ARPA Childcare Stabilization Grants for Alexandria Providers

February 2, 2022

ACT for ALEXANDRIA
A COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Welcome & Zoom Details - ACT

- Select language preference using the globe icon on the bottom of your screen
- Please keep yourself on mute
- Use the Chat function to ask questions and share comments
- Session will be recorded and available on our website

Agenda - ACT

- Welcome
- Overview
- Eligibility
- Alexandria's grant formula
- Funding conditions and allowable expenses
- Application process
- Hardship Assistance For Families
- Q&A

Overview

The City of Alexandria has designated $2.8M of the American Rescue Plan Act funds to develop and implement the Unified Early Childhood Workforce Stabilization Initiative.

This initiative funding includes:

- Provider Sustainability Grants
- DCHS Personnel Support
- Family Assistance Program for Hardship and Non-Traditional Care Needs
- Early Childhood Landscape Study
- Website Enhancement Support for Kids' First Years

This program is being supported by the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds award number 21.027 awarded by the City of Alexandria, Virginia by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Eligibility

- Licensed family day homes and child day centers
- Religious-exempt child day centers
- Certified preschools
- Family day homes approved by a licensed family day system
- Local ordinance homes

If they were licensed, registered or approved on or before March 11, 2020.

Any program that was NOT licensed, registered or approved by March 11, 2020 must become an approved provider to receive a grant.

Provider Sustainability Grants

$1.8M Total issued in two cycles:

- $900k in Year 1 (2022)
- $900k in Year 2 (2023)

Anticipated Eligibility:192 sites with capacity for 8,411 children

Grant awards will be issued based on:

- Operating status (open or temporarily closed)
- Licensed or approved capacity

*Note: As long as provider is still operating, you do not need to reapply for the second tranche, you will be reconsidered for funding based on operating status

Provider Sustainability Grants

Funding Formula Objectives:

- Overall alignment with state approach
- Ensure every eligible applicant receives full funding
- Transparency
- Support smaller as well as larger providers – formula provides higher averages per seat for smaller sites and the highest average per seat for family day homes
- Any remaining funds will be rolled over and/or awarded to programs serving most at-risk children

Funding Formula (per Year)

Type of Site & Licensed Capacity	Funding Formula (per Year)	Minimum Grant	Maximum Grant	Total if 100% Eligible Apply
Family Day Home	Min $1,000; plus $100 per seat > 4 seats	$1,000	$1,800	$113,000
Center 0-75	Min $1,800; plus $120 per seat > 15 seats	$1,800	$9,000	$211,080
Center 76-150	Min $9,100; plus $65 per seat > 76 seats	$9,100	$13,910	$388,700
Center 151-250	Min $13,975; plus $35 per seat >151 seats	$13,975	$17,440	$154,275
Center > 251	Min $17,470; plus $15 per seat >251 seats	$17,470	$21,085	$21,085
Total				$888,140

Examples of Grant Awards

Site Examples	Licensed Capacity	Annual Grant	Average by Seat
Family Day Home	3	1,000	333
Family Day Home	9	1,500	167
Center	18	2,160	120
Center	50	6,000	120
Center	75	9,000	120
Center	100	10,600	106
Center	145	13,585	94
Center	180	14,990	83

Funding Formula From Previous Slide	
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Center 76-150	Min $9,100; plus $65 per seat > 76 seats
Center 151-250	Min $13,975; plus $35 per seat >151 seats

Funding Conditions & Allowable Expenses

- Personnel costs
- Rent, utilities, facilities maintenance and insurance
- PPE, cleaning and other health and safety practices
- Equipment and supplies
- Goods and services
- Mental health services

Note: these mirror the state's allowable expenses.

