



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

June 22, 2020

Recap of Resources for Child Care Providers During COVID-19

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and the Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) have shared a significant amount of information throughout the past several weeks as North Carolina's COVID-19 response evolves. To help you navigate all the recent updates and information, a recap has been compiled, along with reminders and resources that are available to you.

Updated Interim Health Guidance for Child Care

DCDEE would like to share some important information including **new** and **updated guidance**, which is intended to help licensed/regulating child care facilities make informed decisions about COVID-19 and minimize the risk of exposure to both the staff and the children in their care. The latest [Interim Health Guidance for Child Care Settings](#) was released on June 15, 2020.

DCDEE asks that special attention be paid to the guidance around the use of outdoor sprinklers in child care facilities and exclusion criteria for anyone being monitored for COVID-19 symptoms.

Operational Grant Information

DCDEE will provide operational grants to licensed child care facilities that are open for all or part of April, May, and June. The operational grants will help providers cover monthly fixed operating costs during these three months of the COVID-19 crisis, recognizing that revenues from parent fees are significantly lower as non-essential workers have kept their children home with them.

Who will receive operational grants?

Child care programs who were open in April or reopen in May or June will be eligible to receive operational grants. In order to qualify for the grant, DCDEE required providers to submit either an Emergency Child Care Provider application to remain open OR a reopening application, as well as complete a [COVID-19 Child Care Provider Survey](#) to report daily whether they were open or closed and to report occupancy/vacancy for children.

How much will child care facilities receive?

Child care centers will receive between \$500 and \$30,000 per month. Family child care homes will receive between \$359 and \$2,500 per month. The amount of the individual grants will vary based on the following factors:

- **Total number of children served prior to COVID-19:** Programs serving more children will receive larger grants.
- **Star rating:** Programs with a higher star rating will receive larger grants because of the higher cost to meet higher standards.
- **Infant toddler enrollment:** Programs serving infants and toddlers will receive larger grants to account for higher staffing and fixed costs associated with caring for infants and toddlers.
- **Serving subsidy children:** Programs that have served subsidy children in the past 12 months will receive smaller grants than programs that do not serve families and children receiving child care subsidy. Federal Child Care Development Funds are intended to increase access to quality care for families and children with low incomes. However, because of the unique challenges programs are facing as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, all programs will receive some level of grant support.
- **Subsidy density (the percentage of children enrolled who receive child care subsidy):** Because DCDEE is continuing to stabilize child care subsidy monthly payments to child care providers based on February enrollment, programs that have higher percentages of children on subsidy are getting more of their typical monthly revenue covered than programs that have lower percentages of children on subsidy and rely more

heavily on private fees from parents. Therefore, programs with lower percentages of children on subsidy will receive larger grants.

When will the operational grants be awarded?

The operational grants for those child care facilities that were open in April were awarded in May.

If the child care facility reopened in May, the operational grants will be awarded beginning June 25, 2020, but deposits can take up to five business days to reach provider's accounts. Grants will be prorated based on when the child care facility reopened. Grant payments could be a combined payment for May and June (two months' worth of grants).

If the child care facility reopens in June, the operational grants will be prorated based on the date of reopening and will be awarded beginning June 25, 2020, but deposits can take up to five business days to reach provider's accounts.

How can child care facilities find out how much their grant awards will be?

To find out the amount of the operational grant awarded to your facility, please call the appropriate telephone number listed below. When contacting the Division of Child Development and Early Education have the facility name and license number available:

- If the child care facility is in Alamance through Johnston Counties, contact Arlette Lambert at 919.703.5262.
- If the child care facility is in Jones through Yancey Counties, contact Laura Hewitt at 919.703.7916.
- If the child care facility would like to receive the grant amount via email, please send that request to dcdee.communications@dhhs.nc.gov.

All questions received will be responded to within two business days.

Bonus Payment Reminder

Bonus payments for those child care providers who submitted attendance for the months of April and May have been issued. The most recent payments were released on June 12, 2020. If you missed the deadline for entering attendance for teachers and staff at your child care facility, a second wave of payments will be issued. To be captured in the final wave of bonus payments, please submit all attendance for teachers and staff by 9:00 pm on June 22, 2020.

Emergency Subsidy Program Payment Reminder

Emergency Subsidy Program payments for those child care providers who submitted attendance for the children in the program for the months of April and May have been issued. The most recent payments were released on June 12, 2020. If you missed the deadline for entering attendance for children at your child care facility, a second wave of payments will be issued. To be captured in the final wave of payments for the Emergency Subsidy Program, please submit all attendance for children by 9:00 pm by June 22, 2020.

Reports of COVID-19 in Licensed/Regulated Child Care & School Settings

Beginning June 22, 2020, NCDHHS will begin [publicly reporting COVID-19 clusters](#), defined as 5 or more cases with linkage between cases, in licensed/regulated child care and school settings. Child care operators and school principals are required per [G.S. 130A-136](#) to report suspected cases of reportable communicable diseases, including COVID-19, to the local health director of the county or district in which the school or facility is located. Public reporting of clusters in child care and school settings is necessary to protect public health and implement appropriate control measures.

This data will be reported twice weekly. The report will include the names of child care facilities or schools with a COVID-19 cluster (as defined above), as well as the facility type (school or child care), facility county, and the number of cases and deaths among staff and children. All data reported for clusters in school and child care settings will be disaggregated in terms of cases and deaths of staff and children.

Updated Door Signs

The door signs for all child care facilities have been updated as of June 16, 2020. Please post the updated door signs at your facility ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)).