The COVID-19 pandemic is creating enormous new challenges for early childhood educators across all states and settings. In response, federal and state policymakers are creating new ways to help. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) offered by the Small Business Administration (SBA) is one of those ways. This program is specifically designed to help small businesses—like your child care center or family child care home—maintain payroll and benefits for employees and cover overhead costs like rent, utilities, and mortgage interest.

We know it can feel overwhelming, and you may encounter challenges along the way, but you can do this! This resource is designed to help you understand the program and walk you through the steps you need to take to apply for this loan—and get it forgiven, so you don’t have to pay it back! Ready? Let’s go.

### Am I Eligible to Apply?

- Are you the owner of a child care center or the sole proprietor of a family child care home with fewer than 500 employees?
- Are you self employed or an independent contractor?

If you answered YES to either of these questions, then you are eligible to apply! You can be for-profit or nonprofit. You can also work in a religious setting; the overall religious organization is eligible as long as the loan is used only for the costs of their child care center.

### Key Facts You Need to Know

- PPP loans require no collateral or personal guarantees by the SBA. This means you don’t have to put up your house, your automobile, or any other assets to collateralize the loan. If someone says you do, tell them you know for a fact the US government is not requiring any collateral on these loans.
- You must use at least 75% of the loan for employee payroll, hiring, or rehiring employees.
- The program is on a first come, first served basis, so apply as soon as you are ready.

### THE FINE PRINT

- Your company must be 81%+ owned by US citizens or lawful permanent residents (sole proprietors, self-employed people, and independent contractors must themselves be US citizens or lawful permanent residents). You may be required to provide a social security number with your application.
- Everyone (owners, employees, self-employed providers) being covered by the loan has to have a permanent residence in the United States (meaning that pay stubs and tax filings for employees go to a US address).
- Your company must have been in existence prior to February 15, 2020.
What is a PPP loan?

A PPP loan is a way to help you pay some of your bills when you don’t have income coming in from families or child care subsidy payments. It starts as a low-interest loan that can be largely, if not completely, forgiven (meaning you don’t have to pay it back). It will be provided in the amount of 2.5 times your average monthly payroll for the last 12 months, up to $10 million. It covers the eight-week period following the loan being issued by the bank. The current period is from February 15, 2020, to June 30, 2020.

The loans come from a $349 billion fund created by the CARES Act, signed into law on March 27, 2020, under the SBA Section 7a loan program where the SBA guarantees loans that are administered through SBA partner lenders. (You may hear the program referred to as a 7a loan.)

What Do I Have To Do To Get the PPP Loan Forgiven?

The best way to ensure your loan is forgiven for up to eight weeks of qualifying expenses is to

• maintain the wages of your employees
• use at least 75% of the loan money on payroll and benefits, which can include
  » Up to $100,000/year for your salary (if you’re a sole proprietor) and each employee’s salary up to $100,000 per year
  › You cannot include the costs of paying an independent contractor because the independent contractor may separately apply for the PPP program.
  » Paid leave, sick leave, medical leave, and family leave for each employee or owner
  » The share of any healthcare benefits you paid for yourself or for employees, including insurance premiums
  › This does NOT count if you were reimbursing the employee for their insurance costs. It has to be payments you made directly to a healthcare provider as part of an employer benefit.
  » The share of any retirement benefits you paid for yourself or for employees
  › These benefits must be paid directly to the company handling your company’s retirement accounts for your employees.
  » Severance pay for any employees who were let go
  » The amounts of state and local payroll taxes you paid on your own compensation or on employee compensation

Here’s how it works: once you’ve provided the necessary documents to the bank (who will become your lender; see page 6 to see what information you may need), the bank can issue a loan, with conditions, for 2.5 months’ worth of payroll.

• If you’re not sure how much your qualifying monthly expenses are, start by reviewing the conditions below on what can be included as qualifying expenses from your payroll and benefits. You can also double-check with the person you are working with at the bank to confirm the exact amount per month that you spend.
  • The lender will calculate your monthly payroll by taking the last 12 months of payroll and dividing by 12. (Note that payroll costs can be calculated by including the costs of most benefits paid by the employer in addition to the actual pay provided to the employees.)
  • The lender may also verify your payroll as of February 15, 2020, and you should be prepared to provide payroll processor documents from January 1, 2019, through the current date.

