



Virginia's ARPA Child Care Stabilization Grant Program

## Developing Your Spending Strategy

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# Having a spending strategy is key to using your stabilization grant funds effectively and properly.

While the investment provides an opportunity to sustain and strengthen your business, it also needs to be spent in compliance with the funding requirements.

It's best to perform a brief needs assessment for your program, asking the following key questions:

## ■ Investment Area 1: Financial Resiliency

### What past expenses do I have documentation for that also fall into the allowable spending categories for the grant?

Once you've determined these, enter them into your cost worksheets provided in the grant spending guide to help you stay organized.

### What expenses have I put off because I could not afford to pay them?

**What are the main threats to my businesses' sustainability and how can I use these funds to mitigate them?**

BUSINESS THREATS	WAYS TO ADDRESS THROUGH GRANT FUNDS
Example: Staff turnover	Increasing pay, providing more benefits

**Am I prepared to respond to financial emergencies?  
Does my budget allow me to contribute to an emergency savings fund?**

Please be on the lookout for a budgeting template coming soon and the ability to work one-on-one with a business coach who can help with budget management and savings tips.

**Investment Area 2: Staffing**

**Staffing is the engine that keeps the program running.  
How can I reward my staff so that my business can continue to operate?**

How can I provide ways help staff continue their education or receive training?

**Investment Area 3: Enrollment**

Am I having difficulty maintaining or boosting enrollment at my program?  
How can I use these funds to support marketing efforts?

**Investment Area 4: Facility Improvements, Technology, or Equipment**

Do I need to make minor improvements to my Home or Center?  
How can I use grant funds to make those improvements?

AREA	IMPROVEMENT NEEDED

**How can I use grant funds to make minor improvements to my playground or outdoor area?**

**Am I prepared to carry out an emergency disaster plan?**

**How can I use grant funds to make purchases to support my emergency disaster plan?**

If you are on a corrective action plan with the Office of Child Care Health and Safety, think about whether you can incorporate additional resources to help you come into compliance on key health and safety standards.

**Are there pieces of equipment or technology that would improve my program operations?**

EQUIPMENT OR TECHNOLOGY NEEDED	HOW DOES THIS IMPROVE PROGRAM OPERATIONS?

Once you've answered these questions, you may have a good idea of how you wish to invest your grant funds.