
CARES Act Webinar Q&A

1. Are we allowed to fax the application in?

Yes, MHB's fax number is (314) 535-6584. We will also post it on website.

2. So there is money available, but everyone that qualifies may not get any money?

Our goal is to fund as many people as possible. While we are asking you to provide us with your full ask based on your full need, the amount we provide to each eligible applicant will depend on how many applications come in. We may not be able to fund every ask at its full amount.

3. So, to be clear...if you qualify, you will try to distribute to everyone, but maybe not at the amount that was requested...

Correct.

4. Is the entire 1.5 million going to be distributed to the centers or will part of it be allocated to something else like admin costs?

MHB is providing support in-kind so we are not taking any of the funding for administrative costs. We have allocated some funding to provide a small stipend to community reviewers and to hire STAR Coaching to help us get the word out about the funding, but otherwise it is all going out to the community in the grant program.

5. Do parents have to work or live in St. Louis City? / If a few of the children enrolled live outside of the city should we still be eligible? / It is only for the city kids?

The child(ren) and a parent/caregiver should be St. Louis City residents. We want to make sure that a provider is primarily serving City kids, although not every child served must be a City resident. However, if you request tuition/fees to be covered by the grant, those should be for City residents only. We can't pay for the tuition/fees of a County resident.

6. What if you live in the county? / what if the caregivers live in the county can we apply for funding

Our funding is only able to be provided for services to City residents. The County has its own CARES funding and providers who live in the County should visit this link:
<https://united4children.org/st-louis-county-cares-act-child-care-relief-fund/>.

7. If you budget for tuition/fees for child(ren) of frontline workers and you don't get them, do you pay that amount back?

If you request money for something and are funded for that, you have to spend it or give it back. Make sure to ask for costs you are confident you will be able to pay for / spend the money for.

8. For the tuition request.....the city only allowed providers to provide care to frontline health care workers and first responders, not just essential workers.....how does that affect what we can apply for?

A full list of who we are considering frontline workers is in the instructions– the list is broad in our definition. Please refer to the instructions (<https://bit.ly/STLCARES>)

9. Do childcare staff qualify as "essential workers"?

Yes. They are included in the list of frontline workers linked above.

10. We will purchase window fans for better circulation and HEPA filter machines to help clean the air. Is this allowed?

Yes, we haven't included a full list of supplies that you may purchase with funds from this grant program in our instructions, but if it is CDC-recommended, it is something that can be asked for. The funding is broadly intended to support items that will need to purchase to mitigate or manage COVID-19-related business changes that are costs not in your budget for regular business needs.

11. Not sure if you have guidance on this, but I have not been able to find specific enrollment restrictions for city child care centers. It is the 75% of capacity as with other businesses?

We are aware that the guidelines are changing frequently and the requirements are not always clear. The City of St. Louis hosts monthly childcare calls. Wil Pinkney hosts those calls where a lot of the guidance, funding opportunities, etc. are shared. Wil can add you to the monthly STL City call if you email him at pinkneyw@stlouis-mo.gov.

12. What if you have to close, how would that affect the grant?

If you have to close temporarily because a child or staff person has COVID and you need time to clean the facility or quarantine for the CDC-recommended 14 days, but you are able to reopen after that time period, that's ok. We expect that this may happen and it may interrupt how you have planned to spend the grant funds. We just want to make sure that your intention is to reopen when it's safe and that your plan is to stay open as possible through Dec.

13. I reduced hours when COVID-19 hit. Can I use the funding to extend my hours and how should I note that in the application? What if it doesn't happen until after December?

Absolutely! Please share this in the application narrative. Even if you are not able to do so immediately due to enrollment or illness, you can keep staff on payroll to keep them ready and able to provide care as you work to increase enrollment.

14. What if I have 2 locations under the same EIN but have separate business licenses. Do I include the capacity numbers for both locations?

Please reach out to Kristin to talk through this.

15. I don't have W2 s. So, how can I get you payroll documents. Because I file only at the end of the year and am a home provider.

Please reach out to Kristin to talk through this.