



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **\$18 Million in CARES Act Funding Awarded to Over 1,800 Licensed Child Care Providers Support Critical for Economic Health and Recovery**

**PHOENIX – (September 17, 2020)** The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) announced today it began distributing nearly \$18 million to over 1,800 licensed child care providers through the Child Care COVID-19 Grant Program. This marks the first round of payments of an initial \$36 million in funding announced by Governor Ducey in August. The remaining payments will be distributed on October 15 and November 16, 2020.

“This funding is critical for the child care providers that are supporting Arizona’s recovery efforts,” said DES Director Michael Wisheart. “The child care system will help our residents return to work, and enable our first responders and essential workers to continue serving our communities during the public health emergency.”

The Child Care COVID-19 Grant Program provides financial assistance to licensed or certified child care providers to help cover costs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The assistance will support Arizona’s child care network, help providers to stay open or reopen, supplement the operating costs to prevent permanent closures, and ensure Arizona families have access to safe, quality child care. The grants are funded by the federal Child Care and Development Fund program that was awarded to the state through the CARES Act.

The grant program includes additional financial incentives to enhance the capacity of rural communities and increase quality child care, resulting in rural child care providers receiving 22 percent of total grant awards, and 45 percent of awardees enrolled in a Quality First program or a DES-recognized national accreditation.

Grant funds can be used by child care providers to help cover a variety of expenses associated with opening safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- Tuition and registration relief for families
- Lease and mortgage payments
- DHS licensing fees
- Salaries and benefits for employees
- Liability insurance
- Utilities
- Cleaning supplies
- Classroom materials and supplies
- Additional supplies required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DHS guidelines

To learn more, please visit [our website](#). For questions regarding the Child Care COVID-19 Grant program, please email [ChildCareGrants@azdes.gov](mailto:ChildCareGrants@azdes.gov).

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