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## **Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce Announces Grant Program for Family Child Care Startups**

The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce has announced a new grant program of up to \$5,000 for eligible new family child care providers. Grant funds can be used for CPR and first aid certification, licensing fees, and to purchase goods and materials, educational supplies, equipment, technology, and minor home renovations to child-specific spaces needed to equip and operate a Family Child Care program.

Priority will be given to new providers operating in Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet, Eastham, Orleans, Chatham, Brewster, and Harwich. Providers in other towns are encouraged to apply and will be considered.

Consideration will be given to programs licensed within the last six months by the Department of Early Education and Care. Providers who are in the process of licensing may apply for grant consideration while completing the licensing. Grant funds will be released upon successful completion of licensing by EEC. Providers must provide care for at least 2 children, excluding their own, and they must offer full-time care to accommodate working families.

"Family Child Care providers are fundamental to the early education and child care system on Cape Cod. By creating this program not only are we increasing the number of available licensed care slots for local employers, but we are also adding and supporting new essential businesses to the community," said Noelle Pina, Chief of Staff. "Our Chamber team is thrilled to steward this program and are working together to seek additional grant funding for longevity and to provide business guidance and resources for awardees."

Grant applications can be found at capecodchamber.org/members/public-policy-and-advocacy/childcare/. Funding will be awarded on a rolling basis.

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The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization whose mission is to strengthen and promote the regional economic vitality, cultural richness, environmental sensitivity, and social needs of Cape Cod. The Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce serves as the region's advocate for business at the local, state, and federal levels.