

## Child Care Services Daily Update – September 4, 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.

### **Disaster/Emergency Grant Reminders:**

As many agencies continue to reopen or stabilize operations, the opportunity to apply for financial supports through the Disaster/Emergency Grant program is still available. These grant supports were launched to provide immediate temporary financial relief to child care agencies as they adjusted and began navigating the impacts of COVID-19. We are extending availability of the grant applications to support providers as they adapt to new approaches in starting the school year. With this in mind, there are new timelines for submitting grant applications.

The category of Operational Costs Support has been extended through **September 30, 2020** in order to support these September operational adjustments. All applications for Operational Costs Support will need to be submitted by October 15, 2020 for the month of September. October 15, 2020 will be the final day for Disaster/Emergency Response and Recovery grant applications to be submitted.

The Department continues to provide supports to families and providers to absorb the impacts of COVID-19 and adjust to the next normal. The COVID-19 Operational Costs Support grant allows you to apply for costs associated with operating under the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. We understand there may be a “cost difference” above the maximum state rate that families are required by your policy to pay. We ask that you apply for this “cost difference” amount under the operations cost category. This will provide relief for the family and support you in recouping that revenue through September 30, 2020.

The stipulation under this grant, is that once the money is received, if you have already charged and received payment from the parent, you refund or credit their accounts. If you have not received payment from the family, this grant amount will cover the full cost of care for children enrolled through subsidy.

**Learn about grant opportunities and apply online by visiting [www.childcaretennessee.com](http://www.childcaretennessee.com).**

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## COVID-19 and Early Care and Education: Considerations Before Reopening



## NATIONAL CENTER ON Early Childhood Health and Wellness

### COVID-19 and Early Care and Education: Considerations Before Reopening

[The learning module is now available on the Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center site!](#)

Explore the latest research- and science-informed resources and practices on caring for children during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Early care and education (ECE) directors and staff members and training and technical assistance (T/TA) staff members can use this tool as a guide to prepare programs to reopen. This tool is up to date as of July 1, 2020.

#### Topics in This Module

- *Caring for Our Children* policies and procedures pertinent to the pandemic
- How to involve your Health Services Advisory Committee in reopening decisions
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention decision tree to help directors and administrators make reopening decisions
- Considerations for screening children and staff members upon arrival
- Current guidance on wearing masks
- Guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects
- Caring for children with special health care needs
- Supporting staff and family wellness

#### Target Audience

- ECE program directors and staff members
- T/TA staff

#### Access the Module

Select [this Web link](#) to access the learning module.

#### Additional Resources



Select these links for up-to-the-day information and guidance on health and safety best practices related to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- [Office of Head Start COVID-19 Updates](#)
- [Office of Child Care COVID-19 Updates](#)
- [Get the Facts About Coronavirus.](#)

### Questions

Contact the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness (NCECHW) at [health@ecetta.info](mailto:health@ecetta.info) or (888) 227-5125 (toll-free).



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