

Small Business Owners and Federal Business Relief Resources

Early childhood programs are a critical part of Illinois' early care and education infrastructure. Early childhood programs are also small businesses and should be maximizing the federal relief funds passed by Congress in December 2020.

Below is a list of resources to better understand what is available to help your business weather the financial storm created by the pandemic.

Helpful Reminders to Keep in Mind

- Be sure to tell your accountant about any state/federal stipends/grants or business relief (PPP) you received in 2020 resulting from the pandemic.
- If your business experienced increased expenses related to the pandemic, be sure to ask your tax accountant about the tax credits you could qualify for in your 2020 tax filing.
- If you had to close your business due to COVID-19, there may be tax credits you can access to offset some of those costs (salary, cleaning, etc.).
- If you provided paid sick or family leave to your staff due to COVID-19, including to quarantine or care for their children during school closures, there may be tax credits you can access to offset those costs.
- If you accessed unemployment insurance during the pandemic, visit the Illinois Department of Employment Security to find up-to-date information: <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/default.aspx>
- The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is also a great resource for small business supports during the pandemic. You can find information by visiting their website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/default.aspx>



1. Small Business Association: <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>
2. Health and Human Services Early Childhood Training and Technical Assistance System: <https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/early-care-and-education-providers-taking-advantage-new-small-business-administration-loan-and-grant>
3. Forefront: Resources on PPP are available for non-members on their website: [Paycheck Protection Program Toolbox](#)
4. Mainstreet Alliance - A small business resource: <https://www.mainstreetalliance.org/>. They also hosted a webinar. You can access the [recording here](#).
5. Tom Copeland - A national consultant and expert for family child care provider business practices: <http://tomcopelandblog.com> (focused on FCC)
6. Child Care Associates - An early childhood provider in north Texas. They provided a webinar on Jan. 19, 2021, but the information is relevant to all providers, regardless of location: <https://childcareassociates.org/child-care-learning-hub/>
7. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) hosted a webinar last week on resources to support child care providers during COVID-19: [Navigating Relief: An Overview of Help that May Be Available for Child Care Programs and Providers](#)
8. Civitas Strategies developed an incredible tool to support providers understanding and accessing business supports. The Child Care Navigator can be found here: <https://www.civstrat.com/stimulus-navigator>
9. Child Care Aware of America has collected great resources on their website for providers and Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs):
 - https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/Cash_Options_for_Providers_During_Coronavirus_Pandemic-COVID_Resource.pdf
 - [https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/Paycheck_Protection_Program_\(PPP\)_Changes.pdf](https://info.childcareaware.org/hubfs/Paycheck_Protection_Program_(PPP)_Changes.pdf)