

SENATE, No. 2904

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes a child care costs reimbursement grant program in DCF; appropriates \$500,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a child care costs reimbursement grant
2 program in the Department of Children and Families,
3 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes, and making an
4 appropriation.

5
6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

8
9 1. As used in this act:

10 “Eligible parent or guardian” means an individual who: (1) is
11 employed full-time or part-time; and (2) has a child who is enrolled
12 or will be enrolled in a child care center licensed pursuant to the
13 provisions of P.L.1983, c.492 (C.30:5B-1 et seq.) as a result of the
14 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency.

15
16 2. a. There is established in the Department of Children and
17 Families a grant program in which an eligible parent or guardian
18 with a child who is enrolled or will be enrolled in a child care
19 center licensed pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492
20 (C.30:5B-1 et seq.) as a result of school closures or the use of
21 virtual or remote school instruction due to the coronavirus disease
22 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency shall be reimbursed for
23 child care tuition costs incurred by the parent or guardian.

24 b. The grant program established pursuant to subsection a. of
25 this section shall be funded from monies appropriated thereto by
26 section 4 of this act, and any other monies as may be appropriated
27 or otherwise made available for that purpose.

28
29 3. a. An eligible parent or guardian who wishes to participate
30 in the grant program established under section 2 this act shall
31 submit an application to the Commissioner of Children and
32 Families, in a manner and on forms as determined by the
33 commissioner.

34 b. The commissioner shall:

35 (1) establish selection criteria for awarding grants under the
36 program;

37 (2) award grants under the program based upon review of the
38 applications and subject to the limit of funds appropriated or
39 otherwise made available for the program;

40 (3) allocate the approved grant funds to each eligible parent or
41 guardian participating in the program in a timely manner; and

42 (4) establish the amount of each grant awarded for an eligible
43 parent or guardian.

44 c. The grant awarded to an eligible parent or guardian pursuant
45 to subsection b. of this section shall be used to reimburse child care
46 tuition costs incurred by the parent or guardian who are required to
47 enroll their child in a licensed child care center as a result of school

1 closures or the use of virtual or remote school instruction due to the
2 COVID-19 public health emergency.

3
4 4. There is appropriated \$500,000 from a portion of the federal
5 block grant funds allocated to the State from the federal
6 “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act,” Pub.L.116-
7 136, to the Department of Children and Families for the grant
8 program established in section 2 of this act, to the extent the
9 funding is available for this purpose

10
11 5. The Department of Children and Families shall adopt,
12 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
13 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
14 implementation of this act.

15
16 6. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
17 the conclusion of the declared coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-
18 19) public health emergency.

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21 STATEMENT

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23 This bill establishes in the Department of Children and Families
24 a grant program in which an eligible parent or guardian with a child
25 who is enrolled or will be enrolled in a child care center licensed
26 pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492 (C.30:5B-1 et seq.) as
27 a result of school closures or the use of virtual or remote school
28 instruction due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public
29 health emergency will be reimbursed for child care tuition costs
30 incurred by the parent or guardian.

31 The grant program is to be funded from monies appropriated to
32 the DCF from a portion of the federal block grant funds allocated to
33 the State from the federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
34 Security Act,” Pub.L.116-136, and any other monies appropriated
35 or made available for the grant program.

36 Under the provisions of the bill, an eligible parent or guardian
37 who wishes to participate in the grant program is to submit an
38 application to the Commissioner of Children and Families
39 (commissioner), in a manner and on forms determined by the
40 commissioner. The commissioner is to: establish selection criteria
41 for awarding grants under the program; award grants under the
42 program based upon review of the applications and subject to the
43 limit of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for the
44 program; allocate the approved grant funds to each eligible parent
45 or guardian participating in the program in a timely manner; and
46 establish the amount of each grant awarded for an eligible parent or
47 guardian.

1 The bill stipulates that the grant awarded to an eligible parent or
2 guardian will be used to reimburse child care tuition costs incurred
3 by the parent or guardian who are required to enroll their child in a
4 licensed child care center as a result of school closures or the use of
5 virtual or remote school instruction due to the COVID-19 public
6 health emergency.

7 As used in the bill, “eligible parent or guardian” means an
8 individual who: is employed full-time or part-time; and has a child
9 who is enrolled or will be enrolled in a child care center licensed
10 pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492 (C.30:5B-1 et seq.) as
11 a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.