

Coronavirus Emergency State-by-State Child Care Landscape

7-Apr-20

State	Child Care Agency	Child Care Closure Status (Note: Individual providers and local authorities may make closure decisions that are not reflected here.)	Emergency Child Care Provisions	State Child Care Actions in Response to COVID-19
Alabama	Alabama Department of Human Resources	<p>CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE.</p> <p>On March 19, 2020, State Health Officer Scott Harris issued a Public Health Order closing child care through April 5, 2020. The Order made exceptions for programs that "provide services exclusively to employees with: State and Local Governments, First Responders (including EMS and Fire Services), Law Enforcement, Hospitals, Nursing Home/Long Term Care Facilities (including Assisted Living and Specialty Care Assisted Living Facilities), End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Centers, Pharmacies and grocery stores."</p> <p>On March 27, 2020, Harris issued a supplemental order which provides the flexibility for centers serving 11 or fewer children in any given classroom to remain in operation. Per the order, the following are closed:</p> <p>"Facilities providing child day care, including any child day care facility described in Alabama Code 38-7-2, at which 12 or more children are in a room or other enclosed or separated space at the same time. Centers are encouraged to use enhanced sanitation and social distancing practices, consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Alabama Department of Public Health. This order does not change the Minimum Standards for Day Care promulgated by the Alabama Department of Human Services, except that 12 or more children shall not be allowed in a room or other enclosed or separated space at the same time."</p>	<p>Child care centers serving more than 11 children in any given classroom are closed at this time.</p> <p>The original (March 19, 2020) Public Health Order closing child care makes exceptions for programs that "provide services exclusively to employees with: State and Local Governments, First Responders (including EMS and Fire Services), Law Enforcement, Hospitals, Nursing Home/Long Term Care Facilities (including Assisted Living and Specialty Care Assisted Living Facilities), End Stage Renal Disease Treatment Centers, Pharmacies and grocery stores."</p> <p>The Public Health Order closing child care facilities exempts:</p> <p>Employer operated centers located on the premises of essential staff of state and local governments, first responders (including EMS and Fire Services), law enforcement, hospitals, nursing homes/long term care facilities (including assisted living and specialty care assisted living facilities), end stage renal disease treatment centers, pharmacies and grocery stores.</p> <p>Licensed providers that contract to provide services exclusively to the categories of workers named above.</p> <p>Daytime activities offered by local boards of education for the children of essential employees</p> <p>In the cases described above, no more than 11 children may occupy a single room at any given time.</p> <p>The amended Public Health Order issued March 27, 2020 allows for the operation of centers serving 11 or fewer children per classroom, without restricting this service to essential/emergency staff.</p>	<p>Guidance to Child Care Providers</p> <p>Guidance to CCDF Participant Centers</p> <p>Guidance to Early Head Start- Child Care Partnerships</p> <p>Child Care Management Agencies and Quality Enhancement Agencies</p>

Alaska	Alaska Department of Health and Social Services OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	Child Care Alert from Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (March 17, 2020)
	According to guidance issued by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services on March 26, 2020:	COVID-19 Resources from “thread” – Alaska’s Child Care Resource and Referral Network
	<p>“At this time there is no mandate for child care facilities to close. It is your business decision to determine if you can safely meet the needs of the children, families, and staff, and if you will remain open, re-open, or temporarily close. We ask that you continue to communicate with the families you serve on your plans, and to notify your local licensing office if your status changes.</p>	
	<p>We are working on a plan to continue payments to licensed providers. There are many details to consider and will require approval from the Office of Child Care at the Administration for Children and Families. We understand the urgency and will be working to get payment details finalized for April payments to be issued.”</p>	
Arizona	Arizona Department of Economic Security OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	COVID-19 Information (Food Assistance, Unemployment Assistance, Childcare Assistance, & Additional Resources)
	On March 30, 2020, Governor Ducey issued a “Stay Home, Stay Healthy, Stay Connected” Executive Order, to promote physical distancing, limiting time away from places of residence except for essential activities. Child care is exempted from closure as an essential human service.	Arizona Child Care Resource and Referral COVID-19 Resource and Information Page
		<p>On Friday, April 3, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey announced a new initiative to provide childcare services for essential staff on the front lines of the coronavirus outbreak in Arizona. The “Arizona Enrichment Centers,” starting April 6, will provide childcare for the children (ages 12 and under) of first responders, critical healthcare workers and essential public sector employees.</p>
		<p>According to the program’s website:</p>
		<p>“Our front line workers play a critical role in the response to COVID-19. To ensure Arizona’s first responders, critical healthcare workers, and essential public sector employees have the support they need to continue combatting COVID-19, the Governor’s office has partnered with local child care providers, nonprofit, education, and faith-based organizations to offer child care through Arizona Enrichment Centers.</p>
		<p>Arizona is working with Arizona Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) to provide access to licensed child care facilities. We are also working with local nonprofit, education, and faith organizations to provide families with additional resources and care options when licensed child care is not available.”</p>

Arkansas	Arkansas Department of Human Services	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	An accompanying web portal has been established by the state through which essential staff can qualify for both enrollment and scholarship supports.	COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Facilities
		<p>On March 21, 2020, the Arkansas Department of Health issued the following guidance:</p>	The state has issued Public Health Emergency Rules Suspensions.	
		<p>“You may be aware that Governor Hutchinson announced statewide school closures beginning this week through April 17 which includes school districts that operate Arkansas Better Chance. For licensed child care and early childhood education programs not operated or administered by a school district, there is no new guidance from the AR Department of Health advising DCCECE to close licensed programs. If DCCECE receives notice that child care and early childhood education programs should close, we will notify programs immediately. Programs may choose to close voluntarily. Please continue to monitor for updates and follow the normal protocols regarding hand washing and sanitizing to keep children and staff safe.”</p>	<p>Additionally, Governor Asa Hutchinson announced in a press conference on March 18, 2020 that the state will offer incentives to child care providers choosing to remain open.</p>	Information for Child Care Providers Regarding Covid-19 (Coronavirus)
			According to the Department of Human Services website:	
			<p>“For childcare voucher providers who remain open through April 17, DCCECE will reimburse through claim payment an additional \$10 per infant/toddler, \$7 per preschool, and \$5 school-age/out of school time care for children receiving federal child care assistance through the Child Care Development Block Grant.”</p>	
California	California Department of Education	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	On April 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order that will facilitate child care for children of essential critical infrastructure workers by allowing the California Department of Education and California Department of Social Services the flexibility to waive certain programmatic and administrative requirements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.	Child Care Licensing Coronavirus Information
		<p>On March 19, 2020 Governor Newsom issued a “Shelter in Place” order, directing Californians to stay home except as needed to maintain the continuity of 16 work sectors identified by the federal government as essential to maintaining national infrastructure.</p>	According to an accompanying press release:	COVID-19 Guidance to Child Care and Preschool Settings
		<p>Currently the California Department of Social Services leaves the decision as to whether a child day care facility should close to the discretion of the licensee unless ordered by local, state, or federal authorities with emergency jurisdiction to do so, requesting, at minimum, that each adhere to the California Department of Public Health’s (CDPH) guidance for schools on COVID-19 when evaluating whether to close or remain open.</p>	<p>“The waivers will focus on current eligibility and enrollment priorities that prevent child care and afterschool programs from serving children of essential infrastructure workers. The waiver will allow eligibility for child care to prioritize essential workers, including health care professionals, emergency response personnel, law enforcement, and grocery workers.</p>	California Child Care Resource and Referral Network COVID-19 Newsletter

Additionally, the order states that the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services shall jointly develop and issue guidance on how the essential worker prioritization will roll out, as well as guidance on how child care programs and providers can safely provide care. This guidance will be issued no later than April 7, 2020.

