



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

JAMES K. POLK BUILDING
505 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1403

TELEPHONE: 615-313-4700 FAX: 615-741-4165
TTY: 1-800-270-1349
www.tn.gov/humanservices

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

CLARENCE H. CARTER
COMMISSIONER

February 23, 2021

Ellen C. Wheatley, Ph.D.
C/O Eric Blanchette
Regional Program Manager
HHS-ACF Office of Child Care
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Dr. Wheatley:

Per federal reporting requirements, the Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS), lead agency responsible for the administration of the Child Care and Development Fund program in Tennessee, is submitting a description of how it plans to spend funding provided by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) as of the date of this report. Actual use of funds may vary as spending plans are finalized moving forward. The report content is organized according to the following subject headings:

Direct Child Care Services (Subsidies)

TDHS will continue the Pandemic/Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance category of care into 2021 for families meeting the essential employee criteria under the protective services definition.

TDHS will continue services through contracts with the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club partnerships to establish and maintain a network of temporary child care locations for school age children of families meeting the essential employee criteria under the protective services definition.

TDHS will continue to waive all parent co-pay fees for all pay periods, for all categories of child care payment assistance, for a set period of time. We want to support families and child care providers during this time of the COVID 19 pandemic by paying up to the maximum Child Care Certificate Program Provider Reimbursement Rates established by the Department.

Additionally, TDHS will continue to make subsidy payments for all children enrolled in the certificate program as usual for participating providers who are open, even if the child is not attending, perhaps due to family impact.

Grants or Assistance (Other than Subsidies) to Stabilize Child Care Providers

TDHS plans to facilitate grant opportunities to child care agencies (including those who were not participating in subsidy prior to the pandemic) for the purpose of supporting cleaning, sanitation, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of programs, including for fixed costs and increased operating expenses related to COVID-19.

In addition, TDHS is exploring strategies to deploy CRRSA funds to support long-term sustainability and viability of the child care provider network. These strategies may include access to technology resources, enhanced shared services, resources to improve social/emotional capabilities, and support for strengthened business practices.

Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic

As described above, TDHS plans to allow licensed child care providers who were not participating in the certificate program prior to the pandemic to apply for COVID relief grants. Through licensure rules, all agencies directly regulated by the Department meet CCDBG requirements to receive CCDF dollars.

Other

In case this does not fit in the category of Direct Child Care services, TDHS will continue services through contracts with the YMCA and Boys & Girls Club partnerships to establish and maintain a network of temporary child care locations for school age children of essential workers, as described above.

Please contact us if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jude White,
CCDF Co-Administrator
TN Department of Human Services
Assistant Commissioner for Child Care & Community Services

cc: Francesca Longo, Child Care Program Specialist
Eric Blanchette, OCC Regional Program Manager, Region IV
Dewayne Frederick, Child Care Program Specialist
Melissa Davis, OCC Program Specialist, Region IV