



POLICY SNAPSHOT:

Emergency and Disaster Child Care Policy

To effectively carry out the critical emergency response and support needed by families and providers who are eligible for and/or receiving child care assistance and are impacted by COVID-19, the Department of Human Services' Division of Family Development will:

Additional Closure Days. Continue to pay providers for an extended period of time if they are instructed to close by the health department, school district or county executive related to COVID-19.

Co-Payment Adjustments. Waive parents/caregivers' child care subsidy co-payments for those who request it due to impacts from COVID-19.

Increased Rates for Open Providers. Increase rates for child care providers who remain open during this critical time to support working parents, and emergency and essential personnel. The state will pay a differential of \$100 per child per month above the state reimbursed rate for children enrolled in the child care subsidy program.

Additional Absent Days. Pay providers who remain open but children are absent due to COVID-19.

Extended Documentation Submission Timeline. Extend time for parents to submit verification of works hours for the initial application process.

Extended Recertification Timeline. Extend recertification timelines for at least three months so that subsidy child care service will not be interrupted for parents/caregivers.

Continued Child Care. Allow parents/caregivers to continue their child care subsidy if their hours are reduced or if they are laid off due to COVID-19.

Sanitizing and Cleaning Grants. Make grants available for child care providers who participate in the child care subsidy program, including family child care providers, to clean and sanitize their facility or home; or to purchase additional supplies or services necessary to keeping centers and homes safe and sanitary.

The Division of Family Development is taking these actions, effective immediately, to assist child care providers and the families they serve during COVID-19 crisis. The Division will continue to take all actions necessary to sustain affordable child care services and protect the health and safety of New Jersey's children.