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## General Grant Questions

Q1. **NEW** (Updated 2-23-22) I have a positive case of COVID-19 in my program, and I have applied for the COVID-19 Child Care Stabilization and Recovery Grants, now what?

**Attestation:** You have attested, when open and providing services, to implement policies in line with guidance and orders from state and local authorities and to the greatest extent possible the Centers for Disease Control.

**Additional Guidance to Attestation** (the following does not replace Attestation but provides guidance on how to follow the attestation):

In the event you receive a recommendation from the North Dakota Department of Health or have a positive case of COVID-19, you will have choices to make. You may be wondering what happens if you do not follow the recommendation. Will you lose your COVID emergency stabilization funds?

We offer this framework to demonstrate reasonable compliance to the greatest extent possible implementing policies in line with guidance.

The following prevention strategies ***must always*** be enforced when your program has a COVID exposure.

- Exclude COVID positive and symptomatic children and staff
- Notify parents of all children in the classroom(s) with COVID exposure, share the DoH guidance, and give families a choice regarding attendance.

Your program ***should have a policy*** in place that addresses the following prevention strategies as described by the CDC.

### Prevention Strategies

- [Promoting vaccination](#)
- [Consistent and correct mask use](#)
- [Physical distancing and cohorting](#)
- [Screening Testing for COVID-19](#)
- [Ventilation](#)
- [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#)
- [Staying home when sick \(isolating\) and getting tested](#)
- [Contact tracing in combination with quarantine](#)
- [Cleaning and disinfecting](#)

Early Childhood providers should implement these strategies to the extent possible in consultation with regulatory agencies and state and local public health departments. However, when making decisions about implementing prevention strategies, Early Childhood programs should consider the educational needs and social and emotional well-being of children and the importance of children's access to learning and care.

For more information on creating COVID policies please contact a Child Aware of ND Health & Safety Specialist @ 1-800-997-8515.

**Q2. What are the consequences for providers who applied for and received funds that are not following the funding requirements?**

If there is an indication that a provider isn't using the COVID-19 Stabilization and Recovery Grant funds for the purpose laid out by the federal government, it could result in termination of future grant payments, repayment of funds already received and/or an audit.

**Q3. Who is administering these funds?**

The North Dakota Department of Human Services Early Childhood Division will administer the COVID-19 Stabilization and Recovery Grants through the ND Growing Futures Registry.

**Q4. What types of grants are available?**

- **Stabilization Grant** – to help promote stable and sustained operation of child care in communities across North Dakota, including added support available to underserved areas, and for infant/toddler care and care during non-traditional hours for essential workers.
- **Health and Safety Grant** – to help make improvements to your program that would help improve both COVID-indicated and overall health and safety practices.
- **Technology Improvement Grant** – to better connect programs and staff to training, professional development and licensing systems.
- **Inclusion Support Grant** – to help both home and center-based providers create and maintain an inclusive environment that supports children with disabilities or developmental delays to learn, grow, play, and develop alongside their peers in an inclusive setting.
- **Child Care Start up Grant** – available to recently licensed (license dated within 60 days of application submission) or soon-to-be licensed early childhood programs. Grants may also be available to programs that are expanding their child care license capacity.
- **Quality Improvement Grant** – to support investments in quality, delivered post-Quality Rating and measured by the program receiving their desired Quality Rating. Programs applying for this grant must have a Bright & Early ND Step 2-4 Quality Rating issued on or after September 1st, 2021

**Q5. What can grant funds be used for?**

Funds **must** be used for purposes allowed under the [Federal guidelines](#), including:

- Personnel costs, including payroll, salaries, similar employee compensation, employee benefits, retirement costs, educational costs, child care costs; and supporting staff expenses in accessing COVID-19 vaccines.

- Rent (including under a lease agreement) or payment on any mortgage obligation, utilities, or insurance; also, may include late fees or charges related to late payments.
- Facility maintenance or improvements, **defined as minor renovations**, minor improvements to address COVID-19 concerns.
- Personal protective equipment, cleaning and sanitization supplies and services, or training and professional development related to health and safety practices.
- Purchases of or updates to equipment and supplies to respond to COVID-19.
- Goods and services necessary to maintain or resume child care services.
- Mental health supports for children and employees.
- Health and safety trainings for staff, including but not limited to CPR, First Aid, and medication administration.

Q6. How do I know what is an approved or not approved funding use for a specific grant?

