

Financial Incentives to Child Care Programs for
Serving COVID-19 Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce

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 the workforce of our Essential Persons. We are asking our child care providers to:

- Open and serve 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 and growth.

The Child Development Division is providing supplemental payments to providers who serve children of the COVID-19 Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce during the closure period. Workers in critical businesses (as maintained on the ACCD [critical business list](#)) who must work outside of the home during this response and do not have other care options are eligible for child care as Essential Persons. Childcare being provided to Essential Persons during the state of emergency shall only be utilized by Essential Persons:

- (a) when there is no parent, guardian, or other arranged care in the home for the child; or
- (b) in the event of exigent circumstances necessary for the health and safety of the child.

The State will continue to monitor needs as this response unfolds and adjust as needed to help support care for children of these workers.

Every provider who provides care to a child of an Essential Person during the closure period will receive a \$125 supplemental payment per child per week for the provision of care.

COVID-19 Childcare Incentives: Payments for Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce

March 16 - Until Governor's Order Ends

Families – Essential Workforce Utilizing Their “Home” Child Care

“Home” child care is the family’s child care provider being utilized prior to closure.

CCFAP Families

- The State of Vermont, through CCFAP, will continue to make payments on behalf of eligible Essential Persons accessing childcare during the closure period.
- Essential Persons who are utilizing child care will be required to pay any remaining tuition balance (i.e. the CCFAP co-pay and remaining costs to meet the provider rate) as they do normally.
- The State of Vermont will pay \$125 per week to supplement the child care provider for the provision of care of an Essential Person's child during the closure period.

Private Pay Families Not Qualifying for CCFAP

- Essential Persons not qualifying for CCFAP who are utilizing child care will pay their regular provider tuition as they do normally.
- The State of Vermont will pay \$125 per week supplement to the child care program for serving the child of an Essential Person.

Families – Essential Workforce whose “Home” Child Care/School is Closed and Utilizing “Alternative COVID-19” Child Care

CCFAP Families

- **“Home Provider Tuition”** The State of Vermont, through CCFAP, will continue to make payments to “Home” provider on behalf of eligible families during the closure period.
 - Essential Persons who are utilizing “Alternative COVID-19” Child Care are required to pay their CCFAP co-pay and any remaining cost to meet their “Home” provider's rate as they would normally.
 - Essential Persons will maintain their slot with their “Home” provider as needed so that they can return there at end of the closure period.
- **Additional COVID-19 “Child Care Tuition”** The State of Vermont will make full tuition payments on behalf of eligible Essential Persons accessing child care in a program other their closed “Home” program during the closure period.
 - The State of Vermont will pay \$125 per week to supplement the child care provider for the provision of care of an Essential Person's child during the closure period.
 - Essential Persons who are utilizing “Alternative COVID-19” Child Care will only be required to pay their “Home” program.

Private Pay Families

- **“Home Provider Tuition”** Essential Persons who are utilizing child care will be required to pay their regular tuition as they do normally to their “Home” provider.
 - Essential Persons will maintain their slot with their “Home” provider to return to at the end of the closure period.

- **Additional COVID-19 "Child Care Tuition"** The State of Vermont, through the COVID-19 Payment Program, will pay the tuition costs for "Alternative COVID-19" child care plus \$125 per week supplement during the closure period to the "Alternative COVID-19" child care provider.

Families with School Age Children who Usually Attend Public School

- To place school-aged children of Essential Persons in a comparable position for access to child care services during this closure period, the State of Vermont will make two payments to providers: 1) a flat rate of \$200 per week per child for Essential Person's school age children requiring care; and 2) a \$125 per child per week supplement during the closure period to the "Alternative COVID-19" child care provider. Programs cannot charge co-pays or additional tuition to Essential Persons for the care of school age children.