

# COVID-19 Essential Employee Child Care

To help Tennesseans move forward during the COVID-19 emergency, DHS is increasing access to child care at no cost for Tennessee workers who are providing “essential businesses and services.”



- **How do I know if I'm an essential worker who is eligible for these supports?**

To be eligible for the program, parents must be employees of a healthcare entity, law enforcement, first responders (EMS, Fire Departments, etc.), corrections officers, military, activated national guard, human and social services workers, postal workers, transportation employees, restaurant workers or grocery workers. For a complete list of eligible employee categories, please visit <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/covid-19/child-care-services-and-covid-19.html>.

- **Do parents of children of all age groups qualify?**

Families with children under the age of 13 are eligible for this program. Families with children older than 13 that are: **a)** under court supervision or **b)** mentally or physically incapable of self-service also qualify for this program.

- **Are there income restrictions for these programs?**

These programs do not have income restrictions.

- **How do I apply to receive 2021 Pandemic/Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance?**

Parents who meet the definition of essential worker as listed above can apply online at: [https://tdhs.service-now.com/relief?id=relief\\_registration](https://tdhs.service-now.com/relief?id=relief_registration)

- **How do I apply to take my child to a YMCA or Boys & Girls Club location?**

Eligible workers with school-aged children who need care can visit <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/covid-19/child-care-services-and-covid-19.html> to view more information and visit the sites for those organizations to learn more.

- **How will payments be distributed?**

After an eligible employee enrolls in the child care payment assistance program, DHS will make arrangements to pay for child care at the DHS licensed program where the child is served. A list of licensed child care providers with capacity to enroll children is available at: <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/covid-19/child-care-services-and-covid-19.html>.

- **How long will this program be available?**

2021 Pandemic/Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance will be valid until March 31, 2021.

**Important Update about New Applications for 2021 Pandemic Child Care Payment Assistance:** Note that starting January 1, 2021, for new applications, the eligibility period for Pandemic/Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance will begin on the date the completed application with all required verifications is received by the Department. This is the same policy utilized with all other Child Care Payment Assistance Programs administered by the Department.

Please visit our website at [www.tn.gov/humanservices](https://www.tn.gov/humanservices)