The funding uses of approved expenses for the following grants can be found on the website: <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/earlychildhood/ec-grants.html>

- Child Care Stabilization Grant
- Health and Safety Grants
- Technology Improvement Grants
- Inclusion Support Grants

Q7. **NEW** My Health and Safety & Technology Grant was approved but some of the prices have changed or I want a different item, now what?

Funding was awarded based on approved items that you requested. You may use your discretion with how you use these funds toward purchasing approved items listed on your form. If you have funds left over, please contact our office to discuss any unique circumstances you face.

Q8. **NEW** My Health and Safety & Technology Grant has been approved, what can I spend the funds on?

You received an email titled 'Case Application Note' in regard to your Grant approval (also available in your Quality Dashboard in your Grant Case Details). This email outlined your approved amount and if you had any ineligible items. If all items were eligible, please refer to your document vault as a reminder of the unique items you have requested.

Funding was awarded based on approved items that you requested. You may use your discretion with how you use these funds toward purchasing approved items listed on your form. If you have funds left over, please contact our office to discuss any unique circumstances you face.

**Q9. Can I use the funds for construction or major renovations?**

No, Funds may not be used for construction or major renovations. *Major renovation* means: (1) structural changes to the foundation, roof, floor, exterior or load-bearing walls of a facility, or the extension of a facility to increase its floor area; or (2) extensive alteration of a facility such as to significantly change its function and purpose, even if such renovation does not include any structural change.

**Q10. How will I receive the grant funds?**

Funds will be sent by direct deposit or check within 30 days of your grant application approval.

**Q11. Will child care providers have to submit receipts to show how funds were spent?**

Providers won't need to submit receipts, but you will receive an email monthly asking you to report how you are spending the grant funds.

Providers are **required** to maintain all records on how funds were spent as your program could be selected for an audit. Per federal regulation requirements all recipients of federal funds need to keep financial documents for seven years.

**Q12. Will providers be receiving a 1099 for tax purposes?**

Yes.

**Q13. Are the COVID-19 Stabilization and Recovery Grants taxable?**

Stabilization and Recovery Grants are considered income by the IRS. The IRS has published information indicating that "receipt of a government grant by a business is generally not excluded from the business's gross income under the Federal Tax Code and therefore is taxable." Please consult your accountant or tax professional to understand more about your particular tax situation and how this guidance applies to your specific business structure.

The ARP Act does not exempt the ARP child care stabilization subgrant funding from taxation. Therefore, this funding is subject to the same tax rules as regular CCDF funding. State tax rules apply. Regarding federal tax rules, please contact the Internal Revenue Service for guidance. In some cases, funds used to cover operating expenses may be exempt from taxation.

**Q14. What are the funding cycles?**

Stabilization is a monthly funded grant.

Health and Safety Facility, Technology Improvement, Child Care Startup, Inclusion Support and Quality Improvement Grants are a one-time funded grant.

**Q15. Is the data in the provider application about funding awards public information?**

Department of Human Services Early Childhood Division will not use providers confidential information for anything other than what's necessary for the purpose of the grant as permitted by law.

**Q16. Under any circumstances will I have to pay the funds back?**

Grant funds are not a loan. You may have to pay funds back if your program closes permanently and you haven't spent all the received funds, or you are using the funds for unallowable uses.

**Q17. How can I ensure that I receive the email communications related to the grants?**

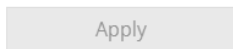
You will want to add [dhsec@nd.gov](mailto:dhsec@nd.gov) to your safe sender list to ensure all emails are delivered to your inbox. If you do not see the emails, please check your Junk/Spam folders or your All Mail folder.

You will also want to make sure your licensing specialist has your correct email address and the email listed in your org details within your organization account is correct.

**Q18. What do I do if, I have applied for a grant and I realized my information is incorrect?**

Send an email to [dhsec@nd.gov](mailto:dhsec@nd.gov) that includes your first and last name, Organization name, Organization ID # and the incorrect information. The grant team will be in contact with you if next steps are required.

**Q19. The "Apply" button is gray, what does that mean?**



ⓘ You have already applied or your program does not meet the requirements for this case.

You may have already applied, or your program does not qualify.

If you see this message, go to your Quality Dashboard, scroll down and view your "Active Cases" for your grant status.