Category	Description/Examples
Personnel costs	• Wages and benefits, including increases in compensation, premium or hazard pay, or staff bonuses • Benefits, including health, dental, or vision insurance; paid sick or family leave; and retirement contributions • Scholarships and ongoing professional development or training • Employee transportation costs • Supports for staff to access COVID-19 vaccines, including paid time off for appointments and managing side effects
Rent, utilities, facilities maintenance, and insurance	• Rent (including under a lease agreement) or payment on any mortgage obligation • Utility payments • Facility maintenance and improvements such as (but not limited to) building or upgrading playgrounds, renovating bathrooms, installing ramps, railings, or automatic doors to make the facility more accessible, and removing non-load bearing walls to create additional space for social distancing • Insurance payments
PPE, cleaning, and other health and safety practices	Equipment, supplies, services, and training that help providers mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and/or meet state and local health and safety guidelines. **Note: approved activities under this category are not limited to those specifically to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.**
Equipment and supplies	Purchases or updates to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, including: • Indoor and outdoor equipment and supplies that facilitate operating procedures consistent with safety protocols and developmentally appropriate practice, such as equipment that facilitates outdoor play and learning; additional toys/books/supplies to minimize sharing • Business items to respond to new challenges such as business software and upgrades and/or technological upgrades that allow for data collection and reporting
Goods and services	• Material goods or service necessary for regular operations. Examples of material goods include food, equipment, and materials to facilitate play, learning, eating, diapering, toileting, or safe sleep. Examples of services include business automation training, shared services, child care management services, food services, and transportation. • Fees associated with licensing and/or costs associated with meeting licensing requirements.
Mental health services	• Infant and early childhood mental health consultation services • Mental health consultations and other supports for staff

Social Emotional Wellness Support

Providers will be asked to indicate on the application if they plan to use ARPA funding to support social emotional wellness for children, families and/or personnel in either of the following categories:

- Mental health consultation
- Classroom supports
- Staff wellness activities

Social Emotional Wellness Support

- Following awarding of the grant, written information will be provided via email to all grant recipients on some ideas for using funds for mental health consultation, classroom resources and/or staff wellness.

- Upon request and interest, a virtual group meeting will be scheduled to share and discuss ideas.

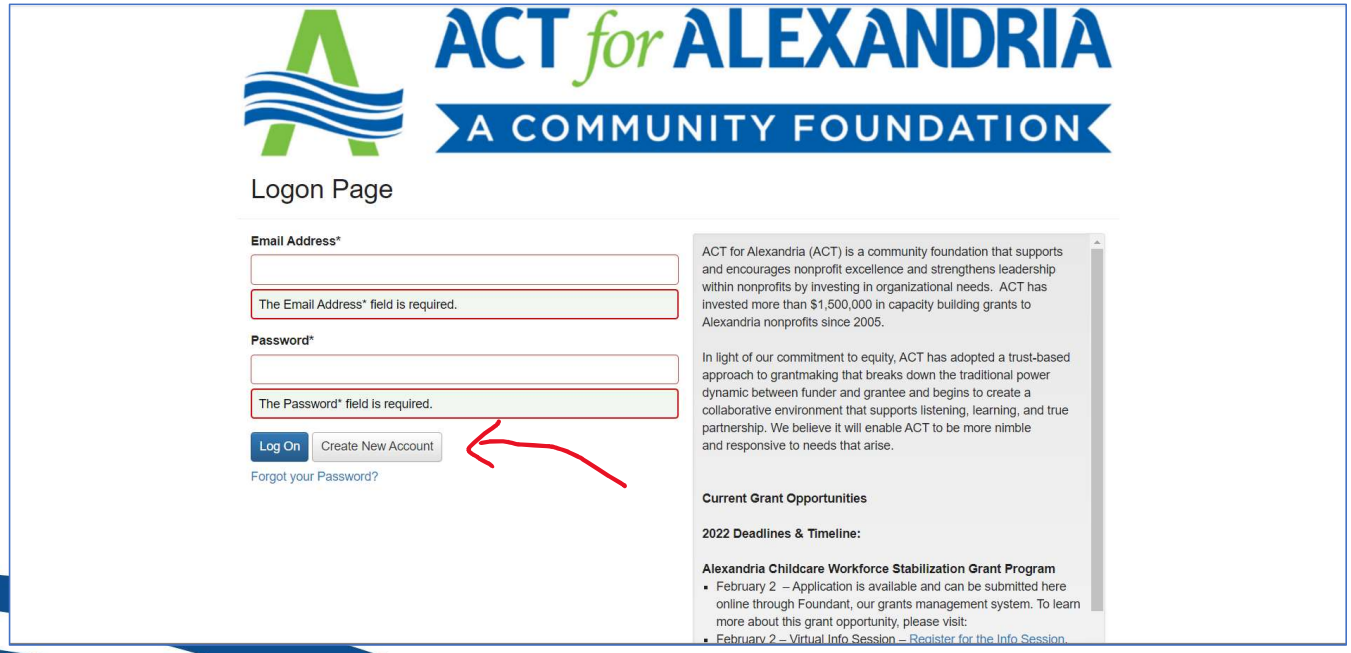
Contact:
Rosario Paredes Carrion
rosario.paredes@alexandriava.com