Priority for abused and neglected children will not be impacted.

The order also allows the state to take advantage of new federal flexibility to provide pandemic Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to children. Specifically, the California Department of Social Services and the California Department of Education will share data and information to identify students who may be eligible for the pandemic SNAP benefit, to reduce food insecurity and ensure children receive nutritious meals at low or no cost."

Colorado	Colorado Department of Human Services	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	Effective March 30, 2020, child care in the state of Colorado will be free for essential workers via the Colorado Emergency Child Care Collaborative.	COVID-19 Guidance to Child Care Providers from CO Office of Early Childhood, Department of Human Services
		On April 1, 2020, Colorado issued Public Health Order 20-24, Ordering Coloradans to Stay at Home Due to the Presence of COVID-19 in the State.	The state announced on March 30, 2020 it would be extending a 100 percent tuition credit to all workers deemed essential under the current public health order. These are the jobs currently exempt from Polis' stay-at-home order.	COVID-19 Guidance for Schools and Child Care from Colorado COVID-19 website
		According to guidance posted on the CO Department of Human Services' Office of Early Childhood website:	<p>The credit will completely cover child care for these workers until May 17. To serve these essential employees, the state has established a system of emergency child care, Colorado Emergency Child Care Collaborative.</p>	
		<p>"Child care is considered one of the essential services under the state-wide stay-at-home order, and can continue to operate.</p>		
		<p>Under the statewide public health order, existing child care providers may continue to care for families whether they are included in the "critical business section" or not. The choice to continue to serve any family is up to each provider. CDHS is encouraging any provider to take children of those deemed critical as a top priority.</p>		
		<p>Local public health guidance may differ, so always consult with your local public health agency if you have questions."</p>		
Connecticut	Connecticut Office of Early Childhood	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	In an effort to support programs that choose to remain open, the Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood has granted the specific waivers of licensing requirements during the period of the current declared state of emergency. These waivers will cease when the declared state of emergency ends.	CT OEC Guidance to Child Care Providers

[On March 20, 2020, Governor Lamont issued an Executive Order requiring the closure of non-essential businesses until April 22 \(unless otherwise ordered\). Child care is exempted as essential.](#)

[The CT Office of Early Childhood has developed a detailed COVID-19 information page for providers and posts updates near daily.](#)

[According to guidance issued to providers on March 26, 2020:](#)

"The Office of Early Childhood is providing fiscal assurances to providers of state funded early care and education services to ensure stability of programs during this very challenging COVID19 situation, and to assure a supply of care after the Public Health Emergency. To that end, OEC commits to paying the following publicly funded providers at the same level of funding as received in March 2020, through the end of the current state fiscal year, June 30, 2020:

- Care4Kids
- Child Day Care
- School Readiness

Smart Start Even Start and Head Start Supplement programs will continue to follow their normal funding and payment processes.

In addition, the agency is releasing up to \$4.5 million in Public Health Emergency Response Grant Funds to incentivize and support public and private programs that re-open or remain open to provide child care for children of health workers and first responders. These funds are available only during the period in which Lamont's "Stay Safe, Stay Home" executive order remains in effect."

Delaware [Delaware Department of Health and Social Services](#)

[CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE](#)

[On March 30, 2020, Governor Carney Governor John Carney on Monday signed the eighth modification to his State of Emergency declaration, which allows child care programs in Delaware to be designated as emergency child care sites in an effort to assist essential personnel during the coronavirus crisis.](#)

According to explanatory language issued by the Governor Office on March 30, 2020: [Guidance to Child Care Providers](#)

["Governor Carney's order "allows DSCYF to create a process by which families can enroll their children in designated emergency child care if their current child care facility temporarily closes. DSCYF worked with the Delaware Division of Public Health to create strict health and safety guidelines to help child care providers prepare their facilities. Before being designated as an emergency child care site by DSCYF, a provider must demonstrate that they are able to and will adhere to the following requirements developed by the Office of Child Care Licensing and the Division of Public Health.](#)

Starting April 6 and continuing until the State of Emergency is lifted, child care may only be provided by child care centers and child care homes that have been designated as "Emergency Child Care Sites" by the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF). In order to be an emergency child care site, child care centers and homes must certify that they are only providing child care to children of personnel working for essential businesses, as defined by Governor Carney's State of Emergency, and cannot work from home.

[Interested providers must submit an emergency child care site application online by April 3. As of April 6, all other child care facilities must close until the end of the Governor's State of Emergency.](#)

District of Columbia

[D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education](#)

[OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN](#)

[On March 24, 2020, Washington DC Mayor Bowser issued Mayor's Order 2020-053, ordering the closure of non-essential businesses and prohibiting large gatherings during the COVID-19 outbreak. The order exempts child care from closure, but dictates that:](#)

"To the extent possible:

Child care facilities should prioritize services for children of essential employees, and child care facilities shall comply with OSSE, Guidance for Child Care Providers and Families Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19)."

[According to The Washington Post \(March 25, 2020\):](#)

"The [DC School] District plans to open six emergency child-care facilities Thursday to serve the children of health-care workers during the coronavirus crisis, city officials said. The sites can accommodate 250 children up to age 12 and are strategically located near hospitals and the homes of health-care workers.

Hanseul Kang, the District's superintendent for education, said the city is working with hospitals and health-care facilities to identify qualifying families. At least 75 children are expected to attend opening day. The city hopes to expand the program in the coming weeks, Kang said. The expanded program would also aim to serve health-care employees who work nights and weekends."

[Coronavirus Resources](#)

[Information for Small Business Recovery](#)

Florida

[Florida Department of Children and Families](#)

[OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN](#)

[Florida is permitting waivers of specific standards in order to continue operations and asking providers considering closure to contact their licensing specialists to co-develop plans to stay open.](#)

[COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

According to the DCF website:

"If you need to request a variance or waiver of specific standards in order to continue operations, please submit the request to through your local licensing office.

We are processing these daily. If you are considering closing, please contact your licensing specialist to discuss a plan to stay open. We want to help you.

			<p>If you are a teacher and your center has closed and you would like to help other centers that provide emergency child care in any capacity, please email your transcript, proof of background screening, and an email address to HQW.Child.Care.Licensing@myflfamilies.com. You will be added to a list that providers will have access in order to contact you directly.”</p>	
Georgia	Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN On March 23, 2020, Governor Kemp issued an executive order (subsequently extended until April 13) that prohibits gatherings of more than 10. Child care is not required to close under this order, but to remain in compliance, centers must limit classroom sizes to no more than 10, including staff. According to guidance posted on the DECAL website: “Although no one wants to turn away families who are enrolled or wish to enroll, child care must adhere to Governor Kemp’s Executive Order of March 23, which states that no more than 10 people can gather in one location unless six feet of social distancing can be maintained. For child care, this means that classrooms can have no more than 10 people, including teachers. If demand exceeds space at a licensed or exempt program, providers must make the business decision about who they will serve by prioritizing enrollment slots. DECAL recommends giving priority to families who are essential workers, so they can provide vital services to the community in this critical time.”	According to guidance posted by DECAL: “In response to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has established a new priority group for Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) effective April 1, 2020: Essential Services Workforce. The Essential Services Workforce Priority Group was created by CAPS to support certain members of Georgia’s workforce during the public health emergency. This support will help essential workers pay for child care so they can help stop the spread of COVID-19 and serve the medical needs of Georgians. To help determine eligibility for this new priority group, Georgia’s CAPS program has identified occupations belonging to the essential workforce. (Other entities may define essential workforce differently.) Families who qualify for the Essential Services Workforce Priority Group, and meet other CAPS eligibility requirements, will be eligible to receive child care subsidy for three months and potentially longer if the COVID-19 public health emergency continues.”	Frequently Asked Questions COVID-19 Guidance
Hawaii	Hawaii Department of Human Services	CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE On March 23, 2020, Governor Ige issued an Executive Order directing that all persons in the state must stay at home or in their place of residence until April 30, 2020. This order identifies child care as an essential business, allowing it to remain in operation only to the extent that it is designed to provide emergency services for essential employees exempted by the order.		Child Care Information for Essential employees COVID-19 Guidance
Idaho	Idaho Department of Health and	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN		COVID Plan and Prepare Memo Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Guidance to Child Care Providers

