

DOCUMENTS SHARED DURING THE FORUM

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/WorkGroups/Senate%20Health%20and%20Welfare/COVID-19/W~Melissa%20Riegel-Garrett~COVID-19%20Childcare%20Quick-Facts~4-9-2020.pdf>

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/WorkGroups/Senate%20Health%20and%20Welfare/COVID-19/W~Melissa%20Riegel-Garrett~COVID-19%20Childcare%20Financial%20Supports~4-9-2020.pdf>

STABILIZATION PROGRAM

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Docs/COVID/Child-Care-Financial-Supports-FAQs.pdf>

- 1. Are we not able to request tuition from the State through this Stabilization Program to cover our regularly enrolled school agers who are not attending at this time? We still have to pay our regular staff who care for our school agers. It says the program is for infants through Preschool?**

The Stabilization program applies to all privately operated or non-profit regulated programs infant through preschool age. For school aged children, the State is paying a flat rate of \$200 for the care of essential worker children during this crisis plus an additional \$125 in order to provide an incentive for child care programs to expand services to these children at a level that is comparable to the total payments provided for the care of younger children.

- 2. I have an essential care kiddo whose mom is private paying. Is the state covering her full tuition?**

There are different levels of assistance for private pay families.

- During the closure period, the State will pay 50% of tuition for all private pay families, regardless of whether or not they utilize the service. Families who wish to maintain their slot(s), must pay the remaining 50% or a lesser amount agreed to by programs and their families. For families who unenroll, but later want to rejoin, the program should utilize its usual waitlist process.
- For essential persons that were paying privately to utilize the child care program they were using prior to this period, the State will also pay a \$125 per week supplement to the provider as an incentive to provide care during the COVID-19 response period.
- For essential private pay families using a different provider while also paying to maintain their spot in a closed child care program, the State will pay the new child care program full tuition rate for infants through preschool age children up to \$360 per week per child, and \$200 per week per school age child, and \$125 per week supplement to the provider as an incentive to provide the care during the COVID-19 response period.

3. **As a childcare center, can we choose to use scholarship funds to cover the 50% parent tuition portion for the stabilization program so our families do not have to pay and still receive the state portion of 50%?**

If a provider has a source of funds or scholarship program that assists their families in covering tuition, they may utilize those programs to assist families in covering their portion of tuition.

Note: For families enrolled in publicly funded Pre-K, the Universal Prekindergarten tuition dollars must be applied towards the families' (up to) 50% share required to hold their slot.

4. **With the stabilization form, if you have no families waiting for a current spot, can you go ahead and receive 100% funding for unenrolled families?**

If children are unenrolled, the program should offer a slot to other families on their waitlist, utilizing the State's 50% tuition payment program. If spots are not filled, the program may utilize the State's tuition payment up to 100% or \$360/week, whichever is lower, in order to pay staff and be ready to open after this emergency. For families that unenroll but later want to rejoin, the program should utilize its usual waitlist process.

5. **Are we supposed to charge families 100% after 4/5/20 to encourage them to pay full tuition or if they automatically get 50% from the State and we charge them 50%?**

Families are encouraged to pay full-tuition to keep their spots and support their providers; the State will pay 50% of tuition in the COVID-19 Stabilization Program, and providers may choose to charge up to the remaining 50% to families to maintain their slot.

6. **Should the Pre-K Partnership or Early Head Start, etc. funding be applied to the parent payment portion on the first invoice for 3/16-3/28?**

Any funding the program receives from the parent must be applied towards the families' (up to) 50% share required to hold their slot.

7. **What if my program is completely closed? Is the stabilization program only for essential person children or for any student?**

The stabilization program is designed to support child care programs to be able to financially be stable throughout this crisis. It is designed to partially support programs in covering tuition for families who are unable to attend child care during the COVID-19 closure period. The stabilization program can be used for programs that are closed or open for essential persons.

EARLY CHILDHOOD FORUM APRIL 10, 2020 QUESTIONS

8. Can home providers that do not have staff, run programs solo apply for those grants?

Programs, such as registered homes, where the owner/operator is the only staff are exempt from the requirement to pay staff and are eligible for grants.

