



Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs Slots F.A.Q.

Q: What are the Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Slots Pilot Program?

A: The CYSHCN Slots Pilot Program is a collaboration between the State of Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) Child Care and Development Program (CCDP), State of Nevada Child Care Licensing, Silver State Starts Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS), The Children’s Cabinet, Las Vegas Urban League Early Childhood Connection, and State of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program. The purpose of this Pilot Program is to increase the number of available slots statewide for CYSHCN, give child care providers and families referrals to multiple agencies as identified to help support this vulnerable population, and provide subsidy reimbursement at an enhanced rate.

Additional information can be found in the Notice of Application and supporting documents. The completed application should be emailed the CCDP at ccdp@dwss.nv.gov titled, “CYSHCN Slot Application” on the subject line. All interested providers must be registered with The Children’s Cabinet or the Las Vegas Urban League to accept subsidy-eligible children.

Q: How many slots can I apply for?

A: Awarded slots can be issued from a minimum of one (1) to a maximum allowed by regulations, facility type, and other various pilot program factors. It is important to note that a provider is not guaranteed to be awarded as many slots as they apply for.

Q: How can I apply?

A: Child care providers who are interested in participating in the CYSHCN Slot Pilot Program must complete a CYSHCN Application and attend an Informational Webinar. The Notice of Application and supporting documents can all be found on the Nevada Child Care website.

Q: Who can apply for the CYSHCN Slots Pilot Program?

A: The following provider types can apply for the CYSHCN Slots Pilot Program:

1. Child Care Center/Business
2. Family Child Care (FCC)
3. Group Family Child Care (GFCC)
4. Family, Friend, or Neighbor (FFN)
5. Head Start/Early Head Start

For assistance in determining your provider type, please contact your local Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agency (The Children’s Cabinet or The Las Vegas Urban League).

Q: Who is eligible to fill the CYSHCN slot(s) I am awarded?

A: Any subsidy-eligible child or youth who meets the CYSHCN requirement can occupy the slot. This includes children or youth currently enrolled, newly enrolled, and/or waitlisted with your center, school, or program.

Q: What are the allowable ages for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs?

A: Children who are a part of the Child Care Subsidy Program may be served up until the age of nineteen (19) years old if they have a special health care need (depending on their diagnosed medical condition(s)) and the need for child care services.

Q: When I have a child or youth occupy the slot, what do I need to do?

A: Once awarded slot(s), please contact your CCR&R Agency within three (3) business days of that child or youth occupying the slot. Failure to do so may result in that child or youth being paid at an incorrect rate and the provider may have to forfeit the month at the enhanced subsidy rate. Also, the provider must write on the timesheet next to the name of the child or youth occupying the slot, “CYSHCN Slot” to indicate that they are occupying the slot to ensure correct payment.

Q: What if an awarded slot becomes vacant?

A: Child care providers must report any CYSHCN vacancies to their respective CCR&R Agency within three (3) business days. Failure to do so may result in an overpayment that may need to be recouped.

Q: Am I paid when a slot is vacant?

A: No, providers will not be reimbursed for vacant CYSHCN slots.

Q: Is this money taxable?

A: Yes, all monies awarded through the CYSHCN Slots Pilot Program, and the Quality Improvement Grant are taxable. As a reminder, please always talk to your tax advisor for specific questions.

Q: How long will this program be available?

A: This pilot program is funded by COVID Relief Funding. Funding is available through September 30, 2024.

Q: What is the reimbursement amount?

A: All reimbursements divided into three tiers, dependent on the child or youth's Level of Care identified in the completed Level of Care Screener:

- Tier I: \$2,500/month
- Tier II: \$3,500/month
- Tier III: \$4,500/month

This pilot program requires that for each child or youth occupying the CYSHCN Slot, a Level of Care Screener will need to be completed by the child or youth's parent/guardian within three (3) days of starting in the slot which is then emailed to your local CCR&R Agency's assigned Case Manager.

Q: Am I expected to reinvest this money?