Application Process

1. Apply for funding from Virginia Department of Education (DOE)
2. Apply for Alexandria funding by creating an account with Foundant, ACT for Alexandria's Grant Management System
3. Upload application and award letter from Virginia DOE
4. Respond to questions about use of funding, capacity and enrollment, and students
5. Attestation

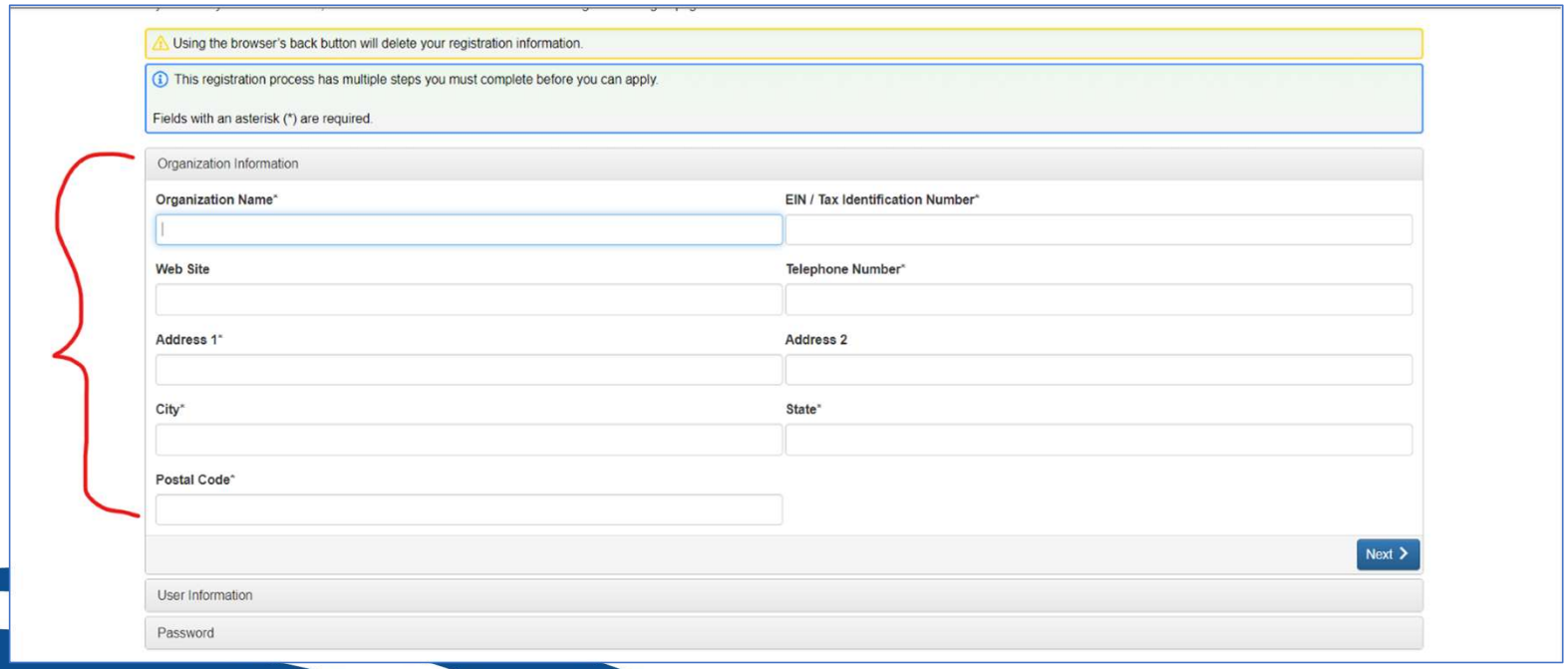
Creating an account in Foundant

