# The State of Kentucky Child Care

## COVID-19 Response Resources for Providers and Families

If you are providing or using child care services in Kentucky during this challenging time, you are not alone. Support and resources are available through the Division of Child Care and our partners to help you.

Supports this year have ranged from financial stipends through CARES Act funding to issuance of social distancing and safety guidelines to maintain healthy classroom environments. Our team is always available to answer questions about these resources and to assist you.

## CARES Act Funding Update

Kentucky has received a total of $67.74 million in federal CARES Act Funding for state child care providers. Previous stipends have included sustainment stipends for all providers – based on capacity; "Hero Bonuses" for center staff; subsidies for essential employees and operational stipends; and a cleaning/safety supplies/personal protective equipment stipend.

The final stipend from the CARES Act funding is currently being issued. All licensed and certified child care providers are receiving $130 per child based on the capacity listed with the Division of Regulated Child Care in March 2020. Registered providers will receive $130 per child based on current enrollment. Providers must apply for funding by Dec. 1, 2020.

### CARES Act Funding Summary for Child Care Providers

| | |
|---|---|
| Hero Bonus Incentive: | $997,500 |
| Enrollment Incentive/ Capacity Stipend: | $35,480,985 |
| Subsidies for Essential Employees: | $712,579.45 |
| Essential Services $250 Operational Stipend: | $1,301,250 |
| Reopening Stipend: | $6,657,000 |
| CARES $130 Stipend: | $16,903,250 |
| **Total CARES Act funds spent as of 11/13/2020:** | **$62,052,564.45** |

$5,687,435.60 remains in CARES Act funding for child care. There are more than 300 child care programs that have not yet applied for the $130/child stipend. Contracts are due Dec. 1.

**Division of Child Care**
**Department for Community Based Services**
**Cabinet for Health and Family Services**

Kentucky Department for **Community** Based Services

TEAM **KENTUCKY**

11/2020

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## Regulated Child Care: Essential and Safe

Child care providers offer a supportive and essential service to families and entire communities. Current regulations and policies are in place to stop the spread of the coronavirus and to keep staff, children and their families safe. Providers must meet several requirements, but they also have many resources for help through the Division of Child Care and the Division of Regulated Child Care.



## Personal Protective Equipment and Social Distancing Guidelines

### PPE Guidelines

- Adults must wear face masks at all times.
- Children age 5 and under shall not wear face masks due to risk of suffocation and strangulation.
- Children age 6 and older must wear face masks in accordance with statewide masking mandate.

### Social Distancing Guidelines

- All programs must utilize a maximum group size of 15 children
- Adult-to-child ratios and group sizes will stay in place for children 24-months of age
- Children should remain in the same group of 15 children all day long
- Establish centralized location for drop-off and pick-up of all children
- No field trips or schoolwide events
- No volunteers or student observers
- Discontinue use of group water fountains
- Eliminate lost and found bins

## Screening for Illness

- Adults and children will be screened for fever and contagious symptoms upon arrival.
- A fever is considered contagious at 100.4 F.
- Child care staff members with symptoms of COVID-19 must be tested for the illness.

## Background Checks

- All childcare providers with a completed and approved background check in the KARES system are ready to return to the classroom and be safely left alone with children.

- The statewide fingerprint background check system is not yet open. New employees will have to complete name-base background checks at this time.

- Background checks are being processed manually without the KARES system.

## Helpful Resources

**Professional Development:** DCCPDStaff@ky.gov    **Kentucky All-STARS:** KYallstars@ky.gov
**Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP):** CCAPProviderPayments@ky.gov
**National Background Check Program:** CHFSDCCNBCP@ky.gov
**Ky. Child Care Changes during COVID-19:** chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dcbs/Pages/dcbscvres.aspx