

**CDF-MN Policy Recommendations:**  
**COVID-19 Responses to Support Children and Families**  
*Use of Federal CARES Act Funding and Other Policy Recommendations*

**Technology**

CDF-MN Policy Recommendation	Fiscal Impact (Source)	Statutory Change	Time Frame	Identified Need	Ages Served
<b>Create a new flexible emergency technology support fund aimed at low-income families</b>	\$25-50 million (GEERS fund/ESSER/CCDBG); State Guidance on \$126 million Elementary and Secondary Education Formula Funding	Governor's request under CARES Act Education Stabilization provisions; executive action	Short-term (next three months) Medium-term (to the end of 2020) Longer-term (up to two years)	Fill gaps in technology access for families with children (PN-18); increase equity in a range of supports from distance learning to mental health delivery to home visiting	All (PN-18)

**Basic Needs**

CDF-MN Policy Recommendation	Fiscal Impact (Source)	Statutory Change	Time Frame	Identified Need	Ages Served
<b>Provide emergency \$500 micro-grants to MFIP families with children to support learning and service access</b>	\$13 million (TANF reserves)	Statutory language and appropriation	Short-term	Cover increased costs for basic needs	All
<b>Minimize negative impacts on and continuity of safety net access for families receiving PUI (\$600 top up)</b>	Covered under current assumptions related to safety net access; programming changes	For currently enrolled families, do not count new federal UI top-up payments as unearned income; allow families to remain on programs	Short-term Medium-term	Support economic stability for children as federal supports decline	All

## Early Care and K-12 Education

CDF-MN Policy Recommendation	Fiscal Impact (Source)	Statutory Change	Time Frame	Identified Need	Ages Served
<b>Increase CCAP provider rates (25% of 2018) for two years</b>	\$65 million in currently set aside federal CCDBG funds	Modified Housley/Pinto bill (2018 survey)	Short-term to Long term	Increase access to early care and education for low income families;	Birth to 13
<b>Provide additional Basic Sliding Fee access for targeted gaps and emerging needs</b>	Up to \$20 million in CARES CCDBG funds	New language needed	Short-term Medium-term	Increase access; Public health support	Birth to 13
<b>Expand and modify Early Learning Scholarships program to include infants to 3, unrated programs and shorter financial commitments</b>	Up to \$10 million in Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) grant program	Federal proposal and Executive action	Short-term Medium-term	Increase access to early care and education for low income families;	Birth to 5
<b>Increase funding for the Emergency Child Care Grant program</b>	Up to \$20 million in CCDBG; current CCDBG Quality funds	Appropriation; extension of uses or timeline	Short-term Medium-term	Public health support; child care access	Birth to 5
<b>Provide support to Family, Friend and Neighbor caregivers</b>	Re-direct up to \$1 million of public health COVID funding to support the safe provision of care and PPE/supply access	EO authority	Short-term Medium-term	Public health support; child care access	Birth to 13
<b>Develop an Educational Recovery and Youth Enrichment Grant Program</b>	Up to \$10 million in Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) and/or Elementary Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Grants funds	Federal proposal and Executive action	Short-term Medium-term	Keep children from low-income households from falling behind academically	K-12
<b>Strengthen mental health services, social-emotional learning and ability of educators to address racism</b>	Up to \$5 million in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grants; guidance on pass-through to school districts	State guidance and new program language	Short-term Medium-term	Keep children from low-income households from falling behind socially, academically	K-12

