



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

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September 16, 2020

RE: IMPORTANT UPDATES REGARDING CHILD CARE REIMBURSEMENT

Dear Child Care Provider,

Child care is vital to New Jersey families and our state's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. During these challenging times, we have been committed to supporting child care programs with resources and other supports.

To assist child care providers through the spring and summer, since March, programs serving child care subsidy eligible children have been paid based on pre-pandemic enrollment numbers, rather than attendance— even where facilities were closed. As more child care providers re-open to care for children and demand for child care increases, including among school-age children during the school day due to COVID-19 remote learning schedules, we are now implementing several important changes in how child care providers are reimbursed.

PLEASE CLOSELY REVIEW THE IMPORTANT UPDATES BELOW:

State Child Care Subsidy Payments

- **Effective September 1 through December 30, 2020** providers will be reimbursed for care for school-age children enrolled in the State child care subsidy program during the school day when children's schools have adopted a remote learning approach due to COVID-19. Child care providers will be paid either the part time or full time state subsidy reimbursement rate for school age children receiving a subsidy during the school day:
 - Full-time center care \$634.27, part-time center care \$317.14 which includes the parent's co-pay. Providers are not to collect co-pays during this time.
 - These payment rates will be reflected starting in the October 1, 2020 direct deposit for subsidy school-age children (5-13 years old) in your program.
- **Effective October 1, 2020** the State will no longer pay child care centers that remain closed.
- **Effective November 1** the State will resume payment to child care providers based on attendance and no longer pay child care providers based on pre-pandemic enrollment.
 - To record attendance, families will begin using the IVR system – a phone - instead of the swipe system. You will be contacted with more information on setting up the IVR system in your program if you do not already use it. This method is aligned with health and safety guidance to minimize contact and traffic during drop off.

- **Effective September 1 through December 30, 2020** providers will receive an additional \$75 per month/per child receiving the State child care subsidy, including infants, toddlers and school age children. (The school-age \$75 per child supplement for children receiving State subsidy will be in addition to full and part time amounts outlined above.) You will receive two lump-sums of these supplemental payments, which will be based on actual attendance -- one in October and one in December. More information will be provided at a later date.

New COVID Child Care Program for Families with Incomes Up to \$75,000

- Effective September 1 through December 30, 2020, families that are not eligible for the State Child Care Subsidy Program but who are in need of child care due to their child's school's remote learning schedule and that have annual incomes up to \$75,000, will be eligible to apply for child care tuition assistance through a new COVID child care program.
- Funding for recipients of this program will be provided directly to the family's selected licensed child care center or registered family child care provider. Providers will be paid the state's subsidy rate for school-age children based on the hours of care needed.
- Children enrolled through this new program will not be counted toward your center's \$75 per subsidy-eligible child payment per month supplemental payment.

For more information and ongoing updates on child care during this public health crisis, visit www.ChildCareNJ.gov. For specific issues/concerns, you can email us at NJCOVID19apps@dhs.nj.gov.

We appreciate your ongoing work to serve New Jersey's children and families.