

Child Care Services Update – April 17, 2020

Dear Child Care Provider,

The Tennessee Department of Human Services is very excited to announce additional supports available for essential employees. We are launching a new category of child care payment assistance to support families that are working in essential workforce positions. The **COVID-19 Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance** program will be available during this public health emergency. Essential employees are defined as:

- Employees of a healthcare entity
- Law Enforcement
- First Responders (EMS, Fire Departments)
- Corrections Officers
- Military
- Activated National Guard
- Human and Social Services Workers
- Postal Workers
- Transportation
- Restaurant
- Grocery Workers

This category of care has no income limits and is designed to serve children 6 weeks to age 13 in licensed care settings. This is a time-limited category for the period of April 15 – June 15 to meet an immediate need for the essential workforce. We've placed a Fact Sheet below for your review and for you to share with the families of children enrolled in your program. We ask that you encourage families to enroll. Once the family is approved, the children will show on your Enrollment Attendance Verification (EAV) for you to invoice the state.

[Click here for the COVID-19 Essential Employee Child Care Fact Sheet](#)

This new category of child care payment assistance, the traditional categories of child care payment assistance (Child Care Certificate Program or subsidy) and the Disaster/Emergency Response and Recovery Grants have been designed to assist families with support and assist licensed child care agencies with funding for continued sustainability. If you are not currently enrolled with the Child Care Certificate Program, we encourage you to do so in order to provide these new supports for families of children who work in essential services and are enrolled in your care. We are prepared to expedite the Certificate Program enrollment to provide timely payment.

All information for this category of care will be on our website:

<https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/covid-19/child-care-services-and-covid-19.html>

This child care payment assistance program is in addition to a network of temporary/emergency care locations that will be available through the YMCA and Boys & Girls Clubs for essential workers with school-aged children.

We greatly appreciate your participation in meeting the needs of all families during this time of uncertainty.