1. Log on to the portal using the URL: https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=actforalexandria .



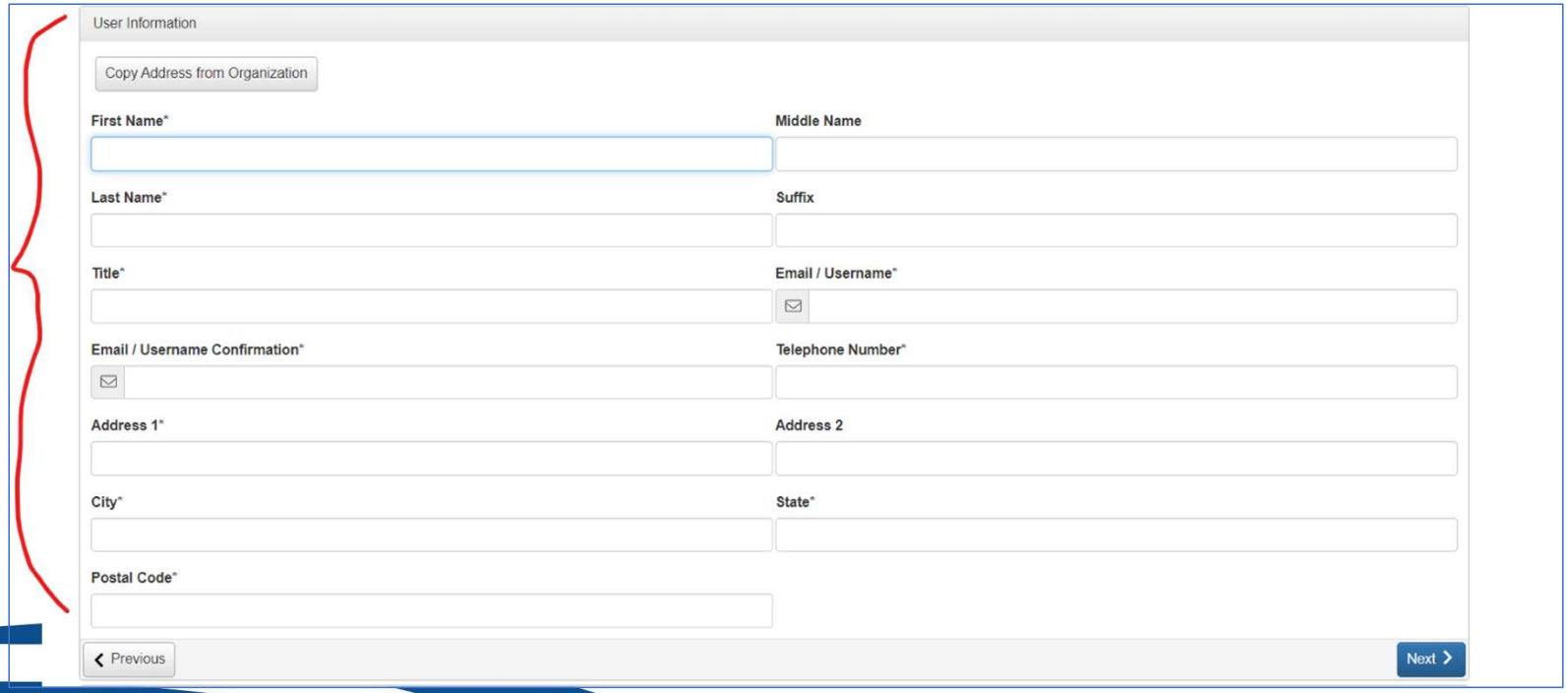
Creating an account in Foundant

You will be asked to complete information about your organization including EIN, telephone number, and address of your organization. Click the “Next” button once you are finished with the Organization Information section.

