

CCS Health & Safety Grants

Frequently Asked Questions & Clarifications



- **What are the Child Care Services (CCS) Health & Safety Grants?**

- The CCS Health & Safety Grants are grants given to licensed child care programs to purchase equipment and materials that will support compliance with health and safety rules and regulations. Funding for these grants has been allocated for \$80 million and made available through the American Rescue Plan Act.

- **Who is eligible to receive the Health & Safety Grants?**

- All open, operating, and licensed Child Care Learning Centers (CCLCs) and Family Child Care Learning Homes (FCCLHs) who are currently serving children are eligible to receive these grants. If you were granted permission to operate after the initial list of funding was awarded, you should be able to become eligible in the second phase.

- **How much money can I get?**

- Grant awards are being issued on a sliding scale based on the program's licensed capacity, ranging in amounts from \$5,000 - \$40,000. For specific award amounts for your program, please contact DECAL at CCSHealthSafetyGrants@decals.ga.gov.

- **What is the timeline for the Health & Safety Grants? When must the money be spent?**

- The Health & Safety Grants will be rolled out in two phases:
 - **Phase 1: March 20, 2023 – September 30, 2023** – grants will be awarded to FCCLHs & CCLCs with a licensed capacity up to 100. All money must be spent by September 30, 2023.
 - **Phase 2: October 2, 2023 – May 31, 2024** – grants will be awarded to CCLCs with a licensed capacity of 101+ and school age programs operating in public school buildings. All money must be spent by May 31, 2024. ***This deadline has been extended from March 31, 2024, for Phase 2 recipients.**
 - Due to additional discussions and planning that may need to occur between programs utilizing public school spaces and those entities on how funding can best be utilized and spent, all school age programs housed in public school buildings (regardless of licensed capacity) are being deferred to the second phase.

- **If my program is not eligible to receive grant funds until Phase 2, what does that mean?**

- If your program is not eligible until Phase 2, that just means that you will not be able to access your ClassWallet account or funding until October 2, 2023.
- You may still begin the planning phases for spending your grant funds, which can include requesting vendors to sign up in the ClassWallet system and reaching out to DECAL to find out how much your grant amount is. For specific award amounts for your program, please contact DECAL at: CCSHealthSafetyGrants@decals.ga.gov

- **Is there an application I have to complete to apply for these?**
 - No application is required. All licensed programs are automatically eligible during the time frames indicated above. ClassWallet will be sending an email to the email address that is associated with your DECAL KOALA account. All you have to do is log in and verify your ClassWallet account.

- **How can the Health & Safety Grants be accessed?**
 - Funds can be accessed and must be spent through an on-line platform owned and operated by a third-party vendor doing business as ClassWallet. Purchases must be made from DECAL approved vendors within the ClassWallet platform either through the E-Commerce Market Place or Direct Pay Vendors.

- **How do I register for a ClassWallet account?**
 - To begin using your funds, set up your account using the email received from ClassWallet. If you already have a ClassWallet account, you can login as normal. New users must log in and activate the account online within 30 calendar days of the day the account was first funded. After activating the account, you must complete the DECAL Acknowledgement and Agreement Affidavit electronically through ClassWallet.

