

Child Care Services Daily Update – November 18, 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 Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee (CFMT) 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. There has been an overwhelming response to these financial supports and the total obligation of \$53 million will be fully expended. As these supports wind down, we have worked with CFMT to be very intentional in awarding the remaining grant dollars based on priorities. We have prioritized the distribution based on timeliness of submission, meaning applications that were submitted by the 15th following the close of the month requested, and cost differentials that support the families.

Please Note: The Disaster/Emergency Grants ended September 2020 and applications for the month of September were accepted until October 15th.

The Operational Costs Support grants allowed for child care agencies to apply for costs associated with the “cost difference” above the maximum state rate for families approved for child care payment assistance. We are continuing to 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. However, the amount between the maximum reimbursement rate and the provider rate or the “cost difference” became the responsibility of the family effective October 1, 2020, consistent with the wind down of the disaster grants program. 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.