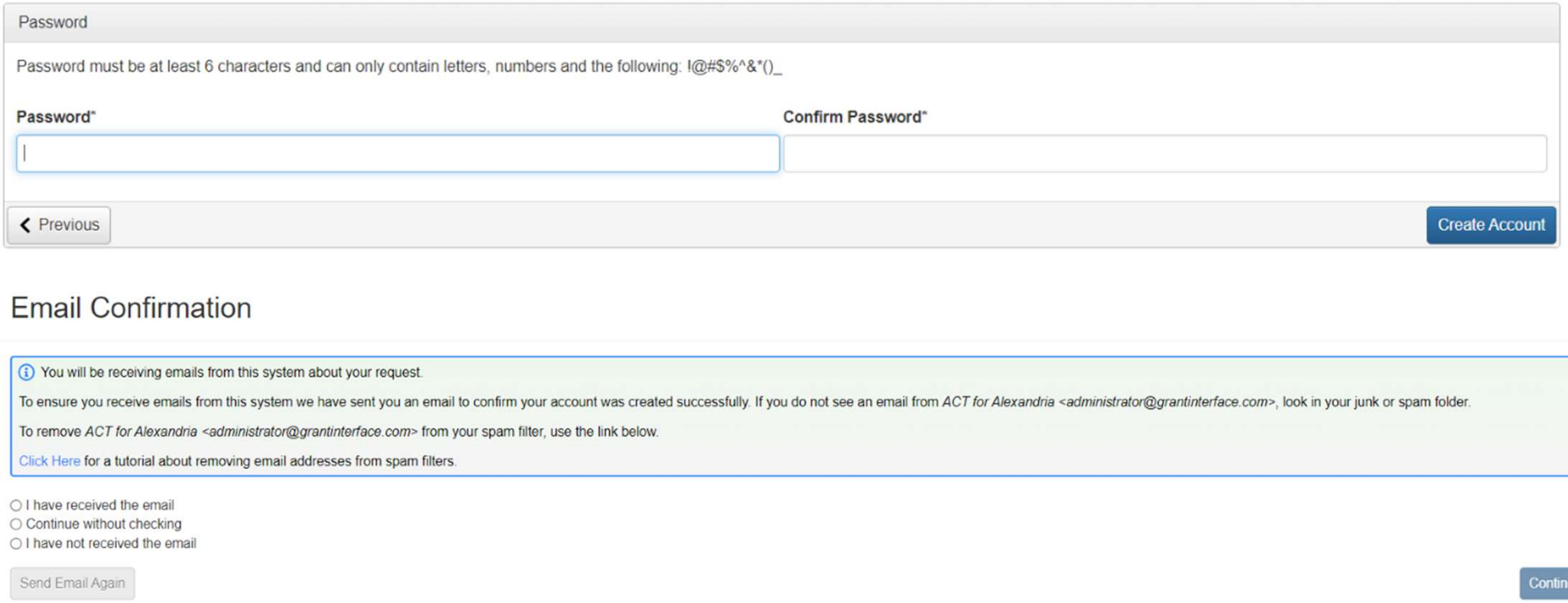


Creating an account in Foundant

Enter your information - name, email, address, and title. Click “Next” when you are finished with the User Information section.

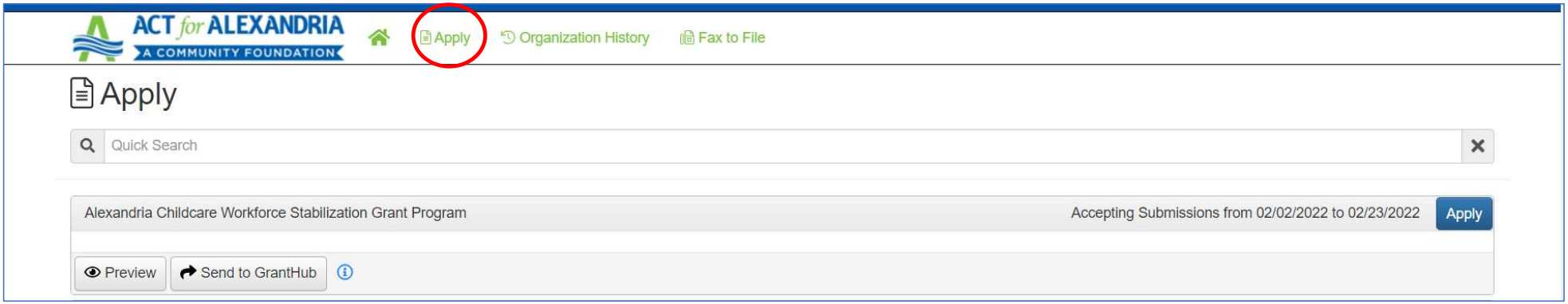


Creating an account in Foundant



Creating an account in Foundant

When you log in, you will see your Dashboard. You will be able to access any open grant applications, view your organization's follow-up forms, and complete any required reporting. To apply for the grant, click the "Apply" button in the top navigation bar and select the applicable grant application process.



