



SCAN ME



Emergency Childcare Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Can non-Mansfield residents apply for assistance through this program?

A: No.

Q: Do residents need to live in Mansfield for at least 6 months out of every year to qualify?

A: No. Applicants will need to document residency, but there is no requirement that they live here for a minimum number of months each year.

Q: Can a family that meets the income limits but has not experienced any financial impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic receive assistance through this program?

A: No. The funding for this program is provided from grant money provided by Congress through the CARES Act to help deal with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants must demonstrate that they have been financially impacted by the pandemic to participate. Examples of financial impact include but are not limited to:

- Reduction in income due to layoff/furlough, reduction in hours, pay cut, etc.
- Reduction in income due to lack of childcare options and associated inability to work
- Reduction in income due to contraction of or exposure to the COVID-19 virus
- Increase in costs/expenses, such as food or childcare. For example, an increase in childcare costs due to the closure of schools; need to use private summer camps/childcare providers due to cancellation of Town summer day camp and before/after school childcare, etc.
- Increase in costs/expenses due to contraction of or exposure to COVID-19 virus

Program Income Limits (As of February 2021)

| Household Size | Maximum Income |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1 Person | \$54,950 |
| 2 People | \$62,800 |
| 3 People | \$70,650 |
| 4 People | \$78,500 |
| 5 People | \$84,800 |
| 6 People | \$91,100 |
| 7 People | \$97,350 |
| 8 People | \$103,650 |

For more information, visit www.mansfieldct.gov/2089/COVID-Assistance

Email: HelpingHand@MansfieldCT.org • Telephone: 860.429.3330

Funding for this program provided through a Small Cities Grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Housing as part of the HUD Community Development Block Grant Program.

Q: Can non-U.S. citizens receive assistance through this program?

A: Yes.

Q: Can a family that is receiving reduced childcare/tuition costs from the school readiness program or child day care grant receive assistance from this program?

A: Maybe. It will depend on the amount of assistance they are receiving. If families are paying more than 7% of their income even with that assistance, they may be eligible for assistance through this program.

Q: Can this program be used to pay past-due balances for childcare costs?

A: Yes, provided the family pays their share of those expenses. Any past due expenses will be counted toward the maximum six months of assistance with childcare costs.

Q: Can this program be used to pay for costs associated with before/after school care provided by Mansfield Public Schools?

A: We will need to confer with the Connecticut Department of Housing to determine whether participants can use this program to pay for Town childcare fees.

Q: How can I find out if a childcare provider is licensed?

A: Childcare provider license status is available at <https://search.211childcare.org/>.

Q: What are the income limits for households with more than 8 people.

A: HUD only publishes income limits for households up to 8 people in size; however, the income calculator used to review applications goes up to a maximum of 12 people per household. Applicants with households larger than 8 people will need to apply to determine whether they are income eligible.

Q: Is translation/interpretation assistance available for non-English speakers or those for whom English is a second language?

A: We will be providing interpretation and translation for three primary languages: Spanish, Mandarin and Arabic.* If a resident needs assistance with another language, we will check with our interpretation/translation service to see if they offer that language.

*Note: we are hoping to have a translation/interpretation provider in place by the end of February.

Q: If someone received financial assistance for COVID-19 impacts that was for something other than childcare or had no limits on how it could be used, why does that have to be included on the application?

A: Federal regulations prohibit duplicating benefits received through any other program. Per our grant agreement with the State Department of Housing, the Town is required to review all assistance received or anticipated to be received by an applicant and determine the amount of assistance that can be provided. As part of that review, staff will only deduct assistance that is found to duplicate the benefits being provided through this program.

Q: Do stimulus payments count as a duplication of benefits?

A: No. Because federal stimulus payments are a general benefit provided with no limitations on use, they are not considered to be a duplication of benefits. The payments should be included in the application under assistance received from the federal government; however, they will not be considered a duplication of assistance.