[Welfare](#)

[On March 26, 2020, Governor Little issued a 21-day “Stay at Home” order. The order identifies child care providers as an essential business, exempting them from closure at this time. However, the order dictates that: “To the extent possible, child care facilities must operate under the following condition: child care must be carried out in as small and stable groups as possible.](#)

Illinois

[Illinois Department of Human Services](#)

[CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE](#)

[“Day care centers for employees exempted by this Executive Order. Day care centers granted an emergency license pursuant to Title 89, Section 407.400 of the Illinois Administrative Code, governing Emergency Day Care Programs for children of employees exempted by this Executive Order to work as permitted.](#)

[Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development COVID-19 Resources](#)

On March 20, 2020, Governor Pritzker issued a “Stay at Home” Order for all IL citizens. The order closes licensed child care centers and all childcare homes serving more than six children, with the exception of those granted an emergency license to provide care for essential staff.

The licensing requirements for day care homes pursuant to Section 4 of the Child Care Act, 225 ILCS 10/4, are hereby suspended for family homes that receive up to 6 children for the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation.”

[On April 5, 2020, Governor Pritzker announced that, effective April 1st, all essential workers in health care, human services, essential government services, and essential infrastructure will qualify for the state's Child Care Assistance Program. The state will cover most of the cost of care provided by emergency child care centers and homes. This expansion of eligibility includes those working as nurses and doctors, supporting staff in hospitals, grocery store clerks and food producers.](#)

[Full details and applications for assistance are available on the Department of Human Services \(IDHS\) website.](#)

For emergency child care centers and homes, the state will be paying enhanced reimbursement rates effective April 1st. The enhanced reimbursement rate is 30 percent above the usual pay rate. The change seeks to reflect the additional costs of providing care in smaller groups.

[Child care centers that are interested in re-opening as emergency child centers are able to apply for a permit through the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services \(DCFS\). Information is available on the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development \(GOECD\) website. Home child care providers do not need a permit, and can serve up to 6 children.](#)

The state developed a simple waiver process to allow child care providers to be paid for all of their enrolled children in the Child Care Assistance Program for March and April so that child care staff could continue to receive pay through this crisis. The state also reduced parent co-payments in April and May to \$1 per month to relieve cost burdens on parents and to make sure that providers don't miss out on this important revenue.

Indiana [Indiana Family and Social Services Administration](#) [OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN](#)

[Indiana has issued an application for temporary assistance grants for child care providers. As described by FSSA:](#) [COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Guidance for OECOSL Stakeholders](#)

Indiana has directed that child care should remain open and accept children in need of care unless a positive case of COVID-19 is identified within the child care as a way to support public health workers, families and other important personnel who need to support the overall efforts to combat COVID-19.

"FSSA's Office of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning is offering an opportunity to apply for temporary grants for assistance to impacted providers during periods of excessive absence of PRIVATE PAY children and closures due to COVID-19. This grant does NOT provide assistance to providers for CCDF/ On My Way Pre-K funded children."

[On March 25, 2020, a press release from the Office of Governor Eric Holcomb described new measures being taken to support families in accessing child care:](#)

"The Indiana State Department of Education (DOE) and Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) have teamed to encourage school corporations in Indiana to open schools on a limited basis to provide child care services for emergency workers and others who are working to keep communities safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[On March 20, 2020, FSSA provided new guidance for child care operators who are licensed by the state.](#)

[On March 25, 2020, DOE provided similar guidance to school corporations to care for the school age children of essential workers. The guidance provides specific steps for schools to take to open school facilities as well as how to maintain a safe environment.](#)

Among precautions for school district officials, the steps include collecting child health records, allowing extra time for deep cleaning, prohibiting staff who are in high-risk categories from providing the care, and keeping groups of students in separate areas of the building.

Iowa [Iowa Department of Human Services](#) [OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN](#)

[According to guidance issued to child care providers on March 30, 2020:](#) [Child Care Guidance in Response to COVID-19](#)

[The Iowa Department of Human Services \(DHS\) encourages parents who telecommute to keep their children home with them. DHS also encourages childcare settings to limit rooms to 10 individuals per room when possible, and to increase space between children. Recess, activities and hallway passing should be staggered to limit interactions. To remain open during this time, the Department is requiring all childcare centers follow practices outlined in new guidance issued April 1, 2020.](#)

“Childcare Assistance (CCA) Payment -- The Department is aware of the hardship on childcare providers due to COVID-19. In order to assist, effective March 9, 2020, the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) no longer limits the amount of absent days paid per month to childcare providers who remain open for business.

Additional Funding -- We are pleased that the federal government enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The CARES Act includes emergency funding to assist childcare providers. The CARES Act is a step forward in providing economic relief for childcare providers affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Department is assessing the allowable use of dollars. DHS will collaborate with local communities and providers to ensure a robust partnership that ensures these funds are used to best address Iowa’s childcare needs.”

Kansas [Kansas Department for Children and Families](#) [OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN](#)

[According to the Interim Guidance for Child Care Facilities Licensed by the KDHE:](#)

[Child Care Guidance from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#)

[Kansas Department for Children and Families FAQ for Providers \(March 30, 2020\)](#)

[At this time, KDHE supports continuity of operations for child care. KDHE will communicate updates should our recommendations change. Child care facilities \(family child care and center-based care\) that are willing and able to continue to operate are providing an important service for parents who must continue to work, particularly those whose jobs are considered essential for the well-being of the community. Licensed child care, with its emphasis on healthy and safe daily routines, provides a stabilizing and often familiar setting for children while parents are away at work. Although child care has been identified as an essential business and may operate in all counties, child care licensees may independently decide to temporarily close based on their own situation.](#)

“Child Care Licensing will not issue blanket exceptions to increase capacity or eliminate other health and safety requirements as part of the COVID-19 response. This includes issuing temporary licenses for an existing facility to operate in an alternate location. We await federal guidance on any waivers for requirements related to background checks and initial health and safety training.

Existing child care facilities are required to continue to operate within the terms of their licenses and to comply with licensing laws and regulations.”

[On March 30, 2020, the Kansas Department for Children and Families issued new guidance to child care providers, identifying three ways the Department is working to assist families during the COVID-19:](#)

“1. For families working additional hours, additional child care hours may be authorized. Please contact your local DCF service center to report your change in hours worked.

2. Families whose child care assistance is due to be reviewed for benefits to continue in April, May, June or July will have an additional 12-month eligibility period authorized automatically at the same benefit level as before. If your child care assistance was already reviewed for April benefits, you will receive notification as usual regarding your new benefits. If you have had an increase in work hours, or if your income has gone down, let your local DCF service center know so we can review to see if we can adjust your benefits to better serve your needs.

