



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release  
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For more information contact:  
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### **ORANGE COUNTY OFFERS CHILD CARE EXPENSE RELIEF GRANT**

Orange County, VA – Supported by CARES Act funding, the Orange County Office on Youth is pleased to announce a grant opportunity for parents or guardians of children who have seen an increase in childcare expenses due to COVID-19.

The program will primarily assist parents or guardians of school-age children (grades Kindergarten through age twelve) due to school closings and modified school schedules. Parents or guardians of non-school-age children who have experienced an increase in childcare costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic may be considered under this program on a case by case basis. Qualifying childcare increases are defined as the difference between expenses prior to COVID-19 and current COVID-19 impacted expenses. Funds will be designated for expenses incurred between August 24, 2020 and December 31, 2020; or until all designated funds are expended.

All childcare providers within the borders of Orange County are eligible for this relief program, regardless of whether or not they are licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services. Application packages will be mailed to all licensed providers within the borders of Orange County and will include an instruction sheet. All other interested parties should the Orange County Office on Youth at (540) 672-5484 to request an application.

The program will disburse funds directly to the successful applicant's childcare provider on a monthly basis. The parent or guardian and the childcare provider are required to complete and return an application to the Orange County Office on Youth each month they wish to be considered for funding. Successful grantees should submit funding request submissions to the Office on Youth by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month (or next business day if the 20<sup>th</sup> falls on a weekend). Late or incomplete requests or funding submissions will *not* be considered. Additional information is available on the application available at <http://orangecountyva.gov/880/COVID-19-Child-Care-Family-Grant>.

For additional information or questions, please contact Office on Youth Director, Alisha Vines, at (540) 672-5484 extension 4 or [avines@orangecountyva.gov](mailto:avines@orangecountyva.gov).

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