

Child Care Services Daily Update – August 18, 2020

The Tennessee Department of Human Services is committed to supporting child care agencies in providing programs that are safe, healthy and educationally rich. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges over the past several months and many opportunities to approach the delivery of services in different ways. Thank you for remaining flexible and attentive to health and safety protections, while also remaining responsive to family needs.

As you know, we have been working to provide guidance to child care agencies based on Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) federal guidelines and rules. On August 10, 2020, we received additional information from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office of Child Care specific to use of CCDF funds to pay for subsidies for school-age children who participate in remote, virtual or online schoolwork while in child care.

What does this mean for licensed child care agencies?

Child Care agencies who wish to provide child care services for school-age children during hours of remote, virtual or online schoolwork may do so while receiving CCDF funding either directly or indirectly under the following criteria.

- School systems within your community are not fully open and the option to receive remote, virtual or online schoolwork is an option for families of school-age children

Moving forward, an exemption request to provide child care services for children completing remote, virtual or online schoolwork or instruction while in child care is not necessary. The Department will review all previously submitted and approved exemption requests received and notify the submitting agency that the exemption has been ended or is no longer needed.

Will licensed child care agencies receive reimbursement rates for children approved through Child Care Payment Assistance (Subsidies)?

Based on the new information from ACF, child care agencies may receive full-time reimbursement rates at the school out rate for school-age children who are enrolled through the Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance program or routine child care assistance programs including Smart Steps, Families First, Transitional, At-Risk Child Only, SNAP E&T, State Custody (Foster Care) or Non-State Custody (CPS).

Update: Please note - the full-time school age reimbursement rate is the maximum rate for a full day of child care services for school age children regardless of whether that time is spent in remote, virtual or online instruction or participating in other activities throughout the day.

We greatly appreciate all you do to meet the needs of children and families in Tennessee and will continue to keep you updated with the most current information available.