

THE 0-5 Emergency Fund at VCTF

 ***Supported by the******Permanent Fund for Vermont’s Children and the Turrell Fund.***

**0-5 EMERGENCY FUNDS GRANT GUIDELINES**

**What We Fund through 0-5 Emergency Fund**

Grant applications will be accepted from high quality registered and licensed child care programs serving children birth through five in Vermont for relief funds for the following short term needs:

* + Emergency repairs of building or infrastructure if this sudden and unexpected failure interferes with operations (e.g., roof collapse from extreme weather).
	+ Replacement of essential equipment and technology if this sudden and unexpected failure interferes with operations (e.g., a stove or refrigerator that is used to prepare meals for children in the program).
	+ Provision of services or acquisition of resource that could not have been anticipated or budgeted without which the program would be compromised (e.g., hiring a temporary replacement for someone on emergency medical leave).

**What We Don't Fund**

The 0-5 Emergency Fund will only fund projects that are unbudgeted, unforeseen, and time-sensitive. We do not make grants for:

* deferred building maintenance
* deferred technology upgrades
* strategic planning or organizational development needs
* capital campaigns
* debts
* compliance with new regulations (e.g. fencing, mulch, cushioning stone)

	+ We completely recognize and understand the pressures that programs across the state are experiencing as they work toward complying with the new regulations.

	Unfortunately, this fund was not created to address new costs associated with regulation compliance. Vermont Birth to Five and Let's Grow Kids are committed to supporting providers through this transition and are:
		- Working closely with the Child Development Division to better understand whether any new resources will be available to support regulatory compliance
		- Identify a process to work with providers to better understand the costs of compliance with the new regulations in order to figure out how to best advocate for more support

We also cannot consider applications for budget deficits or funding shortfalls; this grant round is designed to help child care businesses with **unbudgeted** expenses, not to fill in for unmet revenue projections. We typically do not fund work that has already been completed.

**Who May Apply**

Grant applications will be accepted from high quality registered and licensed child care programs serving children birth through five in Vermont.  Programs should have a STARS rating of 3-5.

**How We Evaluate Your Application**

* Grant would preserve or enhance the ability of the organization to meet its mission.
* Time sensitivity of the project or program; grant would meet an immediate revenue need.
* Financial information requested is complete and helpful to the committee in understanding your organization's financial situation, budget, and need for this grant. We are specifically evaluating the financial sustainability of the project or program and financial stability of the organization.
* Project is not part of the annual work plan or budget or, in the case of structural emergencies, the problem could not have been averted with planned improvements over time.
* Organization has not applied in the last two years.

**Application Process**

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis as need arises and a plan for addressing the problem is identified.

Decisions will be made within 10 working days of receiving the application.

**Grant Size: Up to $6,000**

Application is available at [www.vtchildrenstrust.org](http://www.vtchildrenstrust.org). Please fill out and submit the online application.