

# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Stipend FAQ

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## Eligibility

1. Does a child care provider or Alternative Payment Program (APP) need to apply for the \$600 stipend if they have already submitted their March 2021 enrollment data?

Answer: The ARPA Survey is the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) ARPA Stabilization subgrant application. APPs are not required to complete surveys; only providers and contractors who are in receipt of ARPA stabilization-funded investments such as stipends are required to complete the survey.

2. Can a child care provider apply for a current round of stipend if they missed a previous round of stipend(s)? Are they still eligible for past stipends, assuming funding is still available?

Answer: Because providers didn't have to apply for stipends (stipends were issued based on the months of enrollment established in statute), all providers who are eligible for stipends should receive them automatically. If a provider did not receive a stipend they believe they were eligible for, they should contact us at [CCPB@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CCPB@dss.ca.gov).

3. Are child care centers who accept vouchers eligible to receive a stipend from an APP?

Answer: Child care providers serving children enrolled in the following voucher-based programs in counties where those programs are administered by an APP are eligible for the \$600 per-child stipend and should receive payment from their APP:

- CalWORKs Stage One, Two, and Three (C2AP & C3AP)
- Alternative Payment Programs (CAPP) including Migrant Alternative Payment Programs

- Bridge Program (Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children)

When Stage One or the Bridge Program are administered by the county, stipends were issued by the Foundation for California Community Colleges (FoundationCCC).

4. Are license-exempt child care providers able to receive a stipend?

Answer: License-exempt child care providers are eligible for a \$600 per-child stipend (AB 131) if they served children receiving subsidies in March 2021.

5. Are Local Education Agencies (LEAs) eligible for the \$600 stipend if they have a license-exempt General Child Care and Development (CCTR) program? If so, how would enrollment/capacity be determined?

Answer: Yes, both licensed and license-exempt CCTRs are eligible for the stipend. This flat-rate one-time stipend is being issued based on program data for March 2021 enrollment only.

### Fiscal and Auditing

6. What are the resource codes for the \$525 stipend (AB 82) and Licensed Child Care Facility Stabilization Stipend? Do they differ from the SB 820 stipend? Can you also provide the SAC Resource code for the AB 131 stipend and confirm whether it will expire?

Answer: The California Department of Social Services and the California Department of Education are developing the codes for the AB 82 and SB 820 stipends and will provide updates soon. Please continue to practice the claiming process used for prior rounds of stipends.

You may use the SAC Resource code RS5058/PCA 15555 for the AB 131 stipend.

7. Are stipends considered federal funds, with a Catalog of Domestic Federal Assistance (CFDA) number for single audit filing, if they are paid out of federal ARPA funds?

Answer: Yes. The CFDA number for ARPA Stabilization funding supporting stipends is 93.575.

8. What are the restrictions, if any, for how these funds can be used?

Answer: These stipends are intended to support and stabilize the child care and development workforce during the pandemic. They may be used to support subsidized child care providers with COVID-19 pandemic relief, and, in the case of decreased enrollment or closures, to ensure that childcare providers remain open. Investments funded by ARPA stabilization may only be used for one or more of the purposes below:

- Personnel costs, benefits, premium pay, or recruitment and retention
- Rent or mortgage payments, utilities, facilities maintenance and improvements, or insurance
- Personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitization supplies and services
- Training and professional development related to health and safety practices
- Purchases of or updates to equipment and supplies to respond to COVID-19
- Goods and services necessary to maintain or resume child care services
- Mental health supports for children and employees

9. Can these funds be used to restructure our child care environment in response to COVID-19?

Answer: ARPA Stabilization funds may be used for facility maintenance or improvements. Facility maintenance and improvements are defined to include minor renovations that do not meet the definition of major renovation at 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 98.2. Funds may not be used for construction or major renovations. Allowable facility maintenance and improvements may include, but are not limited to, building or upgrading playgrounds, renovating bathrooms, installing railing, ramps, or automatic doors to make the facility more accessible, and removing non-load bearing walls to create additional space for social distancing. In addition, maintenance and minor renovations to address COVID-19 concerns are appropriate.

10. Is there a timeframe for Alternative Payment Programs to distribute the stipends?

Answer: Where applicable, contractors must make every effort to distribute stipend payments to child care providers no more than thirty (30) calendar days after the check is received by the contractor. Contractors that are unable to issue stipends to providers within this timeframe must notify their assigned Program Quality Implementation Regional Consultant to provide a reason for the delay.

11. Do child care providers have to spend licensed and stipend funding by June 30, 2022?

Answer: No, providers do not have a deadline by which to expend the stipends.

## Reporting Requirements

12. Do Alternative Payment Programs have to track expenditures for stipends for audit purposes?

Answer: No, APPs do not have to track expenditures for stipends for audit purposes.

## Technical Assistance

13. If a child care provider or Alternative Payment Program (APP) receives a stipend for the wrong number of children, what are the next steps?

Answer: Please contact the APP if they distributed the stipend. If additional assistance is needed, please contact us at [ccpb@dss.ca.gov](mailto:ccpb@dss.ca.gov). All stipends are based on report months as listed below:

- The SB 820 stipend was based on July 2020 data regarding the number of children and regional market rate.
- The AB 82 \$525 stipend was based on November 2020 enrollment data.
- The AB 131 \$600 stipend was based on March 2021 enrollment data.

## Stipends for Licensed Child Care Providers

14. When a child care and development program, who has contracts with both a General Child Care Development Program (CCTR) and a California State Preschool Program (CSPP), relocates and obtains a new CDSS license number, do they still qualify for subsidized and licensed stipends?

Answer: Yes. This child care and development program would qualify for subsidized stipends if they cared for children receiving subsidies in March 2021.

15. Does indicating on the ARPA Survey that a provider will receive a license incentive count as an official application for the incentive?

Answer: No. The ARPA survey is separate from the eligibility process to receive the family child care home license incentive. Providers would complete their ARPA survey after receiving the license incentive. Additional information will be provided to family child care providers who have their email on file with their local licensing regional office.

16. Does a child care provider need to be licensed for 12 months in order to qualify for the licensed provider incentive?

Answer: Yes. Twelve months of active licensure are required for Family Child Care Home providers to receive the license incentive.

17. When does the 12-month period begin to qualify for the \$500 incentive? If the provider was licensed before COVID, do they qualify?

Answer: Previously unlicensed individuals who obtain a family child care home license **on or after June 28, 2021**, and maintain an active license for 12 consecutive months are eligible for a \$500 incentive payment. These incentive payments shall be provided to the extent that appropriated funds are available or until June 30, 2023, whichever comes first.