

Child Care Services Daily Update - April 7, 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.

Availability to Serve Children of Families who are Deemed as Essential Employees

Thanks to all who worked with our Licensing team and CCR&R to identify if your agency has availability to accept children of parents who are working as essential employees. We have now posted a chart to our website <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/for-families/child-care-services.html> to support families in locating care and to support you in building enrollment.

Please contact your Licensing Program Evaluator for additional information.

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.

Reminder: Disaster/Emergency Response & Recovery Grants: We are including additional guidance on the application process for each grant category as you complete your applications.

The Department of Human Services is offering a wide menu of grant supports to help DHS licensed child care providers who have been impacted by the March 3 tornados and COVID-19. Here is a basic overview of those available grants. There are 4 categories of grants. Based upon their circumstances, programs may apply in more than one category and may need to apply more than once for a single category.

Child Care Programs Impacted by the March 3 Tornadoes

Tornado Relief Grant- Includes 3 types of support:

- 1) Operations costs like utility repair & inspections- based upon the specific costs incurred
- 2) Equipment, Materials & Supplies*- replacement of items that were destroyed, damaged, or lost because of the tornado
- 3) Consultants & Coaches*- consulting or curriculum that will help staff and/or children cope with stress, anxiety, grief etc.

*The maximum combined grant amount for these two categories is \$1,000 per slot of licensed capacity to care for children.

Agencies are encouraged to apply for a Tornado Relief Grant after they have completed all insurance recovery and have a complete picture of the full range of expenses.

Tornado Loss of Income Grant- Programs can apply for lost income due to closure of the agency because of tornado damage. Grant awards will be based on the itemized lost operating income for the period of closure. Maximum total grant availability will be **no more** than the lost income associated with a period of closure not to exceed 30 calendar days. **If funds are received from this grant, no family will be charged tuition for closure of child care agency during time of Emergency/Disaster. Providers that closed due to the tornado may apply at either a two-week or 30-day interval.**

Questions: Email DHSTornadogrant@cfmt.org

Child Care Programs Impacted by COVID- 19

COVID-19 Relief Grant- Includes 3 types of support:

- 1) Operations** costs like utility repair & inspections- based upon the specific costs incurred. DHS licensed child care agencies that remain open can apply for costs associated with operating under the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. These costs could be claimed for up to a maximum of 30 calendar days. This will allow agencies to continue to pay operating costs while factors such as child attendance, staff availability, and supply costs (including cleaning supplies) are impacted. Agencies would be eligible to apply for reimbursement of impacted operating costs upon intervals of two weeks or 30 calendar days. **Only include salary costs for the employees who remain on payroll and will be paid through your agency (does not include laid-off employees).**
- 2) Equipment and Materials *- replacement of items that were compromised, or destroyed, due to the impact of COVID-19.
- 3) Consultants & Coaches*- consulting or curriculum that will help staff and/or children cope with stress, anxiety, grief etc.

*These two grant categories are less likely to be needed as part of the COVID-19 response. The maximum combined grant amount for these two categories is \$1,000 per slot of licensed capacity to care for children.

COVID-19 Loss of Income Grant- Programs can apply for lost income due to closure of the agency due to COVID-19. Grant awards will be based on the itemized lost operating income for the period of closure. Maximum total grant availability will be **no more** than the lost income associated with a period of closure not to exceed 30 calendar days. **If funds are received from this grant, no family will be charged tuition**

for closure of child care agency during time of Emergency/Disaster. Providers that closed due to COVID-19 may apply at either a two-week or 30-day interval.

*** *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.**

Questions: Email DHSCOVID19grant@cfmt.org