Dear Child Care Provider:

As a result of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Virginia has received federal funding for a third round of incentive grants to help child care providers remain open during the COVID-19 state of emergency. In order to ensure this funding is provided promptly, **CARES III grants will automatically be awarded to all open and eligible providers who received a CARES I or CARES II grant.** Applications from new, first-time applicants will be accepted at the beginning of January and will be prioritized to fund programs in underserved communities.

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Eligible facilities are existing licensed family day homes, voluntarily registered family day homes, licensed child day centers, religiously exempt child day centers, licensed family day systems, certified preschools, unlicensed child day programs that are approved subsidy vendors, and local ordinance approved family day homes.
- Facilities must be open to provide care for children and must follow COVID-19 health and safety guidelines.
- Facilities that were approved for CARES I or CARES II grants **do not have to apply** for CARES III. These facilities will receive grant funds once DSS confirms the program remains open. Please ensure that your licensing inspector knows that your program is open and providing care for children.
- Facilities must provide additional information or documentation as requested.
- From January 4-8, 2021, the application process will open for new, first-time applicants. The application process will be online; we will send additional information including a web link in December. New applications will be prioritized to fund programs in underserved communities.

**Payment**

The amount of the grant award will be predetermined based on the program type. Based on available funds, grant amounts will be determined for:

- **Large child day centers (capacity over 100)** - This type includes religiously exempt centers, licensed centers, unlicensed centers, and certified preschools.
- **Small child day centers (capacity of 100 or fewer)** - This type includes religiously exempt centers, licensed centers, unlicensed centers, and certified preschools.
Licensed family day homes
Licensed family day systems
Unlicensed family day homes – This type includes voluntarily registered family day homes, local ordinance approved homes that are not licensed, and unlicensed homes that are approved subsidy vendors.

Grant award letters will be emailed prior to payment being made. A contractor administering the funding on behalf of DSS will issue grantees one payment, which will be mailed to the address where the most recent CARES payment was sent.

Timeline

- **December 2020**: Existing CARES I and CARES II grantees will receive an award letter indicating their CARES III grant amount. DSS will send information about the online application process for new, first-time applicants.
- **Beginning mid-December 2020**: CARES III payments to existing CARES I and CARES II grantees will be made.
- **January 4-8, 2021**: Applications for new, first-time applicants will be accepted.

Changes Needed and Questions

If your program received CARES I or CARES II grant funding and you

- Are no longer eligible,
- Do NOT want to receive a CARES III payment, or
- The payment address from your last CARES grant has changed,

please email this information to ask4care@dss.virginia.gov by December 4, 2020. You may also send any questions to this email address. If your payment address has changed, or other items on the W-9 form have changed, you will be required to submit a new W-9 form.

Thank you for the work you are doing to care for children during this critical time.