**Q20. When do I have to report how I used the funds I received?**

Programs are **REQUIRED** to report how funds were spent within the following timeframes:

- Stabilization Funds: Every 30 days
- Health and Safety Funds: After 90 days.
- Technology Improvement Funds: After 90 days.
- Inclusion Support Funds: After 30 days.
- Child Care Start-up Funds: After 90 days.
- Quality Improvement Funds: After 90 days.

**Q21. I haven't expended all the funds yet what should I do?**

In your first Stabilization Monthly Renewal Grant you will be able to report that you have not yet spent the funds. Please report your total spending the following month.

For all other grants please report how you spent the funds within the timeframe outlined above.

**Q22. My license type has changed; how do I update this for the grants?**

Please claim your new license in your existing Organization account. For detailed instructions see here: <https://www.ndgrowingfutures.org/how-to-add-new-license-number-existing-organization-account>



## Eligibility

### E1. What types of child care programs are eligible to receive Child Care Stabilization Grant funds?

- DHS Licensed family child care homes
- DHS Licensed group child care homes
- DHS Licensed group in a facility
- DHS Licensed child care center
- DHS Licensed preschool
- DHS Licensed school-aged programs
- DHS Self-Declared provider

### E2. What is required of child care providers who accept grant funds?

If you are an eligible provider interested in applying for the COVID-19 Stabilization and Recovery grants, you must attest to the items listed below each time that you apply/renew.

1. My facility is open and operating a North Dakota licensed child care program, OR my facility is temporarily closed as per ND Department of Health advisement for COVID-19-related closure.
2. My facility will meet all child care rules and regulations as defined in North Dakota century code (NDCC 50-11.1) and administrative code according to my license type. ([http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/child\\_care/info/](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/child_care/info/))
3. My facility, when open and operating and available to provide child care, will implement policies in line with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/>) and with guidance and orders from state and local public health authorities.
4. For each employee at my facility on the day of this application, I agree that I must pay at least the same or higher amount in weekly wages and maintain the same or higher benefits for the duration of the grant period. I will not issue any involuntary furloughs, layoffs, etc. through the duration of the subgrant period.
5. To the extent possible, I will provide relief from copayments and tuition payments for the families enrolled at my facility. I will prioritize such relief for families struggling to make either type of payment, including efforts to connect families to other assistance that may be available.
6. After the final award payment is issued, I acknowledge that I must report on how the grant funds were utilized at my facility. This reporting must take place within timeframes and in the manner specified by the State, and I acknowledge that I am expected to participate in any financial and program monitoring related to this grant award, as defined and required by the State.
7. I understand that if my facility permanently closes during the subgrant period, I am responsible for immediately reporting the closure to the ND Early Childhood Division representative and my award will be adjusted accordingly.
8. I attest that the information I provide about my facility in the grant application, to the best of my knowledge, is accurate and true for the purposes of determining the grant award amount.

E3. If I have more than one licensed child care program, am I eligible to receive grants for each licensed program?

Yes, each child care license has its own ND Growing Futures organization account and may be eligible for each grant.

E4. When do providers have to be open in order to be eligible for grant funds?

Providers must be open and operating a North Dakota licensed child care program on the day they submit a grant application **AND** the day the application is approved.

E5. Under what circumstances can providers be closed temporarily and still be eligible for grant funds?

Temporary closure due to public health guidance issued for the North Dakota Department of Health, or the provider's local public health department.  
The program temporarily closed days due to the primary care providers having a positive COVID-19 test result or close contact exposure.

E6. I agree to pay my employees the same wages and benefits, what does this mean?

Recipients of the grants certify they will continue to pay at least full compensation and benefits throughout the life of the grant.

For each employee at my facility on the day of this application, I agree that I must pay at least the same or higher amount in weekly wages and maintain the same or higher benefits for the duration of the grant period. I will not issue any involuntary furloughs, layoffs, etc. through the duration of the subgrant period.

The certification or attestation indicates that a provider needs to pay the same wages and maintain the same benefits. A child care's existing policies on vacation pay and sick leave would continue to apply. However, when DoH recommends closure of a classroom or program for COVID reasons, a child care would need to continue to pay their employees while they are on quarantine.

E7. Can I increase wages or offer benefits to staff with Stabilization funds?

Your program would be able to use the stabilization funds to increase wages and benefits for staff (including paid sick or family leave). However, if you choose to increase pay or offer bonuses for your staff, you must continue to pay your staff at least the same wages or offer the same benefits, for the duration of the grant.

