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## **Application Portal Open: Additional Funding for Child Care Providers**

January 08, 2025, ANCHORAGE — The Alaska Division of Public Assistance's Child Care Program Office (CCPO) launched the application portal for licensed child care providers to apply for \$7.5 million in funding on December 27<sup>th</sup>. The application process closes on January 17th. This investment supports licensed home and center-based programs across Alaska to address their needs and strengthen child care systems statewide. Since the launch of the application portal, about half of all licensed child care providers have applied. "We want to ensure all child care providers are aware of this opportunity and submit their application before it closes on January 17<sup>th</sup>," said Heidi Hedberg, Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Health.

To be eligible, child care providers must hold a valid license issued by either the CCPO or the Municipality of Anchorage Child Care Licensing Office. Funding will be allocated based on the number of licensed providers who apply and the number of children in their care.

"High-quality child care lays the foundation for children's success and helps working parents remain in the workforce," said Commissioner Hedberg. "This funding provides support to providers, which is very timely as they navigate rising costs and demand. It also complements the ongoing work of our agencies and partners to build a sustainable child care system that prioritizes both accessibility and quality, particularly in rural and underserved communities."

Applications for this funding opportunity are currently being accepted, with a submission deadline of January 17, 2025. Providers are encouraged to submit applications as soon as possible. Detailed instructions and additional information are available on the <a href="Child Care Program Office website">Child Care Program Office website</a>.

The allocation of this funding aligns with Alaska's broader efforts to improve the child care sector, ensuring children and families have the resources they need to thrive, and that providers continue to deliver safe, nurturing environments for Alaska's future generation.

For more details, please visit the <u>Child Care Program Office website</u> or contact the Eligibility and Benefits Team at <u>dpaccp@alaska.gov</u>.