



**San Mateo County 2022 Childcare Grant Program- Round 2
Frequently Asked Questions**

Last Updated: 11/16/22

1) When will the application period open and close?

The application will be open starting Friday November 18, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. and remain open until funds are exhausted.

2) How do I apply?

The application portal is at www.smcstrong.org. There is no option to apply in person.

3) How much grant funding will be awarded to eligible applicants?

Awarded grant amounts will be based on the number of children (ages 0-5 years) enrolled in a program, as follows:

- \$10,000 for facilities with up to 10 children
- \$25,000 for facilities with 11 to 30 children
- \$40,000 for facilities with 31 to 60 children
- \$55,000 for facilities with over 60 children

4) Are there any income requirements?

There are no income requirements for this grant, however, programs must attest that their business has suffered a negative financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic (such as, for example, decreased revenue from decreased enrollment or increased expenses from adhering to health and safety guidelines).

5) Are there any operating requirements for my business?

Your business must have been operating since at least March 2020 in order to show that your business was in existence pre pandemic and hence suffered a COVID impact.

6) I am a non-profit organization, am I eligible to apply?

Yes, non-profit programs that meet other eligibility requirements may apply.

7) Do I need to be a US citizen or legal resident to apply?

No. Undocumented business owners who can provide required evidence of eligibility and required documentation may apply.

8) My program operates multiple sites. How should I complete the application?

Applicants should submit a separate application for each program site.

9) Will I need to pay an application fee?

There is no fee to apply nor is there a processing fee if you receive the grant.

10) How do I know if my program is license-exempt?

Visit the [California Legislature Health & Safety Code](#) Section 1596.792 website for a detailed list of childcare programs that qualify as license-exempt. That list includes but is not limited to:

- Extended daycare programs operated by a public or private school
- Programs operated by state, city, county, special district, school district, or community college district
- Any family childcare home providing care for the children of only one family in addition to the operator's own children

Any caregivers at license-exempt programs who are required to be registered should be registered with [TrustLine](#).

11) The number of children enrolled in my program is constantly changing. How do I report the number of enrolled children in my program?

In the application, you will be asked to report the number children enrolled in your program on July 1, 2022.

12) What are allowable funding expenses for the Grant?

The grant funding is intended to be spent on areas needed to maintain, improve, or increase childcare slots in a program. This could include but is not limited to operating costs and utilities, facility improvements or repairs, program supplies or equipment, staff stipends or bonuses, hiring additional staff, or providing vouchers or subsidies to eligible children. Funding may not be spent on purchasing property. If you intend to spend on an expense outside of the above list, please contact childcaregrant@smcgov.org to confirm it is an allowable expense.

13) By when must I expend all funding?

Funding should be spent within one year of receiving it. Six months after disbursement of funds you will be asked to report on the use or planned use of funds.

14) Will I have to pay the money back?

No, these grants won't require any repayment. However, if funding is not spent on allowable uses within one year of receiving it, then it may be requested back. Grants are taxable, and you will receive a 1099 for federal tax reporting.

15) Are grants awarded on a first-come, first-served basis?

Yes, all applications will be reviewed and awarded on a first come, first served basis.

16) How will I know if my program meets eligibility requirements or was selected?

All applicants will be notified of receipt of application after the deadline. Soon after each applicant will be contacted via email if they do not meet eligibility requirements, are not selected because of limited funding, or are selected. Please keep checking your spam folder in case your email ends up there.

17) When will I be notified if my application qualifies and when will I receive an award?

We will notify you of next steps within one week of receiving your application and if you qualify, you should receive a check in the mail within 2 weeks of submitting required documents.

Do you have a question that was not covered in this FAQ? Please email:

childcaregrant@smcgov.org