

From Support to Strength: Stipends Helping Providers Thrive

FEBRUARY-JUNE 2025

Child care providers who completed the Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) cohort (8 hours of training plus three cafés) were awarded a \$500 stipend. In early 2025, **374** providers received these stipends, with a majority directing funds toward enhancing their child care businesses.

New this year: the initiative also piloted virtual Enrichment Cafés, a flexible, one-off option open to providers statewide. Across 10 sessions, there were **87** participants in attendance (some providers joined more than once). Participants received a \$50 stipend, which naturally led to different spending patterns compared to the larger cohort stipends, with more focus on day-to-day needs and less on long-term investments.

Across both groups, two clear priorities emerged:



- **Focus on Children:** Providers invested in materials, supplies, and environments that support children's learning and emotional needs.



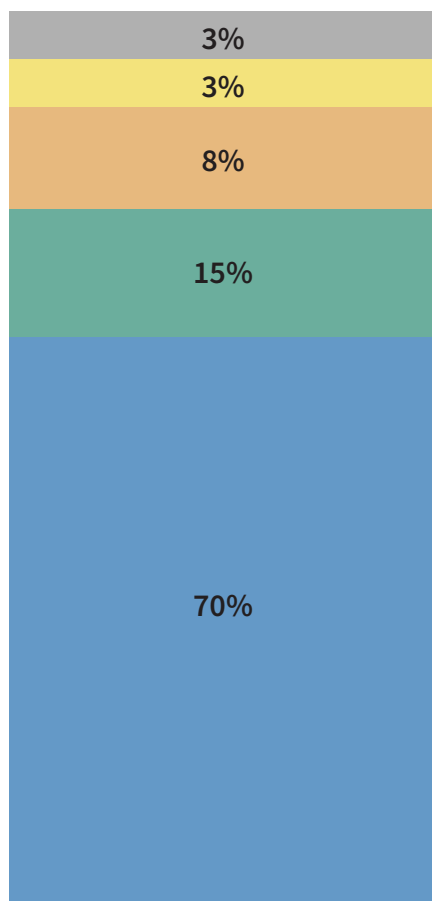
- **Provider Growth and Well-Being:** Many used stipends for professional learning or wellness to sustain their caregiving role.



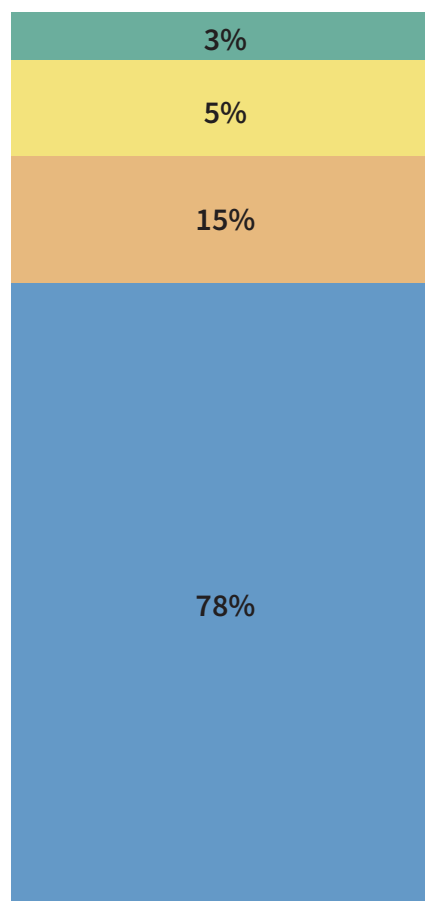
HOW PROVIDERS USED STIPENDS

Cohort Stipend (\$500)	Enrichment Stipends (\$50)
70% Child – Educational Supplies: books, toys, art supplies, nap mats, cubbies.	78% Child – Educational Supplies: books, toys, cubbies, outdoor play.
15% Program – Business Improvements & Professional Development: licensing fees, credentials, conferences, safety gates.	15% Family – Personal Needs: self-care such as personal upkeep, yoga, gardening.
8% Family – Personal Needs: medical bills, debt relief, wellness activities.	5% Food – Household Needs: groceries, basics.
3% Food – Household Needs: groceries, basics.	3% Program – Business Improvements & Professional Development: minor daycare upgrades.
3% Other – vague responses like “expenses” or “no plans yet”	

*Note: Percentages exceed 100% because providers often reported more than one way they used their stipend.



Cohort (\$500)



Enrichment (\$50)

■ Child - Educational Supplies
 ■ Program-Professional Development
 ■ Family- Personal Needs
 ■ Food - Household Needs
 ■ Other

PROVIDER VOICES EXPERIENCES

Cohort

“I am planning on opening up my day care, so I will use the money to buy all the materials I need.”

“Buying supplies and paying for ads on Facebook to promote my child care business.”

“I plan on using the money provided back into my child care business.”

Enrichment Café

“I want to buy toys for my day care children.”

“I want to buy manipulation toys for the children.”

“I’ll pay some of my utility bills.”

These stipends went beyond financial relief. They translated directly into stronger child care environments and more resilient providers, showing a clear return on investment for families and communities.

