



Child Safety and Permanency (CSP) COVID-19 Targeted Strategies for Child Welfare
The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136)

Overview: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136)

- Signed into law on Mar. 27, 2020.
- Provides Title IV-B agencies (states and tribes) with \$45 million for child welfare services under Title IV-B, subpart 1. The non-federal match requirement does not apply.
- On April 23, 2020, the Department of Human Services (department) as the state's Title IV-B agency was awarded \$720,287 in supplemental Title IV-B, subpart 1 funds.
- Funds must be used for costs incurred between Jan. 20, 2020 and Dec. 30, 2021. Funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2021.
- Funds will be spent in accordance with 45 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) §75.320, §75.326, §75.505 and §75.453. The department will provide written guidance to counties and tribes on the conditions for the use, management and disposal of equipment purchased under this federal grant. The department will follow the state's procurement policies and procedures per the requirements of this grant. No more than 10% of the combined total federal funds received under this award will be used for administrative costs.
- The department must submit a brief narrative describing the agency's planned use of the CARES Act funds to the Children's Bureau Regional V Office by July 10, 2020.
- The proposed plan for use of the funds are appropriate and congruent with the intent of the federal allocation (ACYF-CB-PI-20-11).

Minnesota's COVID-19 Targeted CARES Act Strategies for Child Welfare

1. CARE Act funds to support [Family Assessment Response \(FAR\)](#) COVID-19 modified response

\$400,000 in discretionary CARES Act funding for child welfare services to enhance FAR resources/services to prevention/treatment of COVID-19.

Funding may be used to provide supports to address the needs of all families being served by child protection services, regardless of initial response track and/or case status. Funds will NOT be limited to Family Assessment Response, when a family's circumstances/needs are directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

FAR supports to address needs related to COVID-19 may include:

- Housing/rent assistance/utilities
- Child care needs
- Food, formula, etc.
- Personal/family health & household items needed to prepare for, provide cares, and respond to COVID-19 "stay at home", "stay safe" "social distancing", and/or "quarantine" requirements and other activities to slow the spread of Coronavirus, to include:
 - PPE, e.g. eye protection, gloves, facemasks/cloth face coverings, shoes, Cleaning/disinfectant supplies, soap, hand sanitizer, personal hygiene products
 - Paper products including tissues, paper towels & toilet paper
 - Fever relief, cold & flu medication
 - Thermometers

- Medical expenses related to prevention & treatment of COVID-19 related health conditions
- Transportation
- Other items necessary for the prevention & treatment of COVID-19, including gift cards

Creating payments to COVID-19 related prevention/response efforts include:

- Indicate the COVID-19 related expenditure(s) for FAR by using BRASS code 164x; use Sub-service code “87-COVID, Related” for payments

Additional FAR Guidance:

- County/Tribal Child Welfare Agencies are encouraged to set spending caps on direct funding available per family at \$1,000.00 or higher.
 - Families who’ve already received FAR funding should not be precluded from access to these funds again for needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - County and tribal agencies continue to submit FAR expenditures on a quarterly bases through SEAGR, or via DHS-2895 for tribal entities.
 - The department’s Financial Operations Division will continue to send payments to county/tribal agencies quarterly (up to an agency’s yearly Far allocation maximum), based on expenditures reported or submitted in SEAGGR under BRASS code 164, or via DHS—2895 for tribal agencies
 - For accurate tracking, agencies are encouraged to enter all appropriate FAR expenditures, regardless if an agency’s annual FAR allocation is fully spent prior to year-end.
2. **\$200,000** in technology, e.g. laptop, iPad, cell phone, data card, and internet services for county/tribal child welfare staff, children, and families. Technology resources are intended to support the CDC’s recommendation for social distancing to slow the spread of Coronavirus and facilitate staff, child, and family engagement in contacts with the agency, family contact/visitation, telehealth services, MDE distant learning practices, and participation in court proceedings.
 3. **\$75,000** in protective health care equipment for county/tribal child welfare workforce. Supplies may include: eye protection, gloves, facemasks/cloth face coverings, shoes, cleaning/disinfectant supplies, soap, hand sanitizer, personal hygiene products, and thermometers.
 4. **\$45,287** for [Make a Plan Minnesota Initiative](#). See [Make a Plan Minnesota](#). This initiative is designed to support necessary emergency planning needs for the care and supervision of children should their parent/caregiver not be able to care for them due to illness or hospitalization. Generally, the period of time needing care for their children will be at least 14 days. The funds would provide a one-time \$500 payment to the substitute providers who are providing care and supervision to a child who is directly and/or indirectly impacted by COVID-19.

TOTAL: \$720,287