

Child Care Services Daily Update – July 16, 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.

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 absent, according to regular procedures.

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning July through the end of August 2020, the Department will continue to make subsidy payments for all children enrolled in the certificate program as usual for all participating providers who are open, even if the child is not attending, perhaps due to family impact.

Agencies who continue to remain closed after June 2020, will no longer receive reimbursement for children enrolled in the subsidy program and parents who are in need of care for their child may use their Certificate at an agency who is open and available to provide care.

Please send any questions to childcareservices.dhs@tn.gov.

Child Care Certificate Program Co-Pays:

Please Note: The Child Care Certificate Program will continue to waive all parent co-pay fees for all pay periods through the end of **August** 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 to support continuity for their child enrolled in your care.

Redetermination of Eligibility for Families Enrolled in Child Care Payment Assistance

Currently in order to continue to receive child care payment assistance, if a family has been receiving assistance for a year, that family must go through a redetermination process to verify that their income



still qualifies them for payment assistance. We have currently suspended those redeterminations for March through August, giving each family an additional six months of eligibility. The redetermination process involves getting updates from the family about employment and education status. Given that many businesses are still transitioning back to operations, we think many families will not be able to answer these questions.

This extends eligibility for families approved for all categories of care, with the exception of Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance as this is a unique category of assistance. We began extending eligibility periods in March. New certificates will not be issued, so we ask that you continue honoring the Certificate time periods per the chart below as we extend the payment assistance for families.

Certificate Shows an End Date of:	Certificate Will be Extended through:
March 31, 2020	August 31, 2020
April 30, 2020	September 30, 2020
May 31, 2020	October 31, 2020
June 30, 2020	November 30, 2020
July 31, 2020	December 31, 2020
August 31, 2020	January 31, 2021

Beginning in September, we will plan to resume eligibility redeterminations as per usual. Therefore, Certificates that you have that show an end date of September 30, 2020 printed on the Certificate, the family will have an eligibility redetermination in addition to those families who would have ended on April 30, 2020.