

Child Care Services Daily Update – October 21, 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: Disaster/Emergency Grants

The Department, in partnership with the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee launched grant opportunities in March to provide temporary financial supports to promote sustainability as child care agencies navigated through the unprecedented impacts of the tornadoes in early March and the COVID-19 pandemic. As we wind down these financial supports, we want to take this opportunity to share with you a snapshot of what has been granted to all agencies who submitted their applications by the established application timeframes. We are excited to announce that through October 20, 2020, there has been approximately \$45 million awarded in loss of income and operational support categories.

Category	Amount Awarded
Tornado Loss of Income	\$88,167.00
COVID-19 Loss of Income	\$26,721,856
Tornado Operational Support	\$364,330
COVID-19 Operational Support	\$17,548,179

Please Note: The applications submitted for the month of September by the October 15th deadline are currently in process.

These Operational Costs Support grants allowed for child care agencies to apply for the “cost difference” between their private child care tuition rate and the maximum state rate for families approved for child care payment assistance. We are continuing waive co-pay amounts and pay up to the maximum state rate for all children of families approved for child care payment assistance through the end of December 2020. With winding down of the Disaster/Emergency Response and Recovery Grants, the amount between the maximum reimbursement rate and the provider rate or the “cost difference” will no longer be available through grant supports. This amount becomes the responsibility of the family. Please be certain you are communicating this information with the families who have children in your care, so they are fully aware of the weekly cost difference amount to pay, if applicable.