THE FINE PRINT:
CONDITIONS FOR FORGIVENESS

• To qualify, you must keep employees at the same wages for the eight weeks after you get your loan.
• If you hire new employees or rehire those who have been laid off (which you can do), everyone must be paid at the same rate as in the payroll documents submitted for the loan.
• If you took tax credits or money from the first coronavirus legislation to give your employees sick or family leave in the case of coronavirus-related health issues, you can’t claim that amount for the loan.
• While you can have more than one loan from the SBA, you can’t use funds from another SBA loan to pay for payroll AND use these funds for payroll. The funds for payroll have to be covered by your PPP loan—you can’t “double dip.”
EXAMPLES

An early childhood educator makes $25,000/year (including benefits), and the program owner makes $50,000/year (including benefits). The bank will say the monthly payroll is $2,083 ($25,000/12) plus $4,166 ($50,000/12), which equals $6,249. The bank will then loan you $15,623, which is 2.5 times the monthly payroll of $6,249. You will need to spend at least $11,717 (75% of the loan amount) on payroll, leaving you $3,906 (25% of the loan amount) to spend on other items, defined as mortgage interest, rent, and/or utilities.

If you’re a family child care sole proprietor or are self employed, you can get your payroll of up to $100,000/year covered for eight weeks as long as you pay yourself those eight weeks after you get your loan. If you actually made $100,000/year, that would mean your monthly salary would be $8,333, and your loan would be $20,833 (monthly salary x 2.5). You’ll also get $5,208 for mortgage interest, rent, and/or utilities.

If the bank gives you $125,000 in a loan, that means you have to keep/hire/rehire staff so that your total payroll for the next eight weeks is at least $93,750. The extra $31,250 is for you to spend on mortgage interest, rent, and/or utilities. If you don’t maintain that high a payroll or you reduce wages on anyone by more than 25%, you will owe the difference in your payroll costs back to the bank, plus interest.

WHAT WOULD CAUSE MY LOAN FORGIVENESS TO BE LOST?

- Your loan forgiveness will be reduced if you decrease your employee payroll amount—in other words, it’s not the number of people but the amount spent on payroll that matters.
- Your loan forgiveness will also be reduced if you decrease salaries and wages by more than 25% for any employee who made less than $100,000 (annualized) in 2019.

What If I Need To Cover Costs Besides Payroll?

You must spend at least 75% of the loan on payroll for the loan to be forgiven. But you can also spend up to 25% of the forgivable loan on other items:

- **The interest on any business mortgage**, as long as you had that mortgage before February 15, 2020. Note that amounts you spend on mortgage principal cannot be forgiven.
- **The interest on any other long-term debts** that you had an agreement on before February 15, 2020; e.g., if your company leased a van, the interest on the auto loan is covered.
- **The rent on any business property**, as long as you had that lease agreement before February 15, 2020.
- **Utilities** (water, gas, electric, transportation, telephone, or internet) for which you had existing accounts on February 15, 2020.

NOTE: When you sign the loan application you have to commit to an intention to use 75% of the loan for payroll. You can use some of the money for other expenses outside of the purposes listed above, but you’ll have to pay that money back to the bank at an interest rate at 1% within two years, starting six months after the loan is originated (meaning when the final loan documents are signed).
Where Do I Get a PPP Loan?

PPP loans are provided by certain approved banks and lenders. These lenders have to be approved by the US SBA. Here are some steps to take to find a bank to make you the loan:

• First, go to your bank and ask them if they are participating in this program. If they are, that's great because (a) they already know you and may have some of your information already on file and (b) due to unprecedented volume levels, most banks are only accepting PPP applications from their existing clients.

  » If you don't have a bank already, that's okay. Go to the step below, where you can find lenders at www.sba.gov.

• If your bank says they are not participating, ask them if they can refer you to someone else who is. Not every bank or credit union can or will make this type of loan. Don’t get discouraged—there's a good chance there is a bank in your area that will make this loan to you.

• If your bank can’t refer you to a lender, you can find a lender yourself.

  » Go to www.sba.gov, click the Local Assistance tab, and type in your zip code. This will bring up a list of organizations.

  » Select the SBA District Office that comes up on that list and visit that district office’s webpage. You should see a link, near the bottom of the page, to the District Office Resource Guide, which will have a list of “7(a)” lenders. That is the list of lenders to reach out to.

• You may also be able to apply online, though not all online lenders are qualified. Check an online bank like Kabbage to start.

When Can I Apply for the PPP Loan?

