



# **CARES Act Funding to Support Head Start Children, Families, and Programs**



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**



**OFFICE OF HEADSTART**

# Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

- ❑ The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020.
- ❑ Includes \$750 million for programs under the Head Start Act to support preventative, preparedness, and responsive activities to the coronavirus.
  - \$500 million is available for programs to operate supplemental summer programs
  - \$250 million is available for one-time activities in response to the coronavirus.
  - Both availabilities will be awarded on a non-competitive basis



# Supplemental Summer Programs

- ❑ Programs closed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in their communities.
- ❑ Closures are resulting in months of lost comprehensive services to children.
- ❑ To offset the losses, Head Start programs can operate supplemental summer programs.
- ❑ Up to \$500 million is available to fund existing Head Start grantees that can demonstrate the capacity to deliver high-quality summer learning experiences to promote school readiness and successful transitions to kindergarten.



# Supplemental Summer Programs

## ☐ Programs can

- Provide social and emotionally supportive learning environments and consistent daily routines
- Support children in getting up to date on needed medical, dental, and other follow-up services
- Connect children and families to receiving schools.

## ☐ Help parents and primary caregivers

- Return to work
- Participate in planned transition activities
- Connect to needed services such as mental health, parenting, and stable housing.



# Supplemental Summer Programs

- ❑ Program staff will
  - Receive income and benefits during the summer program
  - Work with children and families before they transition to kindergarten,
  - Access professional development opportunities.
- ❑ Consider establishing or amending existing Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with receiving schools, including the transmission of health and other information in transition plans.

# This is a fluid situation

- ❑ Programs may not be able to predict whether they will be able to open their doors in time for a summer program.
- ❑ Plan for a summer program with the belief the program will be able to operate.
- ❑ If all or some programs are unable to operate as intended due to health and safety concerns, we will revisit our plans and funding decisions.

# Summer Program Enrollment

- ❑ Prioritize enrollment for
  - currently enrolled children who are entering kindergarten for 2020–2021 program year
  - currently enrolled children with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).
- ❑ Pending availability of funding, programs may be able to serve other vulnerable populations that would greatly benefit from a summer program

# Eligible Grantees

- ❑ Programs with capacity to deliver high-quality summer learning experiences to promote school readiness and successful transitions to kindergarten are eligible to apply.
- ❑ Programs may not receive funds for days during the summer when they would already be fully operational.
- ❑ No program option is excluded from this funding.





# Intent to Apply

- ❑ Submit an “Intent to Apply” form in the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES) by April 13, 2020.
- ❑ The purpose of the “Intent to Apply” is to provide grantees with information on the funding opportunity, and for OHS to gauge interest, and estimate the amount of incoming requests.
- ❑ The “Intent to Apply” form will be available in HSES under the “Financials” tab and “Add Amendment” icon
- ❑ The “Intent to Apply” is not your application for supplemental funds.



# Application and Funding

- The application for supplemental funds is titled “Summer Program Supplement” and will be released in HSES, anticipated in mid April
- All applications will be reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis
- Applications are due by May 15, 2020, and these requests will be reviewed and processed.
- If funds are still available, the Office of Head Start (OHS) may continue to accept and award applications until June 15, 2020.
- Application for these funds is voluntary
- Funding will be awarded on a non-competitive basis

# One-Time Activities in Response to the Coronavirus

- ❑ About \$250 million is available for a wide range of programmatic one-time activities in response to the coronavirus.
- ❑ All Head Start, Early Head Start, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grantees are eligible to receive funding for one-time activities in response to the coronavirus.



# One-Time Activities in Response to the Coronavirus

## □ Activities could include:

1. Mental health services, supports, crisis response, and intervention services
2. Coordination, preparedness, and response efforts with state, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments and other relevant agencies
3. Costs of meals and snacks not reimbursed by USDA
4. Training and professional development for staff on infectious disease management
5. Purchasing necessary supplies and contracted services to sanitize and clean facilities and vehicles
6. Other costs that are necessary to maintain and resume the operation of programs, such as substitute staff, technology infrastructure, improvements to air conditioning systems, or other emergency assistance



# How to Apply

- ❑ For this funding, each grantee will be able to apply for a proportionate amount based on their total funded enrollment.
- ❑ These funds will be added to the existing FY 2020 Cost-of-Living-Adjustment and Quality Improvement (COLA/QI) applications due on May 15, 2020.
- ❑ OHS will work with programs following the submission of COLA/QI applications including further guidance and instruction. Awards are expected to be processed beginning in June.



# Nonfederal Share Waivers

- ❑ The Head Start Act recognizes that lack of resources in a community adversely impacted by a major disaster may prevent Head Start grantees from providing all or a portion of their required non-federal contribution.
- ❑ OHS will approve all requests for waiver of non-federal match associated with the following funds for the 2020 fiscal year:
  - COLA
  - Quality Improvement
  - Funding associated with coronavirus.
- ❑ In order to request a waiver of non-federal match, place the amount of \$0 in Section C of your SF424A. No separate waiver request is required. The issuance of a notice of award constitutes approval of the requested waiver.

# Extension of enrollment reporting

- ❑ OHS is extending the deadline to submit March's enrollment report in the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES) from April 7th to April 15th.
- ❑ OHS will be issuing a Q&A document to provide general guidance on enrollment inquiries related to COVID-19 program closures
- ❑ OHS will provide specific guidance and flexibilities related to the grantees participating in the Full Enrollment Initiative.



# Wages and Benefits

- ❑ OHS is directing programs to continue to pay wages and provide benefits for staff unable to report to work during center closures necessary to address COVID-19.
- ❑ This flexibility remains in effect through June 30th or the date upon which programs reopen for center-based services and employees return to regularly scheduled onsite work, if sooner.
- ❑ This directive does not apply to non-COVID-19 related program closures during which employees would not otherwise be paid, such as summer breaks.
- ❑ OHS will continue to monitor program closures and may adjust the effective date of this flexibility as needed.



# Serving Needs Beyond Head Start

- ❑ OHS is empowering grantee leadership to make decisions that support Head Start children and families as well as their communities
  - Supporting our Head Start families, is the highest priority.
  - Head Start programs and staff are uniquely positioned to support community needs



# Serving Needs Beyond Head Start

- ❑ As staff and programs make local decisions about supporting efforts beyond Head Start, consider these principles:
  - Maintain full support of Head Start children and families to the extent feasible
  - Ensure Head Start staff are available and ready to resume operations
  - Confirm Head Start staff are fully informed of the risks to themselves and their own families
- ❑ Any work outside of Head Start responsibilities must be optional, determined by each staff person.



# Questions?

