

Child Care Services Daily Update – May 12, 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.

***Update* Disaster/Emergency Grants and Support and Enhancement Grants Status Inquiries**

We are happy to announce a new method implemented for agencies to learn the status of their grant applications or ask specific questions about the application in process. Community Foundations of Middle Tennessee has created one easy form for you to complete. This enables a quick feedback process and routes your request into one easy system so that everyone gets an answer in an orderly manner. Please allow adequate processing time before requesting a status update.

Early applicants received a pop-up when applications are completed. The process is now improved:

1. An email is received upon submission of the application.
2. An email is received when the application is approved by DHS Field Supervisors and sent to the next processing step.
3. An email is received when the application is sent to DHS for invoicing. There are several steps between invoice and receipt of funds by your agency.

Submit any status requests about Support and Enhancement Grants and Disaster/Emergency Grants to <https://childcareoftennesseeillc.formstack.com/forms/helpdesk> and you will be provided this feedback form to complete for a status response.

Reminder-Disaster/Emergency Response and Recovery Grant Clarification

The Tennessee Department of Human Services is providing this grant opportunity to TDHS licensed agencies in order to maintain program viability and quality and to relieve families who are enrolled but not currently sending their child to care of the burden of child care expenses during this time of impact.

Additionally, TDHS 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. Child care agencies receiving grant funds should prioritize using those funds to continue paying staff salaries and costs during the time of impact.

The grants are structured so that families of children who are not attending care during this time are not required to pay because the Disaster/Emergency Response and Recovery Grant provides funds to maintain your regular operating expenses through funds other than tuition. During the time defined in the application, non-attending private pay families should be reimbursed previously paid tuition.

TDHS Subsidy/Certificates in effect on February 28, 2020 will continue to be paid for all enrolled children, both attending and non-attending children. For children receiving TDHS Subsidy/Certificates, the Disaster/Emergency Response and Recovery Grant will cover all co-pays and additional tuition cost differentials (the amount between the maximum State rate and the Provider weekly rate) for the period of impact.

Families of children receiving TDHS Subsidy/Certificate during the period of application will not be charged any co-pays or cost differential. Through the Disaster/Emergency Response and Recovery Grant, TDHS will cover all co-pays and additional tuition cost differentials for children enrolled in the subsidy/certificate program.

While the agency is open, all families not receiving payment assistance through the subsidy/certificate program and whose children continue to attend can be charged tuition as defined by your agency. These tuition charges will not/are not covered through the Disaster/Emergency Response and Recovery Grant.

These grants were established to support providers and families during the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19. Through these grants, an agency can receive funds that allow them to continue paying their operational costs without charging parents who are not receiving care.

These grants are available **statewide** to all TDHS licensed agencies including center and home-based care providers. To apply simply visit www.childcaretennessee.com. Once on this site you will be asked to login. If you already have login credentials, you may use your existing credentials. If you do not have login in credentials, you will be asked to register. Once registered, you will receive the credentials via email and may then apply.