E8. Can I still receive grant funds if my child care program is under a corrective action?

If your program is under a provisional license, intent to revoke or suspension you are ineligible to receive grant funding. The state will re-evaluate eligibility once all non-compliant standards are corrected and the corrective action has been removed from the program license.

## Grant Application Process

### G1. How do I apply for the Child Care Stabilization Grant?

You will apply for all the grants through your program's Growing Futures organization account that will need to be linked to the program owner or director. Visit the Growing Futures Registry at [www.ndgrowingfutures.org/how-to-set-up-organization-account](http://www.ndgrowingfutures.org/how-to-set-up-organization-account) to check for an existing organization account and/or set up your organization account.

### G2. Why do I need to have an organization account in addition to my individual account (personal profile)?

An organization account is the business account for the DHS licensed child care program. The individual account (personal profile) is your personal account.

### G3. What information and documentation is needed to apply for grant funds?

Providers will need to answer questions about enrollment, employment, and operating expenses but no documentation will be required when you apply.

### G4. Can I use my cell phone or tablet to apply for the grant?

Yes. Any device with internet access can be used to log into your ND Growing Futures account. It may look a little different across mobile, tablet and computers but the content is the same.

### G5. How will Stabilization payments be calculated?

Programs will receive a base payment based on current monthly enrollment, your enrollment MAY NOT exceed your license capacity. Additional tiers of support payments will be available for infants and toddlers, programs operating in under-served communities, CCAP infant/toddlers enrolled in Bright and Early ND (Step 2-4) and children served during non-traditional hours.

#### What is enrollment?

Enrollment is the number of children that are currently attending/registered in your program on the day that you complete the application. Your enrollment number MAY NOT exceed your license capacity.

#### What ages are considered infant/toddler?

Infants – 0-17 months

Toddlers – 18-35 months

#### What counties are underserved?

The amount of childcare to the amount of kids in that community.

McKenzie \* Williams \* Benson \* Eddy \* Rolette \* Towner \* Kidder \* McLean  
Mercer \* Oliver \* Sioux \* Dunn \* Slope \* Stark \* Burke \* Mountrail \* Sheridan

What is considered non-traditional hours?

Non-traditional hours are defined as care offered before 5:00 am and after 7:00 pm and/or on weekends and/or 24-hour care **AND** listed with Child Care Aware of ND's referral database **AND** for essential workers.

*Can I count my own children as part of my non-traditional enrollment?*

You cannot count your own children as part of your non-traditional hour enrollment.

*Essential worker Categories:*

Food

Shelter

Health Care

Safety

**G6. When counting CCAP children, should we include foster, PATH, military assistance?**

NO, **ONLY CCAP** numbers are added into the boxes in these questions of the Grant applications. Childcare assistance program is a special program used to help pay for child care only.

**G7. Who is considered an employee?**

- Any paid staff of the organization.
- For family or group programs – The individual listed on the license that oversees the day-to-day operations is considered an employee.

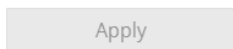
**G8. Do I need to count myself as an employee in my grant application?**

Yes. It's also a recommendation for participation in the Bright & Early ND initiative that all staff be attached to the organization account and verified as currently employed at the program.

**G9. What do I do if I am having technical issues while applying for the grants?**

1. First see the Growing Futures Help Center Technical Problems document: [Here](#)
2. If that does not solve your issues, please send an email to [dhsec@nd.gov](mailto:dhsec@nd.gov) that includes your first and last name, Organization name, and Organization ID # and the grant that you are having difficulty applying for.

**G10. The "Apply" button is gray, what does that mean?**



ⓘ You have already applied or your program does not meet the requirements for this case.

You may have already applied, or your program does not qualify.

If you see this message, go to your Quality Dashboard, scroll down and view your "Active Cases" for your grant status.

**G11. Can I come back and request more Health and Safety or Technology funds if I have not requested the maximum amount?**

No, each program may only submit one application at this time.

G12. If I applied for only the Health & Safety Grant or the Technology Improvement Grant, can I come back and apply for the other grant?

Send an email to [dhsec@nd.gov](mailto:dhsec@nd.gov) that includes your first and last name, Organization name, Organization ID #, and the reason for your request. The grant team will be in contact with you if next steps are required.

## Payment Processing

P1. Why is a Supplier ID important?

