Treehouse CARES Project FAQ

What does CARES Project funding pay for?

Funded by the CARES Act, the temporary federal funding is used to pay for virtual or in-person tutoring, school supplies, equipment, academic remediation, summer school, summer camp and extracurricular activities that support social-emotional development and engagement in school. Some examples of what the funding can pay for includes art classes, sports fees, sports gear and uniforms, music lessons, swimming lessons, graduation cap and gown, senior photos, school fees, educational technology items like laptops, headphones and calculators, and much more. For a longer list of what the funding can cover, visit https://www.treehouseforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/List-of-Requests-for-CARES.pdf

Are youth in foster care across Washington State eligible for the Treehouse CARES Project?

Yes, this funding is available for school age and post-secondary youth in state care or tribal care across Washington State. For additional information about eligibility, please go to https://www.treehouseforkids.org/our-services/eligibility/

Who can submit a CARES Project funding request for youth?

Caregivers, social workers and CASAs can submit CARES Project funding requests for eligible youth through the funding request form on our website: https://www.treehouseforkids.org/our-services/treehouse-cares-project/. Youth may also use this form to submit their own funding requests.

Treehouse staff may need to verify the legal status of a youth with the social worker before moving forward with processing the funding request. Please ensure that the vendor or tutor is ready to accept payment from Treehouse **before** submitting a funding request.

What is the difference between a referral and a funding request?

A program **referral** is required in order to determine whether a youth is eligible for Treehouse programs. Referrals are necessary for youth to access the Treehouse Store, Just-in-Time Funding, Educational Advocacy, and/or Graduation Success. Social workers, case managers, CASAs, attorneys, and school staff may submit referrals through the Treehouse referral website: https://www.treehouseforkids.org/our-services/make-a-referral/. Caregivers are not able to submit referrals.

NOTE: A referral for the CARES Project is only required for children and youth who have not been referred to Just-in-Time Funding or CARES Project in the current program year. Youth

actively participating in Graduation Success, Launch Success and Educational Advocacy are eligible for CARES Project and do not require a new referral.

Once we verify a youth's eligibility, a **funding request** can be submitted through the Treehouse website: https://www.treehouseforkids.org/our-services/treehouse-cares-project/. The process for submitting funding requests for the CARES Project is the same as Just-in-Time Funding. Please have payment details ready before submitting a funding request.

How will I be notified if the funding request is accepted or not?

Funding requests will be processed in the order they are received. You will receive an automatic email notifying you that the funding request was properly submitted. Once a funding request is received Treehouse staff verifies eligibility, reviews the funding request and ensures the information provided is sufficient to make a payment. You may be contacted by Treehouse staff if more information is required. Treehouse staff will notify the person who submitted the request if the youth is not eligible and whether the funding request is not accepted. If a funding request is accepted, Treehouse staff processes the payment and notifies the person who submitted the funding request that the payment was made or that a check will be mailed out.

What are the requirements for Treehouse to pay a tutor?

For tutors employed through a tutoring center or company, such as Sylvan Learning or Kumon, Treehouse will pay the tutor's employer with either a credit card or check.

For individual or private tutors, a background check must be completed before Treehouse can provide payment. A business license or tutoring certificate is not required. Tutors must be over the age of 18. Treehouse staff will need the tutor's full name and email address to send the background check. Please send tutor contact information to justintimefunding@treehouseforkids.org or include the tutor's contact information within the funding request.

Vendors and tutors may be asked to submit a W-9 Form when providing check payments. Please direct any questions or concerns to justintimefunding@treehouseforkids.org

Is there a maximum amount Treehouse can provide for tutoring?

There is no limit on the number of tutoring sessions Treehouse can pay for. If a youth approaches the end of their tutoring and would like additional sessions, an additional funding request may be submitted. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis until it expires on December 31, 2021.

Does the CARES Project provide reimbursements?

The CARES Project can provide reimbursements to caregivers of eligible youth and eligible Extended Foster Care participants via a check or electronically through PayPal. In order to approve the reimbursement, we must receive a completed funding request and proof of payment. If you are unsure what is covered under the CARES Project funding, please check out our list here: https://www.treehouseforkids.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/List-of-Requests-for-CARES.pdf

Can the CARES Project provide reimbursement funding without a receipt?

No, we are unable to provide any reimbursements without documentation. Youth and care teams must submit a receipt, bank statement, or picture showing proof of payment made for the service/item being requested. Documentation should include both the business name, date, and total amount paid.

Is there a list of tutoring resources to share with students, caregivers and social workers?

The Resource Center https://www.treehouseforkids.org/resource-center/on the Treehouse website now includes tutoring resources from across the state. It will be updated regularly. Please check the Treehouse website https://www.treehouseforkids.org/our-services/treehouse-cares-project/ for the most up to date information on the CARES Project.

How will Treehouse keep track of outcomes and feedback?

Treehouse will track outcomes and collect feedback through surveys to youth, caregivers and social workers. We really value feedback from families and survey responses are extremely important to help us provide the best services available through the Treehouse CARES project