

Child Care Services Daily Update - April 27, 2020

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

### **Payments through the Child Care Certificate Program**

As we continue to pursue multiple strategies to support providers and parents during this unusual circumstance, we want to provide you with information that may help guide you as you make decisions moving forward.

Last month, we shared a communication to providers with information on payment procedures for child care agencies participating the Child Care Certificate Program. This is an update to that communication.

The Department will continue to make subsidy payments for all children enrolled in the certificate program through the end of May 2020 as usual for all participating agencies, including those agencies who are closed due to the impact of COVID-19 or where children are not attending, perhaps because of family impact. Please submit your Enrollment Attendance Verification forms as per your normal payment cycle. If your agency was closed on certain days, mark with a "C" on your EAV as usual.

If the children are not attending your program but are still enrolled with you, continue to mark them as absent, according to regular procedures.

**Please Note:** The Child Care Certificate Program will continue to waive all parent co-pay fees for all pay periods through the end of May 2020.

We want to support families and child care providers during this time. Many families have temporarily lost their jobs due to the impact of COVID-19 and we want these families to be able to retain their enrollment.

At the end of May, we will reassess all of these temporary measures to determine how we can support you moving forward based on the effects of COVID-19.

Please send any questions to [childcareservices.dhs@tn.gov](mailto:childcareservices.dhs@tn.gov).

### **Additional Clarification When Applying for Operational Costs through the COVID-19 Relief Grant**

As we continue to explore opportunities to support child care agencies and families during this public health emergency, we want to provide additional clarification on existing resources that are available.

Many families have lost employment or have been subject to lay-offs during this time and are struggling to pay above the State Reimbursement Rates. This is causing some families to withdraw their child from the licensed care program. We certainly want to avoid this from happening so the family may retain their child's slot. The COVID-19 operations costs relief 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.

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).**