

HB 89 - Support - Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program –
Established
Ways and Means and Appropriations Committee
February 3, 2022

The COVID-19 public health emergency has highlighted the critical role child care plays in supporting Maryland’s children, families, businesses, and the state economy as a whole. Immediate financial relief for centers at risk of closure is a valuable strategy to bolster a robust and stable child care system. Even prior to COVID-19 child care providers experienced challenges meeting their operational costs each month.

As the pandemic has continued to impact Marylanders, a significant number of family child care and center-based providers have continued to struggle to stay open. Providers will continue to need support in an under-resourced and challenging system.

While Federal relief packages have been helpful, they are temporary, and will not be a long-term solution to addressing the devastating effect of the pandemic on our child care system. MSDE believes that providing continued support to licensed child care providers that find themselves in danger of closing due to financial hardship is critical to the maintenance of child care infrastructure in the State. MSDE also is supportive of establishing a program that would aid new and existing child care programs with the costs of expanding their capacity.

We respectfully request that you consider this information as you deliberate **House Bill 89**. Please contact Ary Amerikaner, at 410-767-0090, or ary.amerikaner@maryland.gov, for any additional information.