



News Release

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Executive Gardner Announces \$2 Million in Grants for Child Care Providers *To support child care providers and Frederick County families*

FREDERICK, Md. – County Executive Jan Gardner today announced a grant program to assist Frederick County’s licensed child care providers with the increased operating costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 30% of licensed providers in the county have not yet reopened and some may be permanently closed. The State Department of Education has limited the number of children that can be enrolled in child care programs while at the same time adding significant requirements for cleaning and disinfection.

“Child care providers are facing an unprecedented challenge to remain financially sustainable. Families expect and our children deserve quality, affordable childcare. By assisting licensed child care providers, we are supporting Frederick County families and their children as parents return to work.” Executive Gardner said. “Between unexpected expenses and lower revenues, providers are in a tough place at a time when our community needs them more than ever. We know child care is key to opening our economy and supporting our families.”

Grants will be awarded to eligible providers as follows:

- Family child care providers - \$4,100
- Centers with up to 59 children- \$5,100
- Centers with 60 or more children - \$6,800

Frederick County Government has partnered with Child Care Choices to distribute nearly \$2 million to child care providers who provide care in their homes or at centers located in our community.

To be eligible, a child care provider must be licensed and in good standing with the Department of Education, and be open by August 31, 2020. Providers also must agree to remain open for at least four months after receiving grant funds. All eligible providers will be contacted directly by Child Care Choices Program Director Patty Morison with instructions on how to apply. Applications will be accepted from 8 a.m. Monday, August 17, through 5 p.m. Monday, August 24. Licensed providers with questions should contact Morison at PMorison@fcmha.org. Child Care Choices is a program of the nonprofit Mental Health Association of Frederick County. The program offers training and resources to child care providers.

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