[3. During the months of March, April, May, June or July of 2020, DCF will delay taking action on some child care cases that normally would close. A family’s regular income must remain under 85% of the State Median Income \(SMI\) in order to remain eligible for child care. You can find the current SMI for your household size on any approval notice that you receive for child care with plans starting in April 2020. This information can also be found here.”](#)

[Kansas has, through its Preschool Development Grant \(Birth-Five\), established \\$500 Child Care Action Lab Grants to help child care providers in Kansas during the COVID-19 crisis.](#)

Kentucky	Department for Community-Based Services	CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE	<p>As indicated at left, approved health care providers may partner with YMCAs and/or licensed child care providers for the provision of limited duration, emergency child care. The Kentucky Division of Child Care (DCC) has also asked the national Office of Child Care for an amendment to the state's plan to allow Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) funding for CCAP-eligible families based on enrollment and NOT on attendance. This request would last through the State of Emergency and be in place regardless if a center is open or closed. DCC has also asked for an amendment for the Division to cover the cost of parent co-payments during the State of Emergency to ensure financial security for centers and for families.</p> <p>On March 19, 2020 the state issued Interim Guidance for Limited Duration Child Care Programs, which permits approved health care facilities to partner with YMCAs and/or licensed child care providers for emergency care.</p>	Closure Order
Louisiana	Louisiana Department of Education	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN, WITH GROUP SIZES LIMITED TO 10	<p>Additional Funding -- We are pleased that the federal government enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The CARES Act includes emergency funding to assist</p>	Louisiana Department of Education COVID-19 Resources

[Louisiana is currently under an extended Stay at Home Order until April 30, 2020.](#)

[According to guidance from the Louisiana Department of Education:](#)

“Child care centers are not included for closure in the governor’s executive order. Sites should make closure decisions in coordination with local public health contact. If providers have questions regarding school or center closures, they can consult with their local public health contact, but are not required to call...

In light of the Governor’s Stay-At-Home order, the Louisiana Office of Public Health has updated guidance to private early learning centers. Given the risk for transmission of the virus causing COVID-19 in group or congregate settings, centers must follow the below guidance in order to remain in operation:

- Strongly encourage all children that can stay home to do so.
- Early learning center and daycare services should prioritize support for health care workers and essential workers.
- Children and staff group sizes should be limited to 10 or less. Group sizes for infants should be limited to 5 or less.
- Outdoor groups should be separated from each other, and also follow the follow the <10 staff/children guidance.
- Practice frequent environmental cleaning (cleaning high touch surfaces hourly) and wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. Alcohol based sanitizers are appropriate when soap and water are not readily available.
- Actively monitor children and staff for any symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath or sore throat throughout the day. Any child with these symptoms should not participate in these programs for the duration of the illness. Only well children should attend.
- Staff members in high-risk (elderly, those with medical conditions) should be encouraged to stay home.”

childcare providers. The CARES Act is a step forward in providing economic relief for childcare providers affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The Department is assessing the allowable use of dollars. DHS will collaborate with local communities and providers to ensure a robust partnership that ensures these funds are used to best address Iowa’s childcare needs.”

[Louisiana Office of Public Health COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[of Health and Human Services](#)

"We know that there are some child care programs and early childhood professionals who are able to help care for children of healthcare workers and other essential service employees. OCFS is partnering with Maine AEYC to help connect those most in need of child care with those early educators who are able to help."

DHHS Office of Child and Family Services:

"It remains each provider's decision whether or not to operate. The March 31, 2020 Executive Order does not order that child cares close. OCFS continues to encourage and support child care providers who choose to remain open providing care to children of Maine's working families who cannot work from home."

Maryland [Maryland State Department of Education](#)

[CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE](#)

[The state has already waived a number of regulations as outlined here.](#)

[Early Childhood Grants, Programming and Initiatives in Maryland During COVID-19 State of Emergency](#)

[On March 26, 2020, the Maryland Department of Education announced that child care providers will be required to close after Friday, March 27, with the exception of those serving essential personnel.](#)

Licensed child care programs willing to provide child care to children of essential personnel, may reopen beginning March 30, 2020, with the following requirements:

- Programs must apply with their Regional Licensing Specialists to be approved before they begin serving eligible families.
- These programs may only reopen after a thorough cleaning has been conducted.
- They must only serve the children of essential personnel.

[Designated essential personnel may find emergency child care programs using LOCATE: Child Care, a free service available by phone Monday - Friday at 877-261-0060 between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. Specialized services for parents of children with special needs, as well as Spanish language, are also available on these platforms.](#)

The child care programs established by the State are at no cost to designated essential personnel only. Children attending the State-funded child care programs will be kept an appropriate distance from each other with ratios of a minimum of 1 teacher and 9 children for school-age with smaller class sizes for younger children.

Because of the scarcity of child care services, non-designated essential personnel will not be allowed to participate. Parents are strongly urged to keep children at home as the first and best option to protect them from the virus.

The Maryland Department of Education has issued enhanced safety guidelines for child care providers remaining in operation.

Massachusetts
[Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care](#)

[CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE](#)

[Under Governor Baker's Executive Order, Exempt Emergency Child Care Programs will be the only child care programs able to operate during the COVID-19 outbreak.](#)

[Exempt Emergency Child Care Programs](#)

[On March 18, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order requiring all early education centers and family childcare providers to close, effective Monday March 23, 2020 to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Department of Early Education and Care \(EEC\) also issued emergency procedures to set forth a process for opening Exempt Emergency Child Care Programs during the COVID-19 outbreak to provide priority access for families of emergency personnel, medical staff, and others critical to confronting COVID-19.](#)

"Families who work to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of all Commonwealth citizens will receive priority access to emergency childcare programs and these centers should only be used by people who must go to work. Vulnerable children will also receive priority access and space will be made for people who must go to work but aren't necessarily emergency personnel.

[COVID-19 State of Emergency](#)

[On March 25, 2020, Governor Baker took action extending the closure of public schools and non-emergency child care until May 4, 2020.](#)

The Department of Early Education and Care put procedures in place to quickly review applications for emergency child care programs, and to conduct expedited background record checks for childcare teachers and staff.

The Department is working to ensure there is sufficient access to emergency child care programs in each region of the Commonwealth, so those workers who need childcare can still access it.

A proposed program can be either a currently-licensed child care program, or a new program such as a location within or near a medical facility.

Providers impacted by these closures will continue to receive child care subsidy payments from the state. This ensures that programs will be able to re-open once the crisis is over. Parents who receive subsidies will not lose their vouchers, and will be able to eventually resume care. EEC will cover the cost of parent fees for subsidized families enrolled in care.

All programs that would like to operate must complete the EEC's Emergency Licensing and Background Record Check process. Programs that have a current license and educators with confirmed background checks will be expedited for approval.

Programs must adhere to strict safety and health standards established by the Department of Public Health and Executive Office of Health and Human Services."

Michigan
[Office of Great Start, Michigan](#)

[Essential Worker Child Care Intake](#)

[Department of Education](#)

[On March 23, 2020, Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-21, which suspends activities in the state not critical to sustain or protect life. This order identifies child care as a part of the state's critical infrastructure, "but only to the extent necessary to serve the children or dependents of critical infrastructure workers as defined in this order. This category includes individuals \(whether licensed or not\) who have arranged to care for the children or dependents of critical infrastructure workers."](#)

[Michigan.Gov COVID-19 Communications to Child Care Providers](#)

[According to an April 2, 2020 memo from Michigan's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs:](#)

"On March 23, Governor Whitmer signed the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order (EO 2020-21). This order directs all Michigan businesses and operations to temporarily suspend in-person operations that are not necessary to sustain or protect life. This order also directs Michiganders to stay in their homes unless they're part of the critical infrastructure workforce.

Until this order expires, child care providers are required to close.

There is one exception. Child care providers that are willing and able to provide care to the children of critical infrastructure workers (also referred to as essential workforce in EO 2020-16) are encouraged to continue providing care when possible."