9. Can I reenroll families that chose to unenroll due to a financial struggle if I have a spot available at that time?

Yes, if the program has space to allow that. If children are unenrolled, the program should offer a slot to other families on their waitlist, utilizing the State's 50% tuition payment program. If spots are not filled, the program may utilize the State's tuition payment up to 100% or \$360/week, whichever is lower, in order to pay staff and be ready to open after this emergency. For families that unenroll but later want to rejoin, the program should utilize its usual waitlist process.

10. Are there any financial assistance options for schools that don't qualify for the stabilization program or the federal relief package?

No. This program is intended to support child care programs to maintain their business during COVID-19 closure period, and not for child care spaces that did not have children enrolled prior to that period.

11. How can we invoice now for the weeks of 3/16 and 3/23?

This form is used to invoice the Child Development Division for Essential Persons Child Care Incentives Payments from 3/16/2020 through 3/28/2020.

<https://www.jotform.com/heather.mattison/incentives>

12. Who do I contact if I have questions about invoices that I have submitted?

- Guidance on the program is available here:
<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Docs/COVID/COVID-Private-TuitionPayments-Stabilization-Guidance.pdf>
- Frequently Asked Questions are available here:
https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Docs/COVID/FAQ_COVID-StabilizationFor_Private-CC-Tuition-Payments.pdf
- Additional questions can be sent to AHS.DCFCDDInfo@vermont.gov or call 802-241-0830

SUBSIDY

- 13. Will families who need to be unenrolled due to inability to pay, and who typically receive subsidy, have to reapply for a subsidy certificate to reenroll when we are able to reopen?**

Their eligibility will not change however they will need to request a new certificate be created.

- 14. Can a family not on subsidy before the close, apply for subsidy now?**

Essential persons may apply for subsidy. It is not recommended that non-essential person apply now as we cannot generate a certificate for them.

- 15. We are not making certs any longer to cover these children of essential workers.**

If a person on subsidy has a certificate to their original closed provider and we are paying that provider, we will not create a second certificate to an open provider. If they are an essential person, tuition will be covered through the essential persons tuition and invoice process.

- 16. Are school age children receiving subsidy going to continue being paid through subsidy?**

Yes.

- 17. What happens if a child's subsidy expires during the closure and they're not an essential person?**

We are redetermining all families whose eligibility ends in March, April, or May and are extending their current eligibility through August 29, 2020. Certificates will be created to the original provider only. This certificate may go through August 29, 2020 for infant-preschool and through June 20, 2020 for school age children. The school age certificate may be extended to August 29 only if you have confirmed with the client that the child will remain with the original provider through the summer.

ESSENTIAL PERSONS QUALIFYING FOR CHILD CARE

The following Communication was sent on 4/13/2020 about essential persons qualifying for child care.

<https://dcf.vermont.gov/sites/dcf/files/CDD/Docs/COVID/Essential-Persons-Qualifying-For-Child-Care-Parent-Form.pdf>

Vermonters can now self-assess their status as Essential Persons and self-certify whether they qualify for child care under the Governor's Executive Order.

Individuals using child care during the COVID-19 Child Care Closure Period should self-

EARLY CHILDHOOD FORUM APRIL 10, 2020 QUESTIONS

assess whether they meet the definition of an Essential Person:

"Essential Persons" are employees of businesses and entities providing services or functions deemed critical to public health and safety, as well as economic and national security as described in Stay Home/Stay Safe and supplemental guidance issued by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development: (List of essential persons to critical infrastructure from Governor's Executive Order) provided, however, child care being provided to Essential Persons during the State of Emergency shall only be utilized by Essential Persons

(a) when there is no parent, guardian or other arranged care in the home to care for the child; or

(b) in the event of exigent circumstances necessary for the health and safety of the child.

Further, in the event of child care capacity constraints, the children of healthcare providers and other essential healthcare system employees, first responders and essential government employees with primary responsibility for execution of the COVID-19 response shall receive priority placement."

Information is available at <https://vem.vermont.gov/essentialpersons>

Vermonters can self-certify their status as Essential Persons on a form available from CDD and provide this to their child care provider. Please note that this form contains some old language, and we are working on updating the form, the form will be accepted with either language.

FURTHER, The parent self-assessment and self-certification of Essential Persons is not needed to request funds at this time. In the event of child care capacity constraints this may change.