



COVID-19 EMERGENCY CHILD CARE OPERATIONS AND FINANCING GUIDANCE

March 25, 2020

NEW GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION TO REMAIN OPEN OR TO REOPEN

Effective April 1, we expect all child care programs to meet new health, safety and operational guidelines.

If you are currently open and wish to remain open after March 31:

- You must complete a [COVID-19 Emergency Child Care Provider Application Form](#) by 11:59 p.m. on March 31.
 - The application details the health, screening, safety and operational requirements for remaining open or reopening to provide emergency child care to critical workers.
- If you do not meet the application deadline of March 31, you will not be approved by DCDEE to continue providing child care until further notice.
- If you need help filling out the form, call your facility's child care consultant.

If you are not open now and wish to reopen:

- You must complete a [COVID-19 Emergency Child Care Provider Application Form](#) and receive approval from DCDEE to reopen.
 - The application details the health, screening, safety and operational requirements for remaining open or reopening to provide emergency child care to critical workers.
- If you need help filling out the form, call your facility's child care consultant.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND CRITICAL WORKERS

All financial assistance is planned at this time for April and May, but is subject to availability of funding. NC DHHS will provide further detailed instructions for how child care programs will bill and how payments will be made.

Bonus Pay:

- NC DHHS will pay bonus payments to all full-time child care employees for April and May 2020.
 - NC DHHS will pay providers \$300 per month for all teaching staff and \$200 per month for all non-teaching staff.
 - Bonus payments are available for both child care centers and family child care homes.
 - Child care programs must pay staff prorated amounts of the monthly bonus payment at regular employee pay periods.
 - Child care programs have the flexibility to offer additional bonuses to staff using their own funds.



Child Care Subsidy and NC Pre-K Payments:

- NC DHHS will pay subsidy and NC PreK payments that are at least the amount paid for February 2020 attendance, so that you are held harmless for decreases in attendance in April and May 2020.
 - Subsidy and NC PreK payments will only be made if the classrooms are open and serving children in April and May 2020.
- NC DHHS cover the cost of all parent copayments for the child care subsidy program for April and May 2020. Child care programs must waive all parent copayments for these months.

New Financial Assistance for Families:

- Beginning April 1, a Critical Worker Emergency Child Care Subsidy program will provide financial assistance to parents/primary caregivers who are critical workers and who do not have other child care options.
 - Families will need to complete a COVID-19 Parent Application for Emergency Child Care form.
 - This application will be online, and families will be able to print the form and bring it to the child care program when enrolling.
 - Child care programs may also make the application available for families to fill out onsite.
 - Families must meet the following criteria in order for NC DHHS to cover the cost of care:
 - Gross income must be below 300 percent of the poverty line.
 - Must be a critical worker responding to the COVID-19 crisis or protecting the health and safety of communities.
 - Must have no other child care options available.
 - Child care programs will receive the following rates for new children served through the Critical Worker Emergency Child Care Subsidy program:

Age Groups	Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes
Infant	\$1,200	\$905
Toddler	\$1,125	\$830
3-5 year olds	\$1,070	\$780
School-age	\$870	\$645

- The Critical Worker Emergency Child Care Subsidy program will run for April and May 2020.
- Child care programs may not charge families enrolled in the Critical Worker Emergency Child Care Subsidy program parent copayments.



**NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Child Development and Early
Education

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

DR. KRISTI SNUGGS • Interim Director

For additional help and support:

We are working daily to make sure you have the information and support you need during this evolving situation.

- If you have questions about the [COVID-19 Emergency Child Care Provider Application Form](#) and guidance, contact your child care consultant.
- If you have questions about the child care subsidy program, contact your Subsidy TA Consultant.
- If you need additional help accessing food, cleaning supplies, or other essential resources needed to provide care during the COVID-19 crisis, , contact your [local Smart Start partnership](#).
- If you have health-related questions or concerns, contact your [child care health consultant](#).