

Cornell Student Child Care Grant Summer Care Program – Summer 2017

Cornell undergraduate, graduate and professional students are eligible to apply.

Background Information and Funding

In 2004, Cornell University became one of the first universities in the nation to offer a child care grant for student-parents. Since then, the objective of the Cornell Student Child Care Grant remains the same: to provide financial assistance to as many Cornell students with child care expenses as possible. The program assists Cornell students by subsidizing some of the eligible costs associated with childcare, including infant and toddler child care, pre-school/pre-k day care, summer care programs, and before/after school care.

In 2015, Cornell made a significant investment in our student-parent community by contributing \$250K to be awarded annually as Student Child Care Grants. Despite expanding the program to include a Spring 2017 application cycle, funds remain from the 2016-2017 academic year due to a lower-than-projected number of eligible students applying for grants.

The new Summer Care Program is purposely designed to be more inclusive by minimizing eligibility requirements. This change will allow us to expend all funds each year and provide financial assistance to a greater number of student-parents. The Summer Care Program is available to eligible student-parents who incur costs of legal Summer Care expenses. In order for child care to be considered legal, it must be from a provider who will claim the payment as income on their federal/state taxes. Common examples of summer care may include summer camp programs or alternative daycare arrangements. Summer Care grant funds cannot be paid to a guardian/parent or teenage child in the family.

Individual award amounts will vary and be determined by three factors:

- 1) Availability and total amount of funds left over after the academic year Child Care Grant Program application cycle has ended (i.e., after spring semester awards have been determined). The Child Care Grant Program prioritizes support to student-parents during the academic year and provides financial relief for expenses associated with infant/toddler/preschool, and before/after school care for school-aged children. The amount remaining from AY 2016-2017 and, thus, available to fund the 2017 Summer Care Program is \$62K.
- 2) Number of applications submitted by the deadline.
- 3) Documentation of the cost of summer care. Award amounts will not be greater than the amount shown in the submitted documentation (e.g., receipts) and not exceed \$500 of what was or will be paid.

While it is possible that funds for Summer Care Programs may not be available in future years, we believe instituting a summer grant program is responsible, equitable, and supportive of allowing Cornell to make sure the funds are fully awarded to our student-parent community.

How Does the Program Work?

Student-parents will receive a taxable grant from the Summer Care Program based on availability and amount of grant funds available, the number of eligible applications submitted, and documentation submitted. It is estimated that individual award amounts for Summer 2017 will be between \$100 - \$500. The maximum award amount is \$500.

Who is eligible?

The goal of this grant is to provide financial assistance with child care so students can better attend to their academic responsibilities during the summer session. Because this is a unique program, eligibility is purposely

different than the previously publicized Student Child Care Grant Program. To be considered for Summer Care financial assistance, you must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Students who received a Cornell Student Child Care Grant award in Fall 2016 or Spring 2017 are not eligible to receive a 2017 Summer Care Program Grant. This is because Fall and Spring awards included \$500 for summer 2017 expenses.
- 2) The student-parent must be enrolled as a full-time student in a Cornell degree program at the undergraduate, graduate, or professional level during the 2017 Summer Session. Students who will not be enrolled full-time, but will be actively pursuing research, academic efforts, clinical responsibilities, writing a thesis/dissertation, may still apply, but must include with the application a statement about the time and effort that will be spent making degree progress during the summer.
- 3) The student-parent must be the custodial parent or legal guardian of a child 13 years or younger (or older, if the child has disability-related special needs) during the summer 2017 session.
- 4) There is no income cap requirement to participate in this program.
- 5) There is no requirement that the spouse/partner be employed or a student during the summer session.
- 6) The student-parent must submit eligible summer care expense documentation for the child. Awards will not exceed \$500 of what was or will be paid.
- 7) Summer Care must take place between June 26, 2017 – September 1, 2017.
- 8) Summer Care expenses must be from legal care services. Legal care is defined as child care from a provider who claims payments as income on their federal/state taxes. A guardian/parent or teenage child in the family is not a legal service provider.
- 9) If your spouse or partner is employed by Cornell as a benefits-eligible employee, you are not eligible for the student grant. In this circumstance, you may only apply for the faculty/staff grant program.
- 10) Summer Care Program grant money must be used to advance your academic progress. Funds must be used responsibly.

If you do not meet the above eligibility requirements, but believe your situation warrants special consideration, we encourage you to submit an application anyway and provide information about your circumstances. The Student Child Care Grant Review Committee carefully reviews all requests.

How Do I Apply for the Summer Care Program? What is the timeline?

Applications for the 2017 Summer Care Program will be available on May 19, 2017. Please submit only one application per household. The deadline for application submission is **Friday, June 9 at 4pm**. Incomplete applications or applications received after this date may not be considered. Complete applications include **both** of the following items:

1. The electronic application, via Qualtrics at https://cornell.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3IWXkttDIyhvTP7
2. Documentation of Summer Care services (i.e., payment receipt or confirmation of enrollment with total costs due from care provider).
 - Create a pdf copy of Summer Care service documentation and save the file in the format: “last name_first name_Summer Care 2017.” Use the student-parent’s name, not the child’s.
 - Please be sure it is clear which child is associated with each document.
 - Send the pdf file to Marie Roller at mr36@cornell.edu with the subject line “last name_first name_Summer Care 2017”

Award notifications will be sent via email by June 16. If awarded, funds will be posted to your Bursar Account by June 30 in the form of a stipend check.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Summer Care Program, please contact Senior Associate Dean Mary Beth Grant at mary.beth.grant@cornell.edu