Banks can start filing these loans for consideration by the SBA now for businesses and April 10 for independent contractors. Reach out to a lender now so you can get all the paperwork together that they will request. You have until June 30, 2020, to apply but we recommend you apply soon because the money will go fast!

How Does a PPP Loan Intersect with Unemployment Insurance?

Early childhood education is a low-wage field, and unemployment insurance amounts vary state by state. There is an additional $600 per week from the federal government for unemployment insurance included as part of the same CARES Act that authorized this PPP loan. Small businesses need to make difficult decisions about what is best for their employees and their businesses, in the shorter and longer terms. Unemployment insurance has its place, as does the Paycheck Protection Program, which is about both helping businesses pay salaries and keeping them in existence so that staff and owners have a business to return to after this global health crisis ends. Remember, if you decide to hire or rehire someone, or if you are using PPP to pay for your own salary as a sole proprietor in family child care, you or that person can no longer claim unemployment insurance for the time spent on payroll.
How Does a PPP Loan Intersect with an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)?

You can apply and be approved for both of these SBA loan programs. The EIDL is a low-interest loan that can help you cover existing expenses, particularly those outside of payroll costs; it also includes things like mortgage principal, which the forgiveness part of the PPP will not cover.

Need Additional Help?

You may find some or many parts of this process frustrating or confusing. It’s okay—there are resources out there to help you!

- The SBA has district offices across the country; try reaching out to the one closest to you that you found when you downloaded the resource guide.
- Alternatively, try getting a business counselor from SCORE (www.score.org), a Small Business Development Center (SBDC — americassbdc.org), or a Women’s Business Center (WBC — www.awbc.org) who can help you with any or all aspects of this process!

Keep reading to review the sample document you can use to help you get ready for your meeting with the lender. The more complicated areas are explained, but make sure you can obtain the needed information to fill in all the sections for your loan application.

The information in this document may change subject to additional legislation and/or guidance from Congress and the SBA. This document is for informational purposes only and should not be considered legal advice.
Applying for a PPP Loan in Five Steps

1: Find a Bank

- Start with your bank, if you have one, and ask them if they are making PPP loans.
- If your bank isn’t, or if you don’t have a bank, use the steps described above to find a bank that does make PPP loans.
- After you’ve found one, ask what information they require for the loan application.

2: Get Your Information Together

- Try answering all the fields in the sample bank application below to see what you’re missing/what you might not know off the top of your head.
- The application document includes definitions for the terms used on the sheet.

3: Gather Documents

- The bank will need documents to validate each question on the bank’s application. They are likely to include:
  - You and your business’s latest tax filing (2018 or 2019—if you have both, that’s good too)
  - State and local payroll tax documents for 2019 and the beginning of 2020
  - State certification of business ownership documents (certificate of organization, articles of incorporation)
  - Name, title, ownership percentage, employer identification number (EIN) and/or social security number (SSN), and address of any businesses/people who own more than 20% of the firm (if applicable)
  - You may also need forms such as health care information and 1099s for independent contractors
- If you are applying through an online system, you may need to save these documents as PDFs on a computer so the file sizes are not too large to upload.

4: Fill Out the Forms

- The bank will send you forms to complete, or they will be available online to fill out.
- If you can’t find an answer to a question, ask your accountant (if you have one) or the lender (if you don’t) what documents might have the information they’re looking for—it’s okay to do that.
- SBA counselors can also help you find the right documentation to answer the bank’s questions.

5: Wait

- Once you’ve given the bank all the information they need, the bank will determine if you’re a good candidate for the loan.
- If the bank (and the SBA) say yes, congratulations! You got the loan and the bank can tell you when you’ll get the money.
- If the bank says no, you can try another bank. There is a chance the SBA will be the one saying no to the loan, in which case you may not be eligible, but you should still try with another bank if you can because it may be that the bank just didn’t want to make the loan.
1. This form assumes you’re applying as a business. If you’re not (because you’re a nonprofit, an independent contractor, or self-employed) select that box.

2. If you filed a “Doing Business As” name or tradename with your state, put it here; otherwise, ignore.

3. Business Legal Name is the name you filed on your business paperwork with the state on the tax return.

4. Use the address filed with the state on your business paperwork.

5. Add all your payroll for the last 12 months, listing anyone paid over $100k, at only $100k and divide by 12.

6. Choose all that apply, especially payroll assuming you are using the funds for payroll.

7. If you have multiple owners or a business owns a part of your company, fill in each owner who owns more than 20%.
This is the application form from the SBA. The bank you use may use a different application form.