

Child Care Services Daily Update – October 2, 2020

The Tennessee Department of Human Services is committed to supporting child care agencies in providing programs that are safe, healthy and educationally rich. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges over the past several months and many opportunities to approach the delivery of services in different ways. Thank you for remaining flexible and attentive to health and safety protections, while also remaining responsive to family needs.

Update on Child Care Certificate Program Reimbursement Rates

The Tennessee Department of Human Services is committed to supporting child care agencies in providing programs that are safe, healthy and educationally rich. We continually work to offer services and supports that improve quality, increase access and strengthen business efficiencies. This pandemic has reminded us all how very important child care assistance is to families and to fully appreciate all child care agencies who joined the Child Care Certificate Program during this time to meet this critical need.

TDHS has evaluated the current child care rates and has established a standard baseline for Child Care Payment Assistance/Certificate Reimbursement Rates in Tennessee. We have determined there are a few care levels that were below this baseline and we are making adjustments, effective October 1, 2020. This adjustment impacts child care agencies offering these levels of care. Additionally, we evaluated the tier levels based on defined criteria as shown below to make appropriate adjustments. There are changes in counties identified as Distressed and this list has been adjusted to reflect these changes.

1. The Child Care Desert County designations will remain the same for the period beginning October 1, 2020. The changes to the distressed counties are shown below.

Child Care Desert Counties beginning October 2020: Bradley, Chester, Cumberland, Davidson, Greene, Hardin, Hawkins, Jefferson, Lawrence, Macon, Madison, Marshall, Montgomery, Rhea, Robertson, Rutherford, Sevier, Shelby, Sumner, Warren, White.

Distressed Counties Beginning October 2020: Bledsoe, Clay, Cocke, Grundy, Hancock, Hardeman, Lake, Lauderdale, Perry, Scott, Wayne

2. “Top Tier Counties” are those with highest average populations and/or highest per capita incomes in both of the previous two years.

These counties will be “Top Tier” beginning October 01, 2020: Anderson, Blount, Bradley, Cheatham, Davidson, Decatur, Fayette, Greene, Hamilton, Henry, Knox, Loudon, Madison, Maury, Montgomery, Putnam, Robertson, Rutherford, Sevier, Shelby, Sullivan, Sumner,



Washington, Williamson, Wilson. Please refer to the Child Care Certificate Program Provider Reimbursement Rates Chart effective October 01, 2020 for Top Tier and Lower Tier rates details.

3. Beginning October 01, 2020, some targeted care levels will receive an adjustment. Please refer to the Rates Chart effective October 01, 2020 for these details.

[Included in this correspondence is a copy of the Reimbursement Rate Chart with the impacted care levels for your reference.](#) We are providing this information to you in preparation for the effective date of October 1, 2020.

Vendor Remittance Update: We also wanted to make you aware that beginning September 24, 2020, the Child Care Certificate Program began emailing Vendor Remittance forms to providers in addition to the one that is regularly mailed. The email will go to the main email address on your provider record. If a payment to the vendor includes more than one location, each location with a different email address on file will receive the Remittance form.

If you are not already a provider in the Child Care Certificate program and wish to participate, we will be happy to assist you with enrollment. Please submit your agency contact information including name of agency, name of person to contact, and telephone number in the request for enrollment to ChildCare.Certificate.DHS@tn.gov. You will then be contacted by a Child Care Services staff member to discuss participation and to complete the contract for enrollment. This one-on-one contact will allow the opportunity to discuss the procedures and answer any questions you may have about the program and the benefit for families, the community, and you.

Thank you for all you do to support families and children in Tennessee.