

COVID-19 Essential Employee Child Care

To help Tennesseans move forward during the COVID-19 emergency, DHS is increasing access to child care at no cost for Tennessee workers who are providing “essential businesses and services.”

This child care is available through payment assistance with licensed child care agencies and a partnership with Tennessee YMCAs and Boys & Girls Clubs.



- **How do I know if I'm an essential worker who is eligible for these supports?**

For purposes of the child care payment assistance program, essential workers are: Employees of a healthcare entity, Law Enforcement, First Responders (EMS, Fire Departments), Corrections Officers, Military, Activated National Guard, Human and Social Services Workers, Postal Workers, Transportation, Restaurant and Grocery Workers. Parents seeking care at a YMCA or Boys & Girls Club temporary location should contact the facility in order to verify eligibility and to register their child.

- **Do parents of children of all age groups qualify?**

Families with children under the age of 13 are eligible for this program. Families with children older than 13 that are: **a)** under court supervision or **b)** mentally or physically incapable of self-service also qualify for this program.

- **Are there income restrictions for these programs?**

These programs do not have income restrictions.

- **How do I apply to receive COVID-19 Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance?**

Parents who meet the definition of essential worker as listed above can apply online at:
[Tdhs.service-now.com](https://tdhs.service-now.com)

- **How do I apply to take my child to a YMCA or Boys & Girls Club temporary care location?**

Essential employees with school-aged children who need care will be able to register at YMCA and Boys & Girls Club locations and access care at no charge, during the COVID-19 state of emergency. As they are established, you will be able to see a listing of temporary care locations here <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/humanservices/covid-19.html>.

- **How long will the application take to process?**

Typically, an application for child care payment assistance will be processed within about a week. Upon receipt of the application, a DHS team member will contact you within 2 business days if the verifications needed are not attached and request necessary verifications. If an application is received with all verifications, the eligibility process will be completed within 3 business days. *Please note: to protect the health of customers and staff, DHS offices are not open to “foot-traffic” during the COVID-19 emergency, but staff are available by phone.*

- **How will payments be distