



Financial Support

Early Childhood Virtual Resource Fair

Name of Resource Program and/or Group:

Back to Business Mississippi Grant Program
(Mississippi Development Authority)



Contact Information:

Person: Jamie M. Miller

Phone: 601-359-2378

E-Mail: jmiller@mississippi.org

Services Provided to Early Childhood

On May 20, 2020, Gov. Tate Reeves signed SB2772 into law, establishing the Back to Business Mississippi Grant Program. This program was funded by the federal government through the CARES Act, and the Mississippi Legislature appropriated \$240 million for small businesses.

Businesses must have 50 or fewer employees and be a for-profit corporation, limited liability company, partnership or sole proprietorship. Businesses also must be in good standing with the Secretary of State's Office and filed taxes in 2018 or 2019. If the businesses was formed after January 1, 2020, it must show intent to file taxes for this year.

Those who want to apply can register and fill out an application at backtobusinessms.org. There, you also will find frequently asked questions, a list of eligibility requirements and rules and regulations for the program.

Businesses have three options for payment. One is a base payment of \$3,500. The second is an additional \$500 payment per employee, and the third is reimbursement of expenses, such as purchasing equipment/supplies for employees and/or customers, mortgage interest, rent, payroll and utilities. The maximum amount of the Back to Business grant is \$25,000.

For more information, please visit backtobusinessms.org or contact the call center at 601-228-1774 or 1-800-462-9980.

Is there a cost for your services or program?

Yes No

Website Link: backtobusinessms.org

Other links for your services:

Early Childhood Virtual Resource Fair

Name of Resource Program and/or Group:

Community Foundations COVID-19 Grant Program/
Mississippi Development Authority



Contact Information:

Person: Harrison W. Matheny

Phone: 601.359.2491

E-Mail: hmatheny@mississippi.org

Services Provided to Early Childhood

The program is designed to provide CARES Act funds to the North Mississippi Education Consortium to award reimbursement grants to childcare facilities across Mississippi for certain COVID-19 related purchases.

MDA will send \$3 million to the North Mississippi Education Consortium. They will then split that money evenly among all childcare facilities wishing to participate. The money can only be used for certain eligible expenses.

Eligible expenses include costs to create social distancing measures, costs to clean and disinfect, PPE, COVID-19 testing, COVID-19 screening, as well as other costs that will be defined in our rules and regulations. MDA is finalizing this list.

Once the rules and regulations are complete, we will send them to Dr. Cathy Grace and the North Mississippi Education Consortium. They will serve as your point of contact for this program.

We look forward to working with you and NMEC and thank you for all you do for Mississippi's children.

Is there a cost for your services or program?

Yes No

Website Link:

Other links for your services: mississippi.org

Early Childhood Virtual Resource Fair

Name of Resource Program and/or Group:

MS 30 Day Fund



Contact Information:

Person: Marie Sanderson

Phone:

E-Mail: contact@ms30DayFund.com

Services Provided to Early Childhood

The MS 30 Day Fund's goal is to help Mississippi small businesses that face substantial shortfalls and an uncertain economic future. In particular, we have funds that are seeking women owned and minority recipients in various parts of the state. We see child care facilities as a key component to helping children have a safe environment to thrive as well as an opportunity for parents and guardians to go to work. The Mississippi 30 Day Fund is a complement to the very worthy state and federal programs created to help Mississippians as well. Mississippi businesses that qualify for assistance from the Fund are: (1) Small businesses that employ three to 30 people; (2) Based in Mississippi and have been operating for at least one year; and (3) Owned and operated by a Mississippi resident.

Is there a cost for your services or program?

Yes No

Website Link: ms30DayFund.com

Other links for your services: @MS30DayFund on all social media

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

PAID SICK LEAVE AND EXPANDED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE UNDER THE FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

The **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act)** requires certain employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. These provisions will apply from April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

▶ PAID LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS

Generally, employers covered under the Act must provide employees:

Up to two weeks (80 hours, or a part-time employee's two-week equivalent) of paid sick leave based on the higher of their regular rate of pay, or the applicable state or Federal minimum wage, paid at:

- 100% for qualifying reasons #1-3 below, up to \$511 daily and \$5,110 total;
- $\frac{2}{3}$ for qualifying reasons #4 and 6 below, up to \$200 daily and \$2,000 total; and
- Up to 12 weeks of paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave paid at $\frac{2}{3}$ for qualifying reason #5 below for up to \$200 daily and \$12,000 total.

A part-time employee is eligible for leave for the number of hours that the employee is normally scheduled to work over that period.

▶ ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

In general, employees of private sector employers with fewer than 500 employees, and certain public sector employers, are eligible for up to two weeks of fully or partially paid sick leave for COVID-19 related reasons (see below). *Employees who have been employed for at least 30 days* prior to their leave request may be eligible for up to an additional 10 weeks of partially paid expanded family and medical leave for reason #5 below.

