

## Child Care Program Financial Support for Providers

### During COVID-19 Closure Period

The State of Vermont recognizes the essential role that early childcare providers play in providing critical care during this COVID-19 response. We are asking that our child care providers partner with us to ensure that both the child care system is maintained, as well as provide for care for our workforce of Essential Persons. We are asking our child care providers to:

- Open and provide care to the children of Essential Persons if you are able.
- Provide continuity of support and learning for families during the closure period. For example: story hours, puppet shows, and regular check-ins with families.
- Use this closure time for professional development opportunities.

The Child Development Division is offering financial support to child care programs during the COVID-19 closure period. This assistance serves the following programmatic goals:

- To ensure that child care programs are able to reopen at the end of the COVID-19 closure period;
- To provide financial stability to providers to help maintain their anticipated tuition income;
- To support families who are not able to receive child care services at this time due to the closure; and
- To ensure that early care and learning professionals continue to be paid, and will be able to return to their child care programs as soon as the programs are able to open.

Program eligibility is determined by a number of factors and is predominantly driven by the date of service.

### **Child Care Financial Assistance Program (Subsidy) Continued Payments**

**March 16 - Until Governor's Order Ends**

Beginning on 3/16/2020, Child Care Financial Assistance Program payments will be based on children scheduled to attend and eligible for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program and not on actual attendance. Please refer to the [guidance on billing](#) for more details.

### **COVID-19 Child Care Stabilization Payments For Private Tuition**

**March 18 - April 5, 2020**

During the initial closure period of March 18- April 5, 2020 the State of Vermont will cover regular tuition not paid to a provider on behalf of a family (private paying families as well as CCFAP co-pay and remaining costs to meet the provider rate). In order to receive these payments child care providers must:

1. Request families pay their full regular tuition and/or co-pay;
  - a. If a family is unable to pay their tuition the provider can receive a payment from the state on behalf of the family regardless of the family's income status.
2. Pay all their staff at full salary;
  - a. For registered home providers this includes where there is only one staff member (Owner).
3. Provide required information to the Child Development Division for the processing of payments.
4. Maintain the slot for the child of the enrolled family regardless of whether payment comes from the family.

**COVID-19 Child Care Stabilization Payments For Private Tuition**

**April 6, 2020 – Until Governor's Order Ends**

During the extended closure period, the State of Vermont will cover half of any regular tuition not paid to a provider on behalf of a family (private paying families as well as CCFAP co-pay and remaining costs to meet the provider rate). In order to receive these payments child care providers must:

1. Ensure slots are maintained for children of families who pay at least 50% of the program's regular tuition and/or co-pay;
  - a. If a family unenrolls their child from the program, the child care provider may request 100% of the tuition (up to \$360) from the State of Vermont. The provider must certify that the family has unenrolled and no longer has a slot in the program.
2. Pay all program staff at full salary;
  - a. For registered home providers this includes where there is only one staff member (Owner) this includes yourself.

Provide required information to the Child Development Division for the processing of payments.