**Supplier ID's are required to receive a payment from the STATE.**

P1a. How do I know if I already have a Supplier ID?

You will be able to track the status of your grant applications in your Growing Futures Organization account within the Quality Dashboard (located on the left side navigation) in your 'Active Cases' or in your 'Case History'. You can Click the "Case Details" on each grant to view the OMB Supplier ID under your Organization ID and Organization Name

If you have a Supplier ID a series of numbers appear.

OMB Supplier ID #0000 \_\_\_\_\_ / OMB Location ID #COVIDCCA

If you do not have a Supplier ID it indicates "Not Provided". In this event follow P1b.

▲ OMB Supplier ID Not Provided / ▲ OMB Location ID Not Provided

If you do not have an account within the State's Self-Service Portal (SSP) (used by the Child Care Assistance Program also), please create one.

Once your SSP application is completed a Supplier ID is automatically created and uploaded to your grant application.

Resources available to help create your SSP account:

- Step by Step Instructions: [Click here to see the steps](#)
- Link to the Application: [Click here to access the application](#)

P2. How do I update my grant payment information?

If you already have an established Supplier ID and need to make changes to your name, address, or ACH bank information, you need to update your Self-Service Portal account and send us a W-9, new ACH form AND voided blank check.

- Self-Service Portal Login: [Click here to access the Self-Service Portal Login page](#)

ACH deposit (bank information) has changed.

Complete the ACH form ([SFN 51620](#)) **AND** void a blank check. Then email them as an attachment with a message that includes your Organization name, Organization number, and license number to [dhsec@nd.gov](mailto:dhsec@nd.gov)

Also, log in to your Self-Service Portal account and update your bank information in your Child Care Provider profile.

**Address has changed.**

Complete a new W-9 and email to [dhsec@nd.gov](mailto:dhsec@nd.gov)

**Name has changed.**

Contact [dhsec@nd.gov](mailto:dhsec@nd.gov)

**P3. Will I be receiving my grant funds by check or direct deposit?**

If you recently created an account within the Self-Service Portal (SSP), funds will be issued using the banking information entered into the SSP.

If you did not create an account but received CEOG payments via direct deposit that is how you will receive funds. If you received CEOG payments on your state debit card or check you will receive a check.

**P4. I received a paper check; how do I add my bank information for Direct Deposit?**

Complete the ACH form ([SFN 51620](#)) **AND** void a blank check. Then email them as an attachment with a message that includes your Organization name, Organization number, and license number to [dhsec@nd.gov](mailto:dhsec@nd.gov)

Also, log in to your Self-Service Portal account and update your bank information in your Child Care Provider profile.

**P5. I am new and have not received payments from DHS, how do I get set up to receive payments?**

If you do not have an account within the State's Self-Service Portal (SSP) (used by the Child Care Assistance Program also), please create one.

Once your SSP application is completed a Supplier ID is automatically created and uploaded to your grant application.

- Step by Step Instructions: [Click here to see the steps](#)
- Link to the Application: [Click here to access the application](#)

**P6. If I apply for the grant and have to create a Self-Service Provider Portal, do I have to also accept CCAP families?**

No. The Self-Service Portal (SSP) creates a Supplier ID with the State for Child Care Assistance Program(CCAP) and grant payments. This does not mean you have to accept CCAP families, but we highly encourage you to.

P7. I received one payment, but I applied for more than one grant. How do I know how much I received for each grant? I have multiple Organizations being paid to the same place; how do I know how much is for each organization?

You can view the transactions found in your Growing Futures Organization account within the Quality Dashboard (located on the left side navigation) in your 'Active Cases' or in your 'Case History' by clicking Grant Details. The Grant summary will show the transactions for that particular grant.

P8. Where can I see the status of my Grant funds?

You will be able to track the status of your grant applications in your Growing Futures Organization account within the Quality Dashboard (located on the left side navigation) in your 'Active Cases' or in your 'Case History'.

When the grant is approved, you can go back into the Case Details to view the payment breakdown and each status it is in. Example. ready for processing, payment scheduled, and payment sent.