▶ QUALIFYING REASONS FOR LEAVE RELATED TO COVID-19

An employee is entitled to take leave related to COVID-19 if the employee is unable to work, including unable to **telework**, because the employee:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;2. has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19;3. is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis;4. is caring for an individual subject to an order described in (1) or self-quarantine as described in (2); | <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. is caring for his or her child whose school or place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable) due to COVID-19 related reasons; or6. is experiencing any other substantially-similar condition specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. |
|---|---|

▶ ENFORCEMENT

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has the authority to investigate and enforce compliance with the FFCRA. Employers may not discharge, discipline, or otherwise discriminate against any employee who lawfully takes paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave under the FFCRA, files a complaint, or institutes a proceeding under or related to this Act. Employers in violation of the provisions of the FFCRA will be subject to penalties and enforcement by WHD.



WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

For additional information
or to file a complaint:
1-866-487-9243
TTY: 1-877-889-5627
dol.gov/agencies/whd



► Duration of Leave

For reasons (1)-(4) and (6): A full-time employee is eligible for up to 80 hours of leave, and a part-time employee is eligible for the number of hours of leave that the employee works on average over a two-week period.

For reason (5): A full-time employee is eligible for up to 12 weeks of leave at 40 hours a week, and a part-time employee is eligible for leave for the number of hours that the employee is normally scheduled to work over that period.

► Calculation of Pay [5]

For leave reasons (1), (2), or (3): employees taking leave shall be paid at either their regular rate or the applicable minimum wage, whichever is higher, up to \$511 per day and \$5,110 in the aggregate (over a 2-week period).

For leave reasons (4) or (6): employees taking leave shall be paid at $\frac{2}{3}$ their regular rate or $\frac{2}{3}$ the applicable minimum wage, whichever is higher, up to \$200 per day and \$2,000 in the aggregate (over a 2-week period).

For leave reason (5): employees taking leave shall be paid at $\frac{2}{3}$ their regular rate or $\frac{2}{3}$ the applicable minimum wage, whichever is higher, up to \$200 per day and \$12,000 in the aggregate (over a 12-week period—two weeks of paid sick leave followed by up to 10 weeks of paid expanded family and medical leave). [6]

Tax Credits: Covered employers qualify for dollar-for-dollar reimbursement through tax credits for all qualifying wages paid under the FFCRA. Qualifying wages are those paid to an employee who takes leave under the Act for a qualifying reason, up to the appropriate per diem and aggregate payment caps. Applicable tax credits also extend to amounts paid or incurred to maintain health insurance coverage. For more information, please see the Department of the Treasury's website.

Employer Notice: Each covered employer must post in a conspicuous place on its premises a notice of FFCRA requirements. [7]

Prohibitions: Employers may not discharge, discipline, or otherwise discriminate against any employee who takes paid sick leave under the FFCRA and files a complaint or institutes a proceeding under or related to the FFCRA.

Penalties and Enforcement: Employers in violation of the first two weeks' paid sick time or unlawful termination provisions of the FFCRA will be subject to the penalties and enforcement described in Sections 16 and 17 of the Fair Labor Standards Act. 29 U.S.C. 216; 217. Employers in violation of the provisions providing for up to an additional 10 weeks of paid leave to care for a child whose school or place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable) are subject to the enforcement provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act. The Department will observe a temporary period of non-enforcement for the first 30 days after the Act takes effect, so long as the employer has acted reasonably and in good faith to comply with the Act. For purposes of this non-enforcement position, "good faith" exists when violations are remedied and the employee is made whole as soon as practicable by the employer, the violations were not willful, and the Department receives a written commitment from the employer to comply with the Act in the future.

► RESOURCES

For additional information or to file a complaint:

1-866-487-9243 | TTY: 1-877-889-5627

[dol.gov/agencies/whd](https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd)

[5] Paid sick time provided under this Act does not carry over from one year to the next. Employees are not entitled to reimbursement for unused leave upon termination, resignation, retirement, or other separation from employment.

[6] An employee may elect to substitute any accrued vacation leave, personal leave, or medical or sick leave for the first two weeks of partial paid leave under this section.

[7] The Department will issue a model notice no later than March 25, 2020.



FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT: EMPLOYEE PAID LEAVE RIGHTS

The **Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act)** requires certain employers to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. The Department of Labor's (Department) Wage and Hour Division (WHD) administers and enforces the new law's paid leave requirements. These provisions will apply from the effective date through December 31, 2020.