- **What can I buy/not buy with these Health & Safety Grants?**
 - All items that are purchased with the Health & Safety Grants must be equipment and materials that will support compliance with health and safety rules and regulations. A list of allowable/disallowable purchases can be found at: <https://www.dec.al.ga.gov/documents/attachments/Allowable-DisallowableHealth&SafetyGrantList.pdf>
 - **All items purchased in the “Other” category or items submitted for purchase that are not on the approved list will be reviewed for approval.** If you have specific questions regarding something you would like to purchase for your program, please contact DECAL at CCSHealthSafetyGrants@dec.al.ga.gov
 - **All property improvements (i.e., fencing, flooring, cabinets, repairs, etc.) indicated with an (*) on the allowed list will only be approved in licensed child care spaces and for FCCLHs, will only be approved in homes owned by the licensed provider (verification required).**
 - When purchasing large playground equipment pieces/structures, it is the program’s responsibility to confirm with the vendor that these items meet **applicable playground safety compliance standards and are meant for commercial playground use.**
 - The Health & Safety Grants may be used to cover all costs of the purchase, including taxes and shipping.
 - A signed affidavit is required to acknowledge that all items obtained with the Grant funds will only be purchased from the ecommerce marketplace or vendor approved list within ClassWallet and will be used for the benefit of the Center or Home exclusively and will not be used for any non-allowable purpose; as well as acknowledging that the Center or Home may be required to repay any or all of the Grant funds not used to purchase equipment or materials for the benefit of the Center or Home.

- **What type of verification will FCCLHs need to provide as proof of documentation for home ownership in requesting property improvement purchases?**
 - FCCLH providers will need to submit something confirming the licensed provider as the owner of the home. This could include a copy of a mortgage statement or property tax statement, etc.

- **When you say approved, licensed child care spaces, what does that mean?**
 - For CCLCs this would mean spaces (i.e., classrooms, bathrooms, playgrounds, etc.) that are approved for children. Typically, this would mean any room and/or playground that has been issued a licensed capacity. This could also mean the kitchen or a multi-purpose room, since these are areas that are used on behalf of the children.

- For FCCLHs this would mean any licensed space in the home that is approved for children, that could also include a bathroom, kitchen, etc. This would also include the licensed playground space utilized by the home as well.
- This would not include: parking lots, driveways, other areas of the home/building, etc. where children are not allowed.
- **What if what I want to purchase is more than my awarded grant amount? Am I able to pay the difference out of pocket?**
 - Yes, when purchasing items through your funded wallets, the payment will automatically be deducted from your grant funds first. If there is a remaining balance after that, you will be able to enter personal payment information for the difference. Just as a reminder, you are not able to cross funded grant wallet amounts with each other.
- **How long does it take to get my purchases approved?**
 - Because all purchases are being reviewed by either ClassWallet or DECAL, it may take 3-5 business days to process an order through the system. If follow-up or clarification is needed regarding the purchase, you may be asked to provide additional information.
- **Where can I find a list of approved vendors?**
 - Current vendors approved within the ClassWallet platform are:
 - Discount School Supply, Becker's, Kaplan, Lakeshore, School Specialty/Childcraft, Home Depot, Fingersafe USA, Inc., Rubber Scapes of Georgia, Ride & Remind, Green Own Energy Solutions, Better Beans Branding, Great Outdoors Play Solutions, S&S Worldwide Inc., Southeast Outdoors Solutions, Gametime, BYO Recreation LLC
 - The most current list of approved vendors will be available within your ClassWallet account, as this list will be continuously updated as new vendors become approved.
 - A list of approved vendors outside of the marketplace can be found under the Documents list on the DECAL website at [Child Care Services Health & Safety Grants \(ga.gov\)](https://www.ga.gov/childcare)
 - **Please note:** some vendors may select to limit the items or services available for purchase on their website through the ClassWallet platform. DECAL nor ClassWallet have any control over this.
- **How do I go about purchasing larger items or scheduling for installations with my local Home Depot?**
 - To begin, contact your local Home Depot for a quote for needed items or installation services. ClassWallet will use this information to load the items/services into your Home Depot shopping cart.
 - Then, please contact orders@classwallet.com with the following information:
 - **Program license number**
 - **Name and address of Home Depot location**
 - **Item# and description**
 - **Installation quote if needed**
 - The order team will work with Home Depot to load the items (if available) into your Home Depot shopping cart. You can then log into your account, continue shopping online at Home Depot to add any other items needed and checkout. The order will then go through the normal validation process.
- **Are there any additional expectations regarding delivery that I should be made aware of when purchasing items?**
 - Each vendor may have their own requirements for the delivery, off-load, and assembly of their products, especially for larger or assembly-required structures. Please make sure you reach out to those vendors directly if you have questions regarding these expectations.

