

## Child Care Services Daily Update- March 25, 2020

The Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) will continue to provide you with the most current information pertaining to Adult and Child Care programs. We will continue to remain diligent in keeping this site current.

**Reminder:** Disaster/Emergency Response and Recovery Grants are available to support DHS licensed child care agencies who have been impacted by the March 3<sup>rd</sup> tornados or COVID -19. We have partnered with Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee to administer the application process. Starting March 24, you will be able to apply for grant money to recoup some of your losses and expenses. Below we are providing updated clarification about how Response & Recovery Operations Costs can be used to support child care providers who remain open.

These grants are available to support DHS licensed child care agencies with eligible expenditures including but not limited to:

- Lost Income\*: Demonstrated and itemized lost operating income that results from closing the agency due to the disaster/emergency and that impacts the agency's ability to pay ongoing expenses such as staff salaries, utilities, or insurance that are necessary for an agency to maintain viability during the process of response and recovery.
- Response & Recovery Operations Costs\*: Unique activities that occur as a result of the disaster/emergency such as cleaning, utility repair, inspections, or substitute staffing.  
**Under the Response & Recovery Operations Costs grants category announced yesterday, DHS licensed child care agencies that remain open can apply for costs associated with operating under the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. This will allow agencies to continue to pay operating costs while factors such as child attendance, staff availability, and supply costs are impacted.**
- Equipment, Materials & Supplies\*\*: Replacement of equipment, materials, or supplies that were lost or compromised as a result of the disaster/emergency such as area rugs, soft toys, like stuffed animals, books, curriculum, learning tools and displays, damaged cabinets and shelving, supplies, and playground surfacing and equipment.
- Consultants and Coaches\*\*: Support for procuring curriculum, coaches, or consultants that are specifically related to disaster/emergency impacts such as helping children, caregivers, or staff through recovery, grief, anxiety, stress, or trauma.

\*Terms and Conditions apply to the Lost Income and Operations Cost grant awards that require families to be refunded or credited for tuition payment for times when children were not in attendance. If funds are received from this grant, no family should be charged tuition for days of a child's absence from the child care agency during the time period covered by the grant application.

\*\*The award amount for the Equipment, Materials & Supplies and Consultants and Coaches categories will not exceed \$1,000 per slot of licensed capacity to care for children.

We encourage you to learn more about the grant opportunities and to apply online by visiting [www.childcaretennessee.com](http://www.childcaretennessee.com). To begin the process, please create an account, or if you already have an account simply login to begin.

We have received several questions specific to completing the grant applications. Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee has provided email contacts below who are available to assist you with completing the application.

[DHSTornadoGrant@cfmt.org](mailto:DHSTornadoGrant@cfmt.org)

[DHSCOVID19Grant@cfmt.org](mailto:DHSCOVID19Grant@cfmt.org)

**UPDATED Guidance is being issued from the Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) today.**

- If you are unable to find enough milk or the correct type of milk, you are allowed to claim the meals but you must document the shortage and receive approval from your assigned CACFP program specialist.
- If other meal components are not available in your community you are allowed to claim the meal, but you must document the shortage and receive approval from your assigned CACFP program specialist. We strongly encourage CACFP programs to continue to follow the meal pattern requirements to the greatest extent possible.
- If you have specific questions, please reach out to your assigned CACFP program specialist.
- The CACFP will continue to update participating CACFP programs if/when they receive information from USDA

**Additional Reminders:**

We have heard from several licensed agencies of their intent to remain open and their current availability to accept children. We are working closely with our Tennessee Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) partner to assist us with collecting information from you on your available slots and to share this information with families within the community of your location who are seeking child care.

If you are open and available to accept additional children, please contact the CCR&R agency in your area with how many children you are able to serve. The numbers are below:

East & Upper East CCR&R	865-974-7750 (may have to leave a voice mail)
Mid Cumberland CCR&R	931-648-3695; 101 (may have to leave a voice mail)
Shelby County CCR&R	901-287-4748
South Central CCR&R	931-548-9835

Southeast CCR&R	866-296-3422
Southwest CCR&R	731-394-6626
Upper Cumberland CCR&R	931-319-4876