

SENATE, No. 4190

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 22, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator O'Scanlon

SYNOPSIS

Establishes child care costs reimbursement grant program in DCF for parents or guardians whose children are subject to quarantine as a result of COVID-19; appropriates \$500,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/2/2021)

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.) and who is
14 subject to quarantine as a result of an exposure to the coronavirus
15 disease 2019 (COVID-19).

16
17 2. a. There is established in the Department of Children and
18 Families a grant program in which an eligible parent or guardian
19 with shall be reimbursed for child care tuition costs incurred by the
20 parent or guardian during the period the parent or guardian’s child
21 is quarantined as a result of an exposure to the coronavirus disease
22 2019 (COVID-19) at the child care center where the child is or will
23 be enrolled.

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 in
30 the grant program established under section 2 of 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 during the period
47 the parent or guardian’s child is quarantined as a result of an

1 exposure to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) at the child
2 care center where the child is or will be enrolled.

3
4 4. There is appropriated \$500,000 from a portion of the block
5 grant funds allocated to the State from the federal “American
6 Rescue Plan Act of 2021,” Pub.L.117-2, to the Department of
7 Children and Families for the grant program established in section 2
8 of this act, to the extent the funding is available for this purpose

9
10 5. The Department of Children and Families shall adopt,
11 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
12 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the
13 implementation of this act.

14
15 6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third after the
16 date of enactment, except that the Commissioner of Children and
17 Families may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance
18 as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

19
20
21 **STATEMENT**

22
23 This bill establishes in the Department of Children and Families
24 a grant program in which an eligible parent or guardian will be
25 reimbursed for child care tuition costs incurred by the parent or
26 guardian during the time the parent or guardian’s child is
27 quarantined as a result of an exposure to the coronavirus disease
28 2019 (COVID-19) at the child care center where the child is or will
29 be enrolled.

30 As used in the bill, “eligible parent or guardian” means an
31 individual who: is employed full-time or part-time; and has a child
32 who is enrolled or will be enrolled in a child care center licensed
33 pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1983, c.492 (C.30:5B-1 et seq.)
34 and who is subject to quarantine as a result of an exposure to
35 COVID-19.

36 The grant program is to be funded from \$500,000 appropriated to
37 the DCF from a portion of the block grant funds allocated to the
38 State from the federal “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021,”
39 Pub.L.117-2, and any other monies appropriated or made available
40 for the grant program.

41 Under the provisions of the bill, an eligible parent or guardian
42 who wishes to participate in the grant program is to submit an
43 application to the Commissioner of Children and Families
44 (commissioner), in a manner and on forms determined by the
45 commissioner. The commissioner is to: (1) establish selection
46 criteria for awarding grants under the program; (2) award grants
47 under the program based upon review of the applications and
48 subject to the limit of funds appropriated or otherwise made

1 available for the program; (3) allocate the approved grant funds to
2 each eligible parent or guardian participating in the program in a
3 timely manner; and (4) establish the amount of each grant awarded
4 for an eligible parent or guardian.

5 The bill stipulates that the grant awarded to an eligible parent or
6 guardian will be used to reimburse child care tuition costs incurred
7 by the parent or guardian during the period the parent or guardian's
8 child is quarantined as a result of an exposure to the coronavirus
9 disease 2019 (COVID-19) at the child care center where the child is
10 or will be enrolled.