- Please do not wait until the last minute to spend your money. Orders made near the closing date for the grant may be impacted by shipping delays, returns, cancellations, etc. This could cause an issue in being able to spend your funds, if the grant window has been closed.
- **How do I get a vendor to sign up to be a part of the ClassWallet platform so that I may utilize their services?**
 - **PLEASE NOTE: Due to the time frame of the award spend window, as of MARCH 1, 2024, the vendor application process is no longer available. No additional vendors will be able to be added to ClassWallet and all funds must be spent with approved vendors already in the ClassWallet platform.**
 - In order to use outside vendors through the ClassWallet system, the vendor will have to sign up to participate. They will need to pre-register (if not already found in the “Pay Vendor” list). They can go to the link below to begin, or you can download the email template and send it to them to begin the registration process.
 - **Link:** [GADECAL Health & Safety Grant Service Provider Pre-Registration](#)
 - **Email template:** [Download](#)
 - Once approved, the vendor will need to register and create their ClassWallet account.
 - Once available in the ClassWallet “Pay Vendor” list, you will need to reach out to the vendor directly to obtain a quote, order, bill, or invoice in order to issue payment to them using these grant funds.
 - Once a vendor is approved, they will show in the ClassWallet platform for everyone and may be used by others for services as well.
- **What do vendors have to have to qualify for participation?**
 - In order to be approved all vendors will have to submit the following within the ClassWallet system:
 - Registration verification from www.SAM.gov reflecting the business registration in active status with no exclusions
 - A copy of your current business license, if applicable
 - A copy of your active Certificate of Registration, if applicable, from Georgia’s Secretary of State Office, found here: www.sos.ga.gov
 - A completed, signed copy of the [Verification of Lawful Presence form](#)
 - W-9. Download the W-9 found here: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>
- **Why did my order get rejected?**
 - If an order is rejected, that means that your order included something that is not approved as an allowable purchase. Unfortunately, because the entire order is submitted together, there is no way to reject just the unapproved item(s). You will be required to redo your order with only allowable items. Comments may be added to your order indicating what cannot be approved.
- **If I spend my awarded grant money, do I have to report this on my taxes?**
 - Generally, DECAL is required to report IRS Form 1099 information for cash payments made to a person that equal or exceed \$600. There are some exceptions whereas 1099 is not required, such as a corporation including LLC’s that is treated a S or C corporation. Additionally, 1099s are not required for Tax-Exempt organizations. Non-cash grants, such as recipients receiving supplies and equipment, are not reported on an IRS Form 1099. DECAL does not determine recipient tax status or provide tax-advice as taxable situations are unique to everyone. Accordingly, recipients should consult with their own tax professional for specific advice.
- **Who do I contact for questions regarding the Health & Safety Grants?**
 - Information regarding the Health & Safety Grants can be found on DECAL’s website at: [Child Care Services Health & Safety Grants \(ga.gov\)](#)

- General questions regarding the Health & Safety Grants or allowable items for purchase can be sent to: CCSHealthSafetyGrants@decal.ga.gov
- Questions regarding the ClassWallet platform can be sent to: help@classwallet.com
ClassWallet Support can be reached at (877) 969-5536, Monday – Friday: 8 AM to 8 PM EST and Saturday: 10 AM to 4 PM EST or start a live chat or view Knowledgebase at: <https://kleo.force.com/classwallet/s/>
- **Where can I get a copy of the webinar and the power point about the Health & Safety Grants?**
 - A recording of the webinar can be found within your ClassWallet accounts, as well has accessed here:

[Watch Recording on YouTube](#)

- A copy of the presentation can be downloaded here:

[Download the Presentation](#)

