

## Child Care Services Daily Update – October 7, 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.

### **Reminder: Disaster/Emergency Grant Applications:**

Disaster/Emergency Response and Recovery Grants were launched last spring to provide immediate temporary financial relief to child care agencies as they adjusted and began navigating the impacts of COVID-19. We extended availability of the grant applications to support providers as they adapt to new approaches in starting the school year.

The category of Operational Costs Support was extended through **September 30, 2020** in order to support these September operational adjustments. All applications for Operational Costs Support will need to be submitted by October 15, 2020 for the month of September. **October 15, 2020** will be the final day for Disaster/Emergency Response and Recovery grant applications to be submitted. As we wind down this temporary support program, the ability to honor grant requests is subject to funds availability.

The Department continues to provide supports to families and providers to absorb the impacts of COVID-19 and adjust to the next normal. The COVID-19 Operational Costs Support grant allows you to apply for costs associated with operating under the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand there may be a “cost difference” above the maximum state rate that families are required by your policy to pay. We ask that you apply for this “cost difference” amount under the operations cost category. This will provide relief for the family and support you in recouping that revenue through September 30, 2020. The stipulation under this grant, is that once the money is received, if you have already charged and received payment from the parent, you refund or credit their accounts. If you have not received payment from the family, this grant amount will cover the full cost of care for children enrolled through subsidy.

**Learn about grant opportunities and apply online by visiting [www.childcaretennessee.com](http://www.childcaretennessee.com).**