

Child Care Services Daily Update – June 23, 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 website current.

UPDATE: Payments for Children of Families Approved through the Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance Program:

The Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance Program is available for the period of April 15, 2020 through August 21, 2020. Regardless of when an application was submitted or approved, the benefit will be effective on the first day of the program, April 15, 2020. If the child was in care at that time, the payment will be retroactive to that date or when the child began care with your agency if after the April 15th date. For example: A parent applies for the Essential Employee assistance on June 23, 2020 and the eligibility is approved. The child has been attending your program since April 30, 2020. The payment will be retroactive to April 30, 2020. You should receive a backdated Enrollment/Attendance/Verification (EAV) for this time period so that you may submit attendance for the child in order to receive payment.

For children already approved and currently enrolled in your child care agency, we will be extending the eligibility in our system from mid-June to mid-August. You will not receive an updated certificate reflecting this new date, however, these children will continue to show on your EAV form so you may continue to submit attendance and receive payment through mid-August. All new eligibilities moving forward will have the mid-August date reflected on the Certificate.

We ask that you share this information with families enrolled in your program and encourage those who meet the expanded definition to apply. The application is available on-line:

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

UPDATE-Reporting Requirements for the EAV for Payments through the Child Care Certificate Program

The Department will continue to make subsidy payments for all children enrolled in the certificate program through the end of **June** 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 "A" absent, according to regular procedures.

If a family has notified you that they wish to terminate care, indicate the date of termination by marking a "T" on the EAV beside the child's name under the appropriate date.

Beginning July 1, 2020, the Department will continue to pay providers who are open for children enrolled in the Certificate program whether they are attending or not. If the child is not attending, please indicate on the EAV with an "A" for each day the child was absent.