



DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY  
& SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Office of Early Childhood**

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## **American Rescue Plan Act Quality Improvement Grant**

### **What is a Quality Improvement Grant?**

DCCECE believes every child deserves a high-quality early childhood education. The Quality Improvement Grant is to assist providers in improving the level of quality at their facility. All licensed child care centers, child care family homes, and out-of-school time facilities that were open on or prior to March 11, 2021, qualify to receive funding. A quality grant can be used for whatever is necessary to improve the quality of care provided.

Better Beginnings is the Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS) in Arkansas. While a provider does not have to participate in Better Beginnings to receive the grant, they are required to participate if they accept CCDF Vouchers. All CCDF participants must be Better Beginnings Level 2 before July 1, 2022.

### **Below is a list of the allowable budget categories with examples:**

- New Staff Sign-on Bonuses
- Substitutes
- Minor Renovations
  - Painting
  - Upgrading plumbing
  - Minor electrical work
  - Laying new flooring
  - Cannot be used to move or renovate a load bearing wall
- Furniture and Equipment
  - Age-appropriate tables, chairs, cribs, and changing tables
- Curriculum Resources and Supplies
  - Items to help increase ERS, PAS, BAS, etc.
  - Learning centers
  - Children's consumables and materials
  - Active outdoor play classrooms
- Parent Involvement
  - Supplies for parent activities and events
  - Overtime for staff to attend parent engagement events
- Professional Development
  - Training and conference fees, travel, and related expenses

- Screenings/Assessment
  - Screening tool, training on the tool, and/or costs involved with hiring someone to conduct screenings
- Technology
  - Computers, tablets, scanners, copiers, software
- Health and Safety Items
  - Personal protective equipment
  - Cleaning and sanitation supplies and services
  - Air filtration system
  - UV light or other medical grade air purifiers
  - ServSafe certification or CPR training
- New or Updated Security Systems
- Mental Health Services for Children or Families
- Other

**We strongly encourage you to** consult with Child Care Licensing prior to purchasing furniture or play equipment, installing any equipment, or making building or playground modifications.