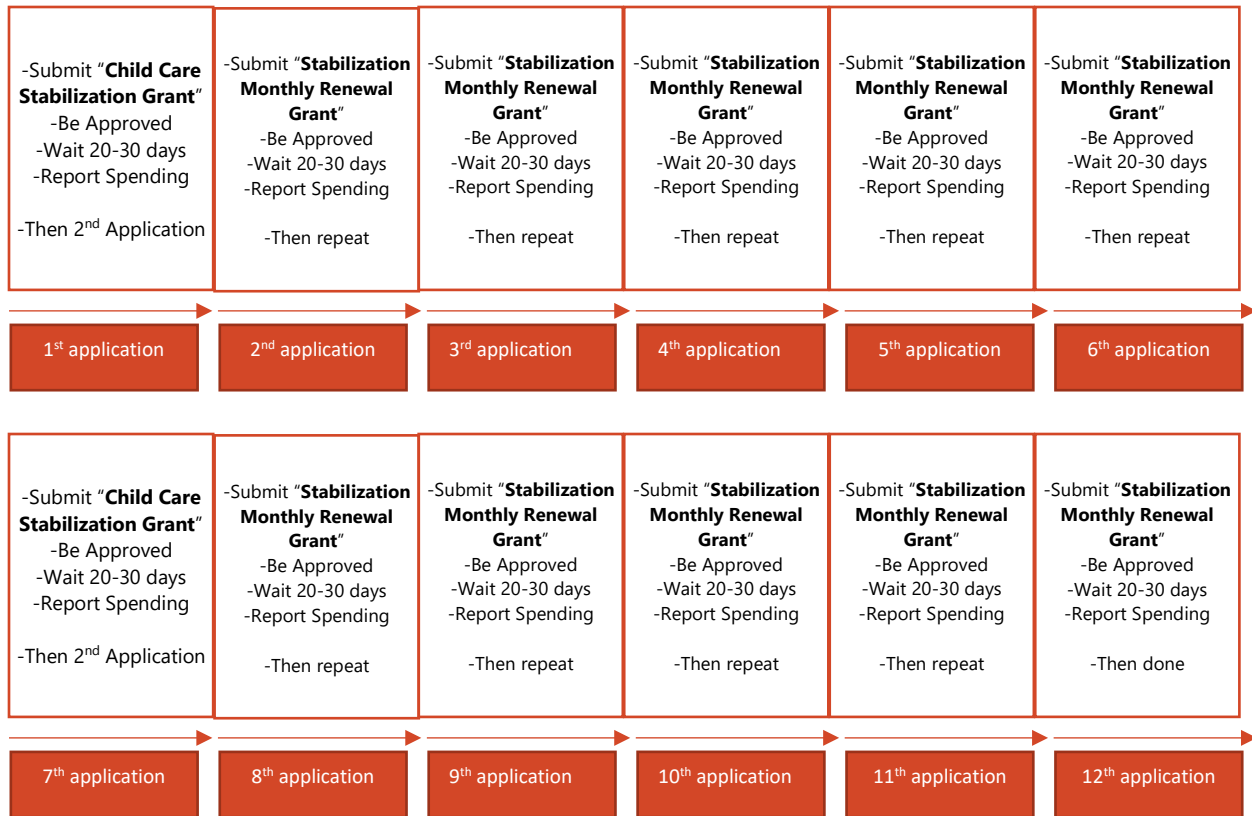
## Reporting Spending

R1. I was approved for the Child Care Stabilization Grant. How do I report my spending and apply for my next month?

The below steps must be completed in this order.

- Apply for the first time under the **Child Care Stabilization Grant** application.
- Prepare by visiting the website to review the "Information sheet: Funding uses – Stabilization Grant" under the "Grant Opportunities" section for a list of allowable purchases. <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/earlychildhood/ec-grants.html>
- Once you are approved, in 20-30 days you will receive a follow up email asking you to tell us how much you spent in the approved categories by clicking the Spending Report button in the email.
  - This will take you to log into Growing Futures and take you to the list of categories to select and list your dollars spent.
  - This will finalize this application and simultaneously open the renewal application.
- Then go to your Quality Dashboard to apply for the **Stabilization Monthly Renewal Grant** application.
- Repeat for up to 12 consecutive payments **OR** you reach the maximum allowable grant total, while funding is available.

Reference:



R2. When I applied I checked the categories I thought I would to spend the funds in. I am going to report my spending and my categories have changed, is that okay?

Yes. We are aware that what you anticipated you would spend the funds on and how you actually spent the funds could change.

#### FAQ Questions

I still have questions and I am not finding answers in the FAQ. Please email your questions to: [dhsec@nd.gov](mailto:dhsec@nd.gov)