

Child Care Services Daily Update – September 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.

Child Care Certificate Program Reminder:

The Department will continue to reimburse at the maximum reimbursement rates based on the child's care level according to the Child Care Certificate Program Provider Reimbursement Rates found [here](#) for all child care payment assistance categories.

Please Note: The Child Care Certificate Program will continue to waive all parent **co-pay fees** for all pay periods through December 31, 2020. We want to support families and child care providers during this time by paying the full cost of care up to the maximum Child Care Certificate Program Provider Reimbursement Rates established by the Department.

Additionally, TDHS will continue to make subsidy payments for all children enrolled in the certificate program as usual for participating providers who are open, even if the child is not attending, perhaps due to family impact. However, if you are aware that a child has been disenrolled with your agency, please indicate on your EAV the child has terminated with a "T" when submitting. This will allow the opportunity for another family who may be in need of child care to utilize the slot with your agency.

The Department will be extending the Child Care Payment Assistance program that was launched April 15th in response to the COVID-19 pandemic through **December 31, 2020**. This category of care has no income limits, and is designed to serve children 6 weeks to age 13 in TDHS licensed or DOE approved care settings.

Clarification: For families who were approved prior to August 21st, the eligibility will be extended through December 31, 2020. For applications received beginning August 22nd, and the family is determined eligible, the eligibility period will begin August 22nd through December 31, 2020. The child's enrollment will begin August 22nd if attending or when the child starts attending if at a later date.