Application Questions

- Did you apply for the Virginia Department of Education Childcare Stabilization Grant?
- Is your organization a family day home?
- How do you anticipate using this grant funding in these allowable categories?
- There are additional funds available for social and emotional wellness support. Please indicate if you would like additional funding to support the following areas.

Application Questions – continued

- As of June 1, 2021, how many children were you approved to care for?
- At the time of this application, what is the total number of children you are approved to care for?
- How many children ages birth – 5 years old are you approved to care for?
- At the time of this application, how many children in your program are enrolled in childcare subsidy?
- At time of this application, how many children are enrolled from each Alexandria zip code?

DCHS Technical Assistance

Email: dchschildcare@alexandriava.gov

Phone: 703-887-8039

Reporting Information

Compliance

- Family Day Homes and Centers
  - State License number, or certificate number
  - Not be on the debarment list
  - In compliance with all requirements for operation
- Centers

Reporting Information

Metrics Data to Be Reported By Providers:

- Workforce Stability
  - Length of vacancies for open staff positions
  - Average staff turnover
- Number of children that participate in a program implementing trauma-informed practices
- % of families able to access childcare utilizing the hardship fund
- Childcare provider capacity and enrollment
- Program operation status (open or closed)

Reporting Information

Metrics Data to Be Reported By DCHS:

- 80% of families who have inconsistent childcare options because they work non-traditional schedules will be matched with a viable childcare option within 90 days of application.
- Number of participants who were able to start/return to work or an educational program because of obtaining childcare.

Timeline

- February 2– Applications Open
- February 2 – Info Session
- February 2-25 – Technical Assistance available from DCHS
- February 25 – Grant Applications Due
- February 25 – March 10 – Grant Applications Reviewed
- March 11 – Grant Agreements Issued
  - Fraud prevention, IT training, subrecipient checklist (including uploading childcare state inspection)
- April 7 – Grant Awards Issued

Hardship Funding To Support Families

$625,000 is set aside to support families who present with a hardship need for childcare

1. Established childcare need but do not meet Subsidy, HS, VPI, TANF-VIEW or SNAP-ET requirements and have income at or below $15 per hour:
    - One or both parents do not work due to non-permanent disability/ medical diagnosis.
    - Parent(s) enrolled in a non-childcare subsidy qualifying educational program.
    - Two parent households where work hours do not overlap (ensure safety of child).
    - Self-Employed but do not earn enough to qualify for subsidy.
    - Teen parent not living with own parent and parent of the teen does not want to apply for services.
    - Family member who has temporary custody of a child not placed in foster care.
    - Established need but the child does not meet citizenship/visa status requirements for subsidy
2. Cover the costs to the family to establish in-home care to meet non-traditional work schedules.
3. Cover the childcare fee when parents have no paid leave benefits during Covid-19 related closures.

Hardship Assistance Request Process

- **If a parent has not previously applied for childcare subsidy:**
  - Complete an online screening through Common Help https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/ or contact Sylvia Salamanca at 703-746-5437 for phone screening
  - Complete a full childcare subsidy application

- **If a parent applied for childcare subsidy and was determined ineligible:**
  - The parent will be provided information from the DCHS Child Care team about other childcare options and will be assisted with completing the Hardship Checklist

  - **If a parent meets at least one (1) criteria for the Hardship Assistance Grant and funds are available:**
  - DCHS Child Care team will notify the Child Care Stabilization Management Analyst and the request will be processed. The Child Care Provider Resource Team will support the parent with selection of a childcare provider and funds will be paid directly to the provider

Q&A

- For assistance with ACT's grant management system (Foundant), please contact Aaliyah Kerr at aaliyah.kerr@actforalexandria.org
- For technical assistance from DCHS, please contact dchschildcare@alexandriava.gov
- For more information about the Provider Sustainability Grants, visit https://www.actforalexandria.org/initiatives/t/alexandria-childcare-workforce-stabilization-grant-program/