for licensed child care centers with licensed capacity of more than 75
- \$1,500 for certified centers

The licensed child care center capacity will be determined based on the provider's licensed capacity on June 1, 2021.

#### *Need assistance in a language other than English?*

Si necesita ayuda para comprender esta carta, comuníquese con Vanessa Carrasco Berliz [VCarrasco@thinksmall.org](mailto:VCarrasco@thinksmall.org), 651-641-6660

Hadaad ubaahantahay caawimaad fahanka warqadan, fadlan la xiriir Abdinoor Sigat [ASigat@milestonesmn.org](mailto:ASigat@milestonesmn.org), 320-251-5081

Yog tias koj xav tau kev pab nkag siab tsab ntawv no, thov hu rau Julie Yang [JYang@thinksmall.org](mailto:JYang@thinksmall.org), 651-366-6792

Child Care Aware of Minnesota will use Language Line Services for languages other than Spanish, Hmong, and Somali.

### Farm to ECE Grant Application

The Minnesota Farm to Early Care Network is hosting a competitive mini-grant program for four \$2,500 awards. The goals of the mini-grant program are to increase local food purchasing, promote healthy community food systems, and increase nutrition education. Eligible applicants include early care centers, preschools, Head Start Programs and other early care settings. Applications are due Wednesday, July 21, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. The application instructions are located at: <https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/aYoiZ8WkhcntkYrab1fqF5Xd>.

The application form is available at:  
<https://survey.vovici.com/se/56206EE341584192>.

If you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Gardner, at the Minnesota Department of Health at: [Elizabeth.gardner@state.mn.us](mailto:Elizabeth.gardner@state.mn.us).

### Regularly Review the Public Health Guidance

The CDC and MDH continue to strongly encourage child care programs to implement mitigation strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 using this [guidance](#).

As a reminder, Minnesota Rule 4605.7070 requires any person in charge of any institution, school, child care facility, or camp to report cases of COVID-19 to MDH. Please continue to report cases using this form: COVID-19 Case Reporting Form for K-12 Schools, Childcares, Youth Camps, and Sports Programs ([redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=KKWLDH3ARC](https://redcap.health.state.mn.us/redcap/surveys/?s=KKWLDH3ARC)).

Find links to public health guidance and other important information on the state's COVID-19 website for child care providers:  
<https://mn.gov/mmb/childcare/providers/>.

### COVID-19 Vaccines

For any Minnesotan ready to #RollUpYourSleeveMN, visit [VaccineConnector.mn.gov](https://vaccineconnector.mn.gov) to make a vaccine appointment at a [Community Vaccination Program](#) site or use the [Find Vaccine Locations](#) map to locate a nearby provider.

Other resources:

- Check out the [COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit](#).

- Consult with a [COVID-19 Community Coordinator](#) specific to various cultures and languages.
- Make a [request](#) for someone to speak about vaccines at a community event.

### Monthly Provider Call

We will not host a call in July and are evaluating the need to hold future calls.

### Share Your Capacity

Access the Business Provider Update Tool ([Update Tool Instructions - Parent Aware](#)) to update your capacity and reach out to [UpdateTool@parentaware.org](mailto:UpdateTool@parentaware.org) for any help. Updating this tool regularly will continue to be a requirement to receive Child Care Stabilization Grant funds.

### COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 testing is an important part of the mitigation strategy. If your child care setting is not participating in the optional onsite screening testing program, continue to use the following testing options to meet your testing needs:

- **[Community Testing Sites](#)**: All COVID-19 testing is free at a Minnesota Department of Health testing site. You won't need to show identification and insurance is not required. While walk-ins are welcome, **appointments are strongly recommended to limit wait times. Visit [mn.gov/covid19](https://mn.gov/covid19).**
- **[At-home COVID-19 saliva testing](#)**: Minnesota offers free, at-home COVID-19 saliva testing, and these kits can be ordered individually at any time.

### Contact Us

If you have any questions, please send to [childrenscabinet.mmb@state.mn.us](mailto:childrenscabinet.mmb@state.mn.us) or call us at 651-259-3636.

Thank you,

Jenny Moses and Erin Bailey, Governor's Children's Cabinet

On behalf of participating agency leaders and staff



**Contact Us.**

**Website:** [www.mn.gov/childrencabinet](http://www.mn.gov/childrencabinet)  
**Email:** [childrencabinet.MMB@state.mn.us](mailto:childrencabinet.MMB@state.mn.us)