Critical Operations Stipends Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What are Critical Operations Stipends?

Critical Operations Stipends provide funding support to eligible licensed child care providers experiencing urgent operational challenges related to emergency, disaster, health, or safety needs. The goal is to help providers remain open, operate safely, and continue serving children and families.

Who can apply?

Licensed or regulated child care providers may be eligible to apply.

For outreach and marketing purposes, this opportunity is intended for providers located outside the following counties:

- Johnson
- Sedgwick
- Shawnee
- Wyandotte
- Douglas
- Leavenworth
- Riley
- Butler
- Reno
- Saline

If you are unsure whether you are eligible, please contact us for assistance.

What types of needs may be supported?

Funding may be available for urgent operational needs, including:

Emergency and Disaster Needs

- Damage repairs
- Disaster recovery costs
- Equipment replacement
- Costs associated with operational disruptions
- Other urgent emergency-related expenses

Health and Safety Needs

- Health and safety improvements
- Compliance-related upgrades
- Emergency health-related needs
- Critical facility maintenance
- Other actions needed to maintain safe operations

How much funding can be requested?

Funding amounts vary depending on the nature of the need, documented expenses, available funding, and overall program priorities.

Applicants should request the amount necessary to address the identified need and provide supporting documentation whenever possible.

What documentation is required?

Applicants should submit available documentation supporting their request, such as:

- Estimates
- Invoices
- Receipts
- Quotes
- Other documentation demonstrating the need and expected costs

Additional documentation may be requested during the review process.

What information should I include in my request?

Applicants should be prepared to provide:

- A description of the emergency, disaster, health, or safety issue
- Information about how the issue affects program operations
- Documentation of costs or anticipated expenses
- Information demonstrating financial need
- An explanation of how funding will help the program continue operating safely

How are applications reviewed?

Applications are reviewed to evaluate factors such as:

- Urgency of the need
- Impact on program operations
- Number of children and families affected
- Financial need

- Completeness of documentation

Funding decisions are based on documented need, available program funds, and overall program priorities.

Can I apply for emergency situations that need immediate attention?

Yes. Providers experiencing urgent emergency situations are encouraged to contact the program as soon as a need is identified. Timely communication helps staff determine what information is needed and how best to support the request.

What expenses are not eligible?

Funding is intended to address urgent emergency, disaster, health, and safety needs. Requests that are unrelated to these purposes or do not demonstrate a clear operational need may not be eligible.

If I receive funding, what will I need to do afterward?

Recipients will be asked to provide:

- Documentation showing how funds were used
- Proof of expenditures when applicable
- A brief description of the impact of the funding on their program

When should I apply?

Providers should reach out as soon as an eligible need is identified. Early communication helps ensure requests can be reviewed in a timely manner.

Current outreach requests providers to make contact by **October 1, 2026**.

How do I get started?

To learn more, determine eligibility, or begin the application process, contact:

goteam@ks.childcareaware.org

Please include a brief description of your need and any available documentation when reaching out.