Generally, the Act provides that employees of covered employers are eligible for:

- *Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of **paid sick leave at the employee's regular rate of pay** where the employee is unable to work because the employee is quarantined (pursuant to Federal, State, or local government order or advice of a health care provider), and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis; or*
- *Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of **paid sick leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay** because the employee is unable to work because of a bona fide need to care for an individual subject to quarantine (pursuant to Federal, State, or local government order or advice of a health care provider), or to care for a child (under 18 years of age) whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19, and/or the employee is experiencing a substantially similar condition as specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretaries of the Treasury and Labor; and*
- *Up to an additional 10 weeks of **paid expanded family and medical leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay** where an employee, who has been employed for at least 30 calendar days, is unable to work due to a bona fide need for leave to care for a child whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19.*

Covered Employers: The paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave provisions of the FFCRA apply to certain public employers, and private employers with fewer than 500 employees.[1] Most employees of the federal government are covered by Title II of the Family and Medical Leave Act, which was not amended by this Act, and are therefore not covered by the expanded family and medical leave provisions of the FFCRA. However, federal employees covered by Title II of the Family and Medical Leave Act are covered by the paid sick leave provision.

Small businesses with fewer than 50 employees may qualify for exemption from the requirement to provide leave due to school closings or child care unavailability if the leave requirements would jeopardize the viability of the business as a going concern.

Eligible Employees: *All employees* of covered employers are eligible for two weeks of paid sick time for specified reasons related to COVID-19. *Employees employed for at least 30 days* are eligible for up to an additional 10 weeks of paid family leave to care for a child under certain circumstances related to COVID-19. [2]

Notice: Where leave is foreseeable, an employee should provide notice of leave to the employer as is practicable. After the first workday of paid sick time, an employer may require employees to follow reasonable notice procedures in order to continue receiving paid sick time.

► **Qualifying Reasons for Leave**

Under the FFCRA, an employee qualifies for paid sick time if the employee is unable to work (**or unable to telework**) due to a need for leave because the employee:

1. is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;
2. has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19;
3. is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis;
4. is caring for an individual subject to an order described in (1) or self-quarantine as described in (2);
5. is caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable) for reasons related to COVID-19; or
6. is experiencing any other substantially-similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretaries of Labor and Treasury.

Under the FFCRA, an employee qualifies for expanded family leave if the employee is caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable) for reasons related to COVID-19.

[1] Certain provisions may not apply to certain employers with fewer than 50 employees. See Department FFCRA regulations (expected April 2020).

[2] Under the Act, special rules apply for Health Care Providers and Emergency Responders.

► DURATION OF LEAVE

For reasons (1)-(4) and (6): A full-time employee is eligible for 80 hours of leave, and a part-time employee is eligible for the number of hours of leave that the employee works on average over a two-week period.

For reason (5): A full-time employee is eligible for up to 12 weeks of leave (two weeks of paid sick leave followed by up to 10 weeks of paid expanded family & medical leave) at 40 hours a week, and a part-time employee is eligible for leave for the number of hours that the employee is normally scheduled to work over that period.

► CALCULATION OF PAY ^[3]

For leave reasons (1), (2), or (3): employees taking leave are entitled to pay at either their regular rate or the applicable minimum wage, whichever is higher, up to \$511 per day and \$5,110 in the aggregate (over a 2-week period).

For leave reasons (4) or (6): employees taking leave are entitled to pay at $\frac{2}{3}$ their regular rate or $\frac{2}{3}$ the applicable minimum wage, whichever is higher, up to \$200 per day and \$2,000 in the aggregate (over a 2-week period).

For leave reason (5): employees taking leave are entitled to pay at $\frac{2}{3}$ their regular rate or $\frac{2}{3}$ the applicable minimum wage, whichever is higher, up to \$200 per day and \$12,000 in the aggregate (over a 12-week period). ^[4]

► RESOURCES

For additional information or to file a complaint:

1-866-487-9243 | TTY: 1-877-889-5627

dol.gov/agencies/whd

[3] Paid sick time provided under this Act does not carryover from one year to the next. Employees are not entitled to reimbursement for unused leave upon termination, resignation, retirement, or other separation from employment.

[4] An employee may elect to substitute any accrued vacation leave, personal leave, or medical or sick leave for the first two weeks of partial paid leave under this section.

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References for YouTube Videos

Links to YouTube Videos

Growing Healthy Minds, Bodies, and Communities is an innovative standards-based curriculum that seeks to promote social-emotional learning in preschools across Mississippi through community engagement and the integration of yoga/mindfulness, gardening/nutrition, anti-bullying, anti-bias, and physical activity to support the well-being of all children.

The video is tied to Unit 4 which is a gardening/nutrition unit about growing food in a new way. The children learn about seeds, plant parts and how to grow in a tower garden. The video goes along with the lessons including vocabulary they will learn in the lessons.

<https://youtu.be/SGrQDjRgiLs>

Thomas Moore – Itsy Bitsy Spider

<https://youtu.be/CSI8wCUH0LM>

The Learning Station – The Goodbye Song

<https://youtu.be/pP9AujV8N1A>