

# STRENGTHEN AND GROW CHILD CARE GRANTS



## CHOOSING BETWEEN GRANT PROGRAMS

On December 2, 2021, Governor JB Pritzker announced two new funding opportunities to help stabilize child care programs in Illinois from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Child Care Restoration Grant (CCRG) Extension and Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grant (SGCC) will be available in 2022 to support eligible programs. This tip sheet is meant to help you understand which of these two grants your program is eligible for, and which grant is right for your child care program.

### CCRG Extension and SGCC Eligibility

The following table compares eligibility for each grant. **It is possible that your program is eligible for both grants.** In that case, you will need to decide which grant is best for you. **Eligibility for each grant is on a site-level basis,** meaning that if you operate multiple sites and choose to apply for funding, each location will need to apply for either a CCRG extension or SGCC grant or opt out of both.

Who is eligible for the 2022 CCRG Extension and the 2022 SGCC Grants?		
	Child Care Restoration Grant (CCRG) Extension	Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grant (SGCC)
<b>Program Type</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensed child care centers</li> <li>Licensed child care homes</li> <li>Licensed group child care homes</li> <li>License-exempt child care centers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensed child care centers</li> <li>Licensed child care homes</li> <li>Licensed group child care homes</li> </ul>
<b>History of Operations</b>	Programs must have been open and operating as of March 11, 2021	
<b>Schedule Requirements</b>	Programs must operate full-day and full-year. This is defined as a program that is open and offering at least 8 consecutive hours of care per day, 5 days per week.	
<b>Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Participation</b>	Not Applicable	Programs must be participating in CCAP. Programs must have enrolled CCAP-participating families in at least 10% of licensed slots at some point between January 2020 and the date of application.*
<b>Revenue Requirements</b>	Programs that have less than 75% of child care revenues by site from Preschool For All, Prevention Initiative, Head Start, and Early Head Start combined.**	Programs have less than 50% of revenues by site coming from Preschool For All, Prevention Initiative, Head Start, and/or Early Head Start combined.**

\*see the next section for help calculating this number

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## Calculating your Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Enrollment Percentage

Whether or not a site meets the 10% of CCAP eligibility will be determined based on a site's total licensed capacity compared to the site's enrollment during any month of 2020 and 2021.

How many of my enrolled children participated in CCAP this month?	→	A. _____	<i>Note: (if your CCAP enrollment fluctuates, choose a month ifrom January 2020 until now where you had the highest CCAP enrollment)</i>
How many children am I licensed to serve?	→	B. _____	
	A ÷ B =	_____	x 100 = _____

If the final number in the box is greater than 10%, your site meets this SGCC eligibility criteria.

## Calculating your Program or Site's Revenue Percentages

To understand what percentage of your revenue comes from each source, you will need to know and gather the income your program receives across 2021.

- If your program has multiple sites, you will need to calculate the below for each site.
- If you don't receive any money from the source listed (for example, you don't have a Head Start Grant), just input a zero (0).
- For this analysis, you should not include in either column the funding you received from the Child Care Restoration Grants or the Child Care Workforce Bonuses.

### How to Calculate Revenue Percentages for Each Site

A. Child Care Assistance Program and Private Funding		B. Public Grant Funding Sources	
Funding Source	Total Dollars Received in 2021	Funding Source	Total Dollars Received in 2021
Child Care Assistance Program	\$	Head Start / Early Head Start	\$
Parent Tuition Payments	\$	Preschool for All	\$
Other Sources (e.g., grants from Foundations, loans)	\$	Prevention Initiative	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>A. \$</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>B. \$</b>

If the total in column A is greater than the total in column B, this site meets the SGCC eligibility criteria.

## Determining the Right Grant for Your Child Care Program Site

Programs/Sites that are eligible for both grants will need to select one, since programs can only apply for either CCRG or SGCC. The Child Care Restoration Grant (CCRG) Extension and the Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grant (SGCC) serve different purposes.

### CCRG Extension

The **CCRG Extension** is a 6-month grant designed to help programs stay open, replacing revenue lost because of COVID-19. This grant will provide an amount equal to 6 months at 30% of the initial monthly 2020 CCRG grant amount. The CCRG Extension has been designed to taper off relief funding for programs as enrollments have increased across the state. The grant requirements will remain the same as previous rounds of CCRG 2021 funding. Programs can continue to use funds to support general operations and fill revenue gaps per the attestation form.

Programs should choose CCRG Extension if they already have stable and predictable funding streams via Early Head Start/Head Start and/or Prevention Initiative/Preschool for All contracts, or are looking for a funding source that is meant to help fill gaps in revenue due to COVID-19.

## SGCC Grant

The SGCC grant provides 12-months of stable and transparent funding designed to help programs recruit and retain a strong workforce and improve child care quality.

Programs participating in SGCC must spend at least 50% of their quarterly payments on **new** investments in staff – such as raises, bonuses, additional benefits, professional development, or other [allowable expenses](#) (listed in the attestation). Programs will need to submit an initial budget each quarter with their opt-in application that describes how they intend to use the SGCC funding. SGCC grants will be greater in size than CCRG Extension grants.

Programs should choose SGCC if they are a licensed center or home receiving CCAP and minimal other public funding and want a grant that allows them to make new investments in quality and workforce with stable funding.

If you still need help deciding, the information below can help you determine which grant to choose for your site or program:

CCRG Extension vs. SGCC Side-by-Side Comparison		
	Child Care Restoration Grant (CCRG) Extension	Strengthen and Grow Child Care Grant (SGCC)
<b>Program Time Period</b>	January 2022 – June 2022	February 2022 – February 2023
<b>Funding Amounts</b>	30% of the initial monthly 2020 CCRG grant amount. For more information on calculating your award, visit the <a href="#">CCRG webpage</a> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Family Child Care Home – \$2,500 per quarter</li> <li>Family Child Care Group Home – \$3,750 per quarter</li> <li>Child Care Center - \$6,250 per classroom per quarter</li> </ul>
<b>Application Requirements</b>	One-time application and attestation stating that the program qualifies and will follow all requirements.	Quarterly application and attestation for each quarter of the grant, stating that the program qualifies and will follow all requirements. As part of the application, programs must submit a budget indicating how the program intends to spend that quarter's grant funds in accordance with the allowable uses.
<b>Reporting Requirements</b>	Programs will report how they spent funds each quarter through the current CCRG reporting form.	Programs will report how they spent funds each quarter through a reporting form similar to the current CCRG reporting form.
<b>Technical Assistance</b>	INCCRRA HelpDesk and Resources available online on the <a href="#">CCRG webpage</a> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INCCRRA Help Desk</li> <li>Webinars and tip sheets</li> <li>Additional hands-on technical assistance</li> </ul>

For more information about each grant visit [www.ilgateways.com/financial-opportunities/strengthen-and-grow-child-care-grants](http://www.ilgateways.com/financial-opportunities/strengthen-and-grow-child-care-grants) or [www.ilgateways.com/financial-opportunities/restoration-grants](http://www.ilgateways.com/financial-opportunities/restoration-grants).

For questions, please email [grants@inccrra.org](mailto:grants@inccrra.org) or call 1-855-939-4858.