Minnesota [Minnesota Department of Human Services](#)

[OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN](#)

[On March 26, 2020 the MN Legislature approved a request from Governor Walz providing \\$30 million in grants for child care centers and in-home providers as part of a larger spending package aimed at mitigating the economic and public health damage of coronavirus.](#)

[COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Providers](#)

[Governor Tim Walz message to child care Providers \(March 16, 2020\):](#)

[Under the bill, child care providers that are currently operating can apply for a \\$4,500 monthly grant. They're eligible for an extra \\$1,000 if the program serves children who have special needs, don't speak English or if the service is open during nonstandard hours like nights and weekends. Larger child care centers that care for 15 or more children can get an additional monthly grant up to \\$15,500, based on capacity.](#)

"Today I signed an Executive Order that included closure of Minnesota restaurants and bars for dine-in customers as well as other places of public accommodation and amusement. This Executive Order does not direct child care centers or family child care to close.

[The MN Department of Human Services has developed and released a set of frequently asked questions about these new Peacetime Emergency Child Care Grants.](#)

That said, based on this Executive Order and the new guidelines from the federal government to limit groups to the size of ten, we know that many of you may be considering closing, which is understandable. The health of your staff, families, and children is my top priority and I know it is yours too."

Per the guidance from the MN Department of Human Services:

“As of today, child care providers are allowed to remain open.

If you are able to remain open, we encourage you to:

- Prioritize children of emergency workers and workers in critical sectors
- Follow guidance, which includes health and safety best practices and best practices to operate your child care program during the pandemic
- Use Minnesota’s Department of Health’s COVID-19 Child Care Screening for Emergency Child Care Centers
- Use Minnesota’s Department of Health’s COVID-19 Child Care Exclusion Guidance, which contains a decision tree for symptomatic individuals in child care programs”

Mississippi [Mississippi Department of Human Services](#)

[OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN](#)

[COVID-19 Updates from the State Early Childhood Advisory Council of Mississippi](#)

“MDHS is in contact with the administration at the Mississippi State Department of Health. As of now, the Health Department is not recommending closure of child care programs.”

“All providers participating in the CCDF program will be paid for March 2020 based on the number of children enrolled regardless of attendance as long as the child attended at least one day in March. Payments for April 2020 will be based on enrollment regardless of attendance, meaning a child would not need to attend in April for a provider to be paid as long as the child is still enrolled. Payments will occur for March and April even if a provider chooses to temporarily close during these months.”

Missouri [Missouri Department of Social Services](#)

[OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN](#)

MO Department of Social Services updates for families and providers:

[Child Care and COVID-19](#)

Effective April 6, 2020, the state is under the “Stay Home Missouri” Order, requiring Missourians to avoid leaving their homes or places of residence unless necessary. The order exempts the closure of child care, noting:

Families

“Notwithstanding section 2 of this Order, nothing in this Order shall prohibit daycares, child care providers, or schools from providing child care for working families in accordance with CDC guidelines found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>.”

- Child Care Subsidy benefits are extended for 90 days

- The Child Care Subsidy program will work on a case-by-case basis to approve additional hours of care for families affected by COVID-19.

			<p>Providers</p> <p>- Child Care Subsidy provider application renewals are extended for 90 days.</p> <p>- Child Care subsidy providers who choose to close their daycare need to notify the Children's Division.</p> <p>- We have updated our child care subsidy payment policies in response to COVID-19.</p>	
Montana	Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN		Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services COVID-19 Resources
Nebraska	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	<p>The Department is working to ensure there is sufficient access to emergency child care programs in each region of the Commonwealth, so those workers who need childcare can still access it.</p> <p>Recommended Guidance</p> <p>Family Child Care Homes I and II: As much as possible, all care should be limited to 10.</p> <p>School Age Only Child Care: As much as possible, all care should be limited to 10 children in care.</p> <p>For larger programs, group size can be 10 children per classroom.</p> <p>Child Care Centers: As much as possible, all care should be limited to 10 children in care. For larger centers, group size can be 10 children per classroom.</p> <p>Preschool: As much as possible, all care should be limited to 10 children in care. For larger preschools, group size can be 10 children per classroom.</p>	Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Coronavirus Updates
Nevada	Nevada Department of Health and Human Services	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	<p>Nevada Department of Health and Human Services: "The Governor's Office has declared that licensed child care is an essential service for the children of first responders, hospital staff and others who will be needed throughout this crisis. The State of Nevada's Child Care and Development Program (CCDP) is determined to support the Governor in his efforts, and we'll do everything we can to keep child care businesses open because they are critical."</p>	Child Care Resources for COVID-19
New Hampshire	New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	<p>The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is now accepting applications from child care providers seeking designation as emergency child care programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) and child care stakeholders, DHHS has committed \$4 million in federal funding to establish the Emergency Child Care Collaborative, a public-private partnership that will ensure a robust and effective system of emergency child care for New Hampshire parents providing essential services during COVID-19.</p>	New Hampshire COVID-19 Website

			<p>Child care programs will be eligible to apply for incentive payments, including funding to support pay differentials for staff, child care costs for child care professionals, and other operating costs to support an emergency child care system.</p>
New Jersey	New Jersey Department of Children and Families	<p>CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE</p> <p>On March 25, 2020, Governor Murphy issued an Executive Order directing that child care providers requesting permission to stay open or resume operations on or after April 1, 2020, must submit an application to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families to become certified as an Emergency Child Care Provider.</p> <p>These Emergency Centers will provide child care services exclusively to “essential persons” during the current school closure period, and will follow all applicable emergency child care standards established by the Department of Children and Families.</p>	<p>New Jersey Department of Children and Families Application for Continued Operation Child Care Services During Public Health Emergency - Required effective April 1, 2020</p> <p>Department of Children and Families COVID-19 Information Page for Child Care Providers</p>
New Mexico	New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department	<p>OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN</p>	<p>On March 18, 2020, Governor Lujan Grisham announced that the state will pay the cost of premiums so that uninsured child care workers who test positive for COVID-19 (and their immediate household members) who are not eligible for other coverage will be able to enroll in the New Mexico Medical Insurance Pool (NMMIP) the state’s high-risk pool -- and receive comprehensive health care coverage until they recover.</p> <p>This new rule applies to all child care workers who test positive, along with their immediate household members, regardless of income or immigration status.</p> <p>The same day, the Governor instructed the Early Childhood Education and Care Department, Children, Youth, and Families Department, and Department of Public Safety to work with child care providers and ensure that child care services are available to first responders, health care professionals and other essential workers in the fight against COVID-19 - with no income eligibility threshold. Right now, ECECD is surveying key industries involved in this fight to identify precisely who those people are.</p> <p>Additionally, providers impacted by closures will continue to receive child care subsidy payments from the state. This ensures that programs will be able to re-open once the crisis is over. Parents who receive subsidies will not lose their vouchers, and will be able to eventually resume care. EEC will cover the cost of parent fees for subsidized families enrolled in care.</p>
New York	New York State Office of Children and Family Services	<p>OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN (NEW YORK STATE) (Note that NEW YORK CITY is currently CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE.)</p>	<p>NY Child Care Services Coronavirus Updates</p>

[On March , Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order establishing work restrictions throughout the state, effective March 21, 2020. This order exempts essential businesses, which include child care.](#)

[New York Office of Children and Family Services guidance to child care providers \(March 21, 2020\):](#)

“The Governor’s most recent Executive Order, EO 202.7, as well as the associated Guidance issued by the Empire State Development Corporation, sets forth in-person work restrictions, effective as of March 21, 2020 at 8 pm, and until further notice.

These restrictions require all businesses and nonprofit entities to utilize telecommuting and work from home procedures to the extent possible.

Please remember that an essential business is exempt from the restrictions mentioned above.

Essential business includes congregate care facilities operated, licensed or certified by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) including programs for youth in foster care and detention, run away and homeless youth programs, domestic violence programs, child care programs and adult care facilities.”