A: YES! Twenty (20) percent of the monthly amount of prorated slot reimbursement is to be given as a monthly bonus to the teacher(s) working with special health care needs child/youth in the following amounts:

- Tier I: \$500
- Tier II: \$700
- Tier III: \$900

If there are multiple teachers working with the child or youth, the bonus is to be split equally between them. Please see definition below defining who would qualify for that monthly bonus:

- Teacher is defined as a child care staff member who consistently engages with a child or youth possessing special health care needs. This individual is engaged in a minimum of fifty (50) percent of the child or youth's daily schedule in the care program to foster their well-being and development. This involves actively participating in the child or youth's personal care routines, interactions, educational activities, and any accommodations essential to cater to their developmental needs. This role entails a regular and committed involvement with the child or youth to ensure their holistic care and successful integration into the child care environment.

Please note that to ensure compliance with this criteria, the CCR&R's will each request randomly a few participating providers their teacher's timesheets to ensure that they are receiving the monthly bonus. Participation in this request is required and should the child care provider fail to comply and provide the requested information within ten (10) business days, it could place them in jeopardy of the slot(s) being revoked. If a teacher is not seeing the monthly bonus that works with the child or youth (based on above definition), please email their case manager at their CCR&R Agency or the CCDP.

Q: What is the Level of Care Screener?

A: The Level of Care Screener is a document that is designed for informational purposes to detail the intensity of care that is needed for the individual child or youth and is not to be used to document their medical condition(s) or how to properly care for them. The form must be completed by the child/youth's parent/guardian and submitted by the child care provider to your local CCR&R Agency's designated Case Manager within three (3) business days of the child occupying one of these slots. Once completed, the eligibility is valid for twelve (12) months from the date of approval. Should the level of care (tier) increase (e.g., from a Tier I to a Tier II), any payment adjustments to the child care provider will be reflected in the next month's payment to the child care provider.

It must be signed by the parent/guardian and the child care provider. Once all sections are completed (except for the box marked For Internal Use Only), the child care provider is to email the completed screener to the CCDP titled, "Completed Level of Care Screener." Any delay in providing this document will delay the month effective of the enhanced rate. Once received, the For Internal Use Only section will be filled out and a completed version will be emailed back to the child care provider for their records.

The last page of the Level of Care Screener has a Bonus Acknowledgement that identifies the teacher(s) who will be working with the CYSHCN. If there is a change in teachers that are getting the bonus, the child care provider must recomplete the Bonus Acknowledgement page of the screener and email within three (3) days of the staffing change.

Q: How do I know if a child or youth qualifies to be in one of these slots?

A: The child or youth has a medical diagnosis identifying a special health care need. The child or youth regularly sees a specialist/medical professional (e.g., developmental specialist, specialist physician, therapist, physician's assistant, etc.) regularly for a chronic or acute medical condition.

Q: In the Level of Care Screener, it states that if there is a significant change in the child or youth's needs that the reimbursement rate can be potentially re-evaluated. What does that mean?

A: This means that should the parent/guardian, specialist/medical professional, or the child care provider see a significant change in the child or youth, they may re-complete the Level of Care Screener and submit the updated version to the CCDP. For example, should the child or youth go from eating on their own to requiring a G-Tube or going from being mobile to being wheelchair-bound (to name a few), please complete the Level of Care Screener as soon as possible.

Q: What is the addendum that needs to be signed?

A: The addendum outlines the terms and conditions of either the awarded slots or grant. If awarded one or more slots or any Quality Improvement Grant monies, an addendum to the Provider Service Agreement will need to be signed. They will be sent out via email with an award letter notifying the child care provider of their eligibility status in the slots pilot program or with the grant. Both signed addendums are to be emailed back to your CCR&R Agency within ten (10) business days.

Q: What if I have a question not covered in this FAQ?

A: Please send all questions to the CCDP at ccdp@dwss.nv.gov titled, "CYSHCN Slot Question" to ensure that it does not get missed and that it gets to the correct person. Someone will either email or call you within three (3) business days. We'd love to hear from you.

We appreciate your willingness to participate in this pilot program and care for Nevada's Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. Thank you!