

Child Care: Supporting Essential Workers



COVID-19 has presented all of us with difficult challenges.

At this time, the NJ Department of Children and Families has put an emergency assistance system into place to support those individuals who must work. (e.g., those working in hospitals, public safety, grocery stores, etc.).

Important things to know:

- All child care centers are closed except for those authorized on an emergency basis to serve essential personnel.
- Many registered family child care homes remain open (although availability differs by community)
- Statewide, Child Care Resource & Referral agencies are open to support child care needs. **Find your CCR&R [here](#).**
- DCF has worked with the NJ Dept. of Health to issue [emergency health and safety guidelines](#).



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To best support essential personnel, the NJ Division of Family Development is helping to meet the costs of child care for those who must work.

Essential Personnel:

- Health care workers, including staff working in health care facilities and in community-based services including home health and behavioral health;
- Law enforcement personnel, fire and emergency services personnel, and correctional facility staff;
- Individuals employed at emergency child care centers operating on or after April 1, 2020;
- Staff working for entities that provide essential social services, including, but not limited to, group home and shelter staff;
- Essential government employees who are unable to work from home, including child protection services workers, child welfare workers, foster care workers, unemployment compensation processing staff, and public health employees; and,
- Certain critical workers, as defined by the Commissioner of DCF, at essential retail businesses, as defined in Executive Order No. 107 (2020) and subsequent Administrative Orders, which includes, for example, grocery store and gas station employees.



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Essential personnel can apply for assistance [here](#).

- The link connects you with your local CCR&R
- There's a form that's simple to fill out to get you help fast!



Child Care Financial Support:

- If you currently receive child care assistance under the state's Child Care Subsidy Program or are eligible for it, your child care costs will be fully covered by the state.
- For all other families, the Emergency Child Care Assistance Program will pay the following rates and you will be responsible for the difference between that amount and what the child care center is charging.
- What the child care center can charge you is subject to limits based on the center in which you enroll.
- Tuition for center services, including Emergency Child Care Assistance, cannot exceed 10% of the rate the center charged in February 2020.

**Emergency Center-based
weekly rates the state
will pay:**

INFANT	\$450.35
TODDLER	\$415.70
PRESCHOOL	\$415.70
SCHOOL-AGE	\$336.00

[More info](#) from the NJ
Division of Family
Development

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NJ CCR&Rs are working with:

- NJ Department of Children and Families
- NJ Division of Family Development
- Authorized emergency child care centers
- Registered family child care homes
- Families of essential personnel

As the COVID-19 situation evolves, our efforts to pivot in a way to help will evolve as well.

Stay tuned. [Check in](#) with your local CCR&R if you have any questions or need help.

And, follow [CDC recommendations](#)! Stay safe everyone!