NEW YORK CITY (ONLY):

[On April 3, 2020, the New York City Board of Health issued an order closing city child care providers until such time as public schools reopen. The order permits for the provision of emergency care to essential staff. According to the order:](#)

“The Board of Health hereby orders, except as described herein, all school-based instructional programs for children ages three through five, and all center-based child care programs and family shelter-based drop-off child supervision programs serving children ages birth to five and operating with a permit issued by the Department, to close and cease operations before Monday, April 6, 2020, and remain so closed as described in this Order; and

FURTHER, this Order shall not apply to any education and child care programs operated by or on behalf of the Department of Education for children of healthcare workers, first responders and other essential government employees, provided that such programs may also be offered to children of other essential workers and other high-need groups including but not limited to students in temporary housing, space permitting, at the discretion of the Department of Education.”

[On March 25, 2020, the NC Department of Health and Human Services issued guidance informing providers that child care centers wishing to remain in \(or resume\) operation after April 1, 2020 will need to be approved as Emergency Child Care Providers through the submission of an application detailing the health, screening, safety and operational requirements for the provision of emergency child care to critical workers.](#)

As indicated at right, NC DHHS is also providing financial assistance for child care facilities and critical workers, including bonus pay for staff.

[On March 27, 2020, Governor Cooper issued an Executive Order requiring North Carolinians to stay at home for 30 days with limited exceptions. Child care is identified as an essential human service operation in the order and thus not required to close beyond the limitations described above.](#)

[Additionally, NC DHHS is making several forms of financial assistance available \(during at least April and May\) for child care facilities, critical staff, and families. These include bonus pay, hold harmless payments for subsidy and NC PreK \(equal, at minimum, to the amounts received in February 2020\), and new financial assistance for families.](#)

Bonus Pay:

- NC DHHS will pay bonus payments to all full-time child care employees for April and May 2020.

- NC DHHS will pay providers \$300 per month for all teaching staff and \$200 per month for all non-teaching staff.

- Bonus payments are available for both child care centers and family child care homes.

- Child care programs must pay staff prorated amounts of the monthly bonus payment at regular employee pay periods. o Child care programs have the flexibility to offer additional bonuses to staff using their own funds.

[On April 3, 2020, NC DHHS issued COVID-19 child care payment policies pertaining to licensed or regulated child care facilities for the months of April and May 2020. The document includes guidance related to 1\) Subsidized Child Care program payments, 2\) NC Pre-K Program payments 3\) Emergency Child Care Subsidy program payments, and 4\) Bonus payments to child care teachers and staff providing services during the COVID-19 outbreak.](#)

[“In order to help childcare providers cover some of the extra costs of operating that will come with the modified operating practices, and to help sustain the childcare industry through this period of disruption, the state of North Dakota will be offering emergency operating grants to childcare providers. This grant will be available to all childcare providers licensed by the State of North Dakota.](#)

[ND Department of Human Services Coronavirus Provider Resources Page](#)

North
Dakota

[North Dakota
Department of
Human Services](#)

[OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN](#)

[On March 26, 2020, the ND Department of Human Services issued Modified Operating Practices for Child Care, which include a new maximum group size of 10 \(to include both children and adults\), health screenings for employees and children \(ask the parent/guardian\) upon entering the facility each day, the suspension of "family style dining," and more.](#)

- Providers who accept the grant must agree to prioritize children of health/safety/lifeline worker households and will cap at \$50/month, the fees they would typically charge families to hold a spot during extended absences from care.

- We strongly encourage providers to consider offering care during extended, expanded, and alternative hours. Disruption creates opportunities for innovation. This is a time to consider ways that we can think differently about how we provide care.

- It is important to note that all childcare providers who operate during the emergency will be required to use the modified operating practices, which were developed with advice and input from providers and other professionals working in the childcare industry.

- If a childcare provider opts out of the state-provided Childcare Emergency Operating Grant, they will not be required to prioritize health/safety/lifeline workers or modify absence policies but will be required to follow modified operating standards.

Ohio

[Ohio Department of Job and Family Services](#) [CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE](#)

[Under Ohio's Temporary Pandemic Child Care license, providers will be required to adhere to the following these guidelines:](#)

[Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Coronavirus Information Page for Child Care Providers](#)

[Ohio Governor DeWine has ordered that effective Thursday, March 26, 2020, all child care centers remaining in operation will need to do so under a temporary pandemic child care license. The state will limit the number of children in each room to six. Providers are also expected to keep children of parents with the same employer together and limit parent interaction at drop-off and pickup.](#)

- There should be no more than six children in a class.

[Temporary Pandemic Child Care Licenses](#)

DeWine had indicated that this step was forthcoming, tweeting the following on March 15, 2020:

- Ratios must be kept at one teacher to no more than six children.

"I've tried to signal that daycares will eventually be closed. But our healthcare systems need to be staffed. You'll start to see healthcare facilities creating their own daycares...I'm pleading with parents, if you have children in daycare and can keep them home, please do it. To close daycares overnight won't work, but it's coming."

- Children whose parents are employed by the same entity should be kept together whenever possible.

[On Tuesday, March 17, the state issued a Public Health Order establishing a framework for the creation of Temporary Pandemic Child Care facilities.](#)

- The same teachers and children in each room should be maintained whenever possible.

- There should be limited use of shared space or mixing of groups.

- If shared space is used, a rigorous cleaning schedule must be in place.

- Parent interaction should be limited at drop off and pick up.

These programs will operate until April 30, with the potential to extend and adjust as needed.

Oklahoma [Oklahoma Department of Human Services](#)

[OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN](#)

[Oklahoma Department of Human Services COVID-19 Resource Page](#)

ODHS guidance to OK child care providers: "At this time, child care providers will remain a critical function in the state to address demands from health care workers, front line responders, grocer employees and other critical industries."

[ODHS Issues New COVID-19 Guidance for Oklahoma Child Care Facilities](#)

Oregon [Oregon Department of Education](#)

[CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE](#)

Pursuant to Executive Order 20-12, The Oregon Department of Education's Early Learning Division has issued guidance to providers wishing to remain open as emergency child care providers. Providers offering emergency child care must follow specific requirements released by the ELD, in partnership with Oregon Health Authority. In addition, emergency care requires group sizes of no more than 10 children – the same 10 or fewer children each day – in each classroom or home. Providers may serve new families during the emergency care period.

[Oregon Department of Education Early Learning Division COVID-19 Resources for Providers](#)

On March 23, 2020, Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-12. The order requires child care providers - licensed and recorded programs - to close unless they are providing emergency child care. The statewide child care closure takes effect Wednesday, March 25. Providers wishing to provide emergency care must submit an application to the Oregon Department of Education's Early Learning Division by Friday, March 27.

According to the Executive Order, emergency providers will be required to meet two criteria: "A. Childcare must be carried out in maximum stable groups of 10 or fewer children ("stable means the same 10 or fewer children are in the same group each day), and in a classroom that cannot be accessed by children outside the stable group; and B. Facilities must prioritize the child care needs of first responders, emergency workers, healthcare professionals, followed by critical operations staff and essential personnel, consistent with guidance provided by the Oregon Department of Education, early learning division."

Pennsylvania [Pennsylvania Department of Human Services](#)

[CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE](#)

[According to guidance issued by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning on March 14, 2020:](#)

[PA Department of Health Coronavirus Resource Page](#)

On March 19, 2020, Governor Wolf issued an Executive Order ordering the closure of all "non-life sustaining businesses" in PA. Child care centers were not identified as life sustaining according to an accompanying list and therefore closed.

"Effective March 13, 2020 through April 30, 2020 all Child Care Works (CCW) payments to child care providers will be made regardless of program operation or reason for closure. In addition, during this time period, child absences will not count toward the annual 40-day limit. CCW payment will not be made based on children's attendance in the program but will be made based on current enrollment.

On the evening of March 19, 2020, child care providers received an email from the commonwealth's Office of Child Development and Early Learning stating that "certified child care centers (3270) and group child care homes (3280) operating outside a residence shall cease operations effective midnight."

If child care closes, the ELRC should not suspend children due to the closing of the facility but allow all children who are enrolled in CCW at the time of the closing to remain enrolled. ELRCs may not enroll a child with a new provider under any circumstances. The enrollment must stay with the closed provider."

A waiver process has been established for businesses who wish to remain open.

Rhode Island

[Rhode Island Department of Human Services](#)

[CLOSED, WITH ALL CHILD CARE LICENSES SUSPENDED UNTIL APRIL 30, 2020](#)

[According to a press release issued by the State of Rhode Island,](#)

[Rhode Island Department of Health COVID-19 Information Page](#)

[On March 29, Gov. Raimondo announced via Twitter that the state is suspending all child care licenses for a one week period until April 4, 2020, after which the state will evaluate the status of child care from week to week.](#)

"Any day care employee or other Rhode Island worker impacted by a business closure can apply for Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI), Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI), or Unemployment Insurance (UI). DLT is waiving the seven-day minimum amount of time that claimants must be out of work to qualify for these benefits as a result of COVID-19. Visit the DLT website for information."

[On April 3, 2020, the Governor tweeted twice more, explaining that child care would remain closed throughout the month of April, noting:](#)

"Unfortunately, today I have to announce that we will be continuing to suspend child care licenses through the month of April. I know how hard this is, and I know how many families rely on our child care facilities, including those on the frontlines of this crisis."

[She continued:](#)

"I've been optimistic that we could find a temporary solution, but we've been unable to find a way to make this safe. I cannot put our kids, our child care workers, and our families at risk. We're not giving up, though. We're working to come up with a solution."

South Carolina

[South Carolina Department of Social Services](#)

[OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN Guidance from the SC Department of Social Services:](#)

[Guidance from the SC Department of Social Services:](#)

[SC Department of Social Services \(SC Child Care\) COVID-19 Announcements](#)

"We understand that you may have concerns about how the virus may impact your child care centers, and many of you have contacted us in the last 24 hours asking for guidance on whether to continue operations. At this time it remains your decision as a provider on whether to remain open." (DSS reports that 25% of licensed child care providers are closed as of March 22, 2020.)

"The Governor has declared a State of Emergency for the COVID-19 emergency, and emergency plans for child care licensing are in effect. If you are a licensed child care center and can expand your capacity to serve the children of essential state and local services personnel and other children displaced by closures, please contact Child Care Licensing at 1-888-825-7174 or childcare.disaster.response@dss.sc.gov as soon as possible.

South Dakota	South Dakota Department of Social Services	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN Press release from the SD Department of Social Services:	<p>If your organization has the ability to set up a temporary child care site, please contact Child Care Licensing at 1-888-825-7174 or childcare.disaster.response@dss.sc.gov. You may be allowed to operate without a license for a maximum of 30 days in accordance with state law (63-13-440). Child Care Licensing must grant approval for temporary child care arrangements.”</p>	Guidance to Child Care Providers from the SD Department of Social Services
		<p>“Childcare facilities are a vital link to supporting working families,” Governor Noem said. “It is crucial that this system be prepared to handle the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic situation so families, especially medical and emergency personnel, can continue working while their children are cared for and kept safe. I am asking my Department of Social Services to work closely with childcare providers across the state to institute commonsense practices to assist families in need, while also safeguarding the health of all South Dakotans.”</p>	<p>“South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 26-6-15.1 allows, in addition to the number of children a</p>	Child Care and COVID-19 FAQ
			<p>program is registered or licensed for, the following numbers of children at the facility because of family emergency or special circumstance: (1) Family day care homes--no more than two additional children; (2) Group family day care homes--no more than three additional children; and (3) Day care centers--no more than 20 percent of the center’s licensed capacity.</p>	
			<p>Any additional children in care are to be included in the staff-to-child ratios. The Division of Child Care Services (CCS) considers this COVID-19 situation as a special circumstance and therefore programs can have additional children in care as indicated in the state law above, until schools are open for business again.”</p>	
Tennessee	Tennessee Department of Human Services	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	Gov. Lee has directed the Department of Human Services to relax the regulatory burden on child care centers.	Child care providers’ daily COVID-19 updates from the TN Department of Human Services.
		<p>Governor Lee’s message to child care providers: “We are encouraging child care facilities to remain open to continue to meet growing needs in their communities. Each facility will decide whether to remain open based on the needs in their own community.”</p>	<p>To support these efforts, the administration is providing \$10 million in COVID-19 emergency response and recovery grants to support existing child care facilities that are facing greater needs.</p>	
			<p>Child care facilities that currently receive subsidies will continue to receive them regardless of a potential loss in the wake of COVID-19 through the end of March.</p>	
			The Tennessee Department of Health has issued a guidance FAQ for potential emergency child care providers.	

Texas	Texas Health and Human Services	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	<p>Based on state law, federal guidance, and Governor Abbott's disaster declaration, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is updating requirements for day care operations to assist them in protecting children in their care from COVID-19. A March 16, 2020 summary of changes can be found here.</p>	<p>Texas Health and Human Services Guidance to Child Care Providers Regarding COVID-19</p>
		<p>On April 6, 2020, Governor Greg Abbott announced that the website Care.com is increasing in-home child care access for frontline workers responding to the COVID-19 emergency. As part of this initiative, Care.com is offering 90 days of free, premium access to their services, along with specific portals for frontline workers and caregivers in Texas.</p>	<p>Additional TX Workforce Commission Guidance to Child Care Providers:</p>	
		<p>Frontline workers looking for child care as well as prospective caregivers can both enroll here. Potential caregivers are subject to Care.com's background and safety checks. While child care services are not typically free of charge, the Texas portal gives residents the ability to waive their fees and volunteer as caregivers, providing additional support to frontline workers.</p>	<p>Many families and child care programs that participate in the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) subsidized child care program have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, TWC's three-member Commission approved the following actions to mitigate the impact:</p>	
			<p>Effective March 1, 2020, children may accrue absences without impacting ongoing eligibility for services or provider reimbursements. TWC will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and make a future determination on when this absence policy will conclude. Providers will continue to be paid, if children are absent, or if the provider is temporarily closed due to COVID-19.</p>	
			<p>Workforce development boards are authorized to make supplemental payments to child care programs to cover lost parent share of cost payments. TWC will issue further guidance on calculating supplemental payments.</p>	
			<p>TWC will be issuing additional guidance to local Workforce Solutions staff shortly to address the following issues: Interruptions in parents' ongoing participation in work, education, or training Child care eligibility redeterminations Continued payments to child care programs Texas Rising Star processes</p>	
Utah	Utah Department of Workforce Services	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	<p>On March 16, the Utah Department of Workforce Services and Department of Health issued a joint FAQ describing regulatory updates in effect during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>COVID-19 FAQ for Child Care Providers</p>
Vermont	Vermont Agency of Human Services	CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE	<p>Governor Scott's Executive Order establishes emergency care for essential staff as follows:</p>	<p>Agency of Human Services, Department of Children and Families COVID-19 Guidance for Child Care Providers</p>

On March 17, Governor Scott issued an Executive Order which, in part, suspended the operation of child care for non-essential persons:

“Except as set forth below, all state regulated child care programs shall be closed no later than Wednesday, March 18, 2020 through April 6, 2020 (“Closure Period”).”

With respect to child care programs, the Secretary of the Agency of Human Services (“Human Services Secretary”) shall oversee the implementation of this Directive and I hereby delegate to the Human Services Secretary such authority as may be necessary for

this implementation in accordance with the below:

a. During the Closure Period, state-licensed child care programs are asked to provide care to, at a minimum, their own enrollees who are children of Essential Persons.

In providing this care, child care centers must practice hygiene and social distancing best practices as set forth by VDH.

b. State-licensed child care centers are encouraged to also provide extended care— before and after normal operating hours—to enrollees who are children of Essential Persons and to work with CDD to provide care for those not presently enrollees in

their facilities who are children of Essential Persons.

c. Our licensing office of CDD will work with licensed child care centers to use best judgment to waive to the fullest extent possible all relevant licensing rules in order to permit child care centers to serve children of Essential Persons during the Closure Period.

d. During the Closure Period, the State shall continue to provide current levels of tuition payments on behalf of eligible families to: (a) all child care programs serving CCFAP-eligible children; and (b) child care programs and schools providing services under Act 166 for pre-K students.

e. CDD shall have authority, using its best judgment, to waive to the fullest extent possible all relevant licensing rules and regulations, including penalties, in order to permit licensed child care programs to serve children of Essential Persons during the Closure Period.

f. The Human Services Secretary shall develop options for additional per-child served funding to all child care centers that serve children of Essential Persons during the Closure Period.

8. To support child care centers in staying open, supporting their employees, and remaining in business during this emergency and afterward, all State Agencies shall collaborate and

align resources as directed by the Human Services Secretary, in consultation with the Governor, to support child care providers in accordance with this Directive.

On March 27, 2020, Governor Scott issued a supplemental order closing public schools for the remainder of the 19-20 school year and extending indefinitely the closure period for child care. Concurrently, the state announced new financial supports for providers during the extended closure period:

[Child care programs that provide emergency child care for the essential critical infrastructure workforce during the closure and extended closure period will receive an additional \\$125 supplemental payment per child per week during the emergency child care period. More information is available from the Child Development Division's guidance document.](#)

During the extended closure period, beginning on April 6, 2020, the State of Vermont will cover half of any regular tuition not paid to a child care program on behalf of a family. In order to receive these payments, child care programs must:

- Ensure slots are maintained for children of families who pay at least 50% of their regular tuition and/or co-pay;
- Pay all program staff full salary.
- Provide required information to the Child Development Division for the processing of payments.

Virginia [Virginia Department of Social Services](#) [OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN, WITH MODIFICATIONS](#)

[Under the authority of Executive Order 51 \[which declares a state of emergency in VA\], the Commissioner of Department of Social Services is waiving regulation 22VAC40-665-40.N which references the period of time for a redetermination of eligibility for the subsidy program.](#)

[VA Department of Social Services Child Care Updates and Resources on COVID-19](#)

VA Department of Social Services Guidance to Child Care Providers:

[Temporary modifications will be implemented this week to assist families and providers during this challenging period. Information on the following will be disseminated to both parents and providers participating in the \[Virginia Child Care Subsidy Program\]:](#)

"For centers that remain open, we encourage you to adapt your service settings as much as possible to align with public health recommendations, which include social distancing. Please encourage your families to remain at home to care for their children if at all possible...For now, classroom child care settings should limit capacity to 10 individuals per room to include staff."

School age children currently designated for part-day care will be eligible for full-day care
The number of paid absence days will increase from 36 to 76 days for Level 2 (licensed). The same number will be available for Level 1 (unlicensed) providers.

Families due for eligibility redetermination in the near term will have their eligibility automatically extended for two months. The requirement for a face-to-face interview for initial eligibility will be temporarily suspended. Procedures for receipt of manual attendance will be streamlined to make it easier for providers to submit attendance.

Washington	Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families	OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN	On March 26, 2020, Governor Inslee issued an order temporarily suspending a variety of child care licensing requirements until April 25, 2020, having made the determination that enforcement of these requirements “will risk destabilizing the state’s subsidized child care programs and prevent, hinder, or delay the response by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to the COVID-19 pandemic State of Emergency.”	Coronavirus Resources and Recommendations for Child Care Providers
		<p>“Parents should try to keep their children at home. However, this is not always possible. Alternate care arrangements are particularly important for our medical workers, first responders and others serving vital functions during this public health emergency.</p>	<p>Suspended requirements include requiring federal fingerprint background checks before completing the licensing process, allowing workers to be more easily licensed to provide care to those who need it.</p>	Washington Department of Children, Youth and Families Coronavirus FAQ
		<p>For child care facilities that remain open, it is crucial to minimize the risks of spreading coronavirus. The following guidance is designed to help child care, early learning providers and schools offering care to maintain health and safety standards and social distancing directives while providing a much needed service.”</p>	<p>Washington Food Industry Association received an affirmative response from the Governor’s Office on its request to have the grocery/convenience store industry designated as tier 1 essential infrastructure. This allows the industry the same access to child care as the medical industry. It also makes the industry a priority for receiving non-medical PPE. With this designation, the Governor’s Office will assist in areas where the industry cannot find child care and PPE. WFIA will survey members today to identify greatest needs. The Governor’s Office has put together a list of resources we will be able to provide to industry.</p>	
West Virginia	West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources	CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE	Temporary Critical Child Care Provider Resources from the WV Department of Health and Human Resources	COVID-19 Information for Child Care Programs and Public Schools
		Notification from the WV Department of Health and Human Resources (March 25, 2020):		
		<p>As of Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 8:00pm by Executive Order and by declaration of the Cabinet Secretary, of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, The State of West Virginia must cease providing care for children of parents working in jobs deemed non-essential.</p>		
		<p>However, the need for child care remains a critical piece of the COVID-19 response and it is the goal of WV DHHR, Bureau for Children and Families (BCF), Division of Early Care and Education (ECE) to make every attempt to provide child care services for the COVID -19 essential workers. To provide for that need, registration as a Critical Care Child Care site, is available.</p>		

All interested licensed and certified child care programs across West Virginia, as well as those agencies who wish to provide care on site to their employees of essential workers must review and complete the health and safety checklist and submit the registration form and checklist cover page via email at ECEProviders@wv.gov.

Any person who meets the definition of an essential worker will qualify for child care assistance. Essential workers shall contact their local Child Care Resource and Referral agency to apply. If found eligible the CCR&R case manager will issue a regular 12-month Child Care Certificate.

Child care providers caring for the child(ren) of an essential worker will be paid Tier III rates. This enhanced rate will be paid as long as funding is available. Child care providers who are granted Tier III status during this crisis will revert to their original Tier status once the crisis has passed

[Registration forms may be found here.](#)

[OPTION TO REMAIN OPEN WITH MODIFICATIONS](#)

Per Wisconsin Department of Health Services Emergency Order #6:

“Child care settings may not operate with more than 10 staff present at a time and may not operate with more than 50 children at a time.”

[Governor Tony Evers has issued a set of frequently asked questions regarding child care restrictions under the state’s ongoing Emergency Order.](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Health Services COVID-19 Information](#)

Wisconsin [Wisconsin Department of Children and Families](#)

Wyoming [Wyoming Department of Family Services](#)

[CLOSED, WITH THE OPTION TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE](#)

On March 19, 2020, Wyoming State Health Officer Alexia Harrist issued a Public Health Order closing many businesses, including schools and child care centers across the state.

The Order makes exceptions for providers serving essential personnel and limits group size to 10 people in any room.

[The state’s March 19, 2020 Public Health Order closing child care makes exceptions for providers serving essential staff.](#)

[The Wyoming Department of Family Services has created a website to assist essential personnel in identifying emergency child care.](#)

[Department of Family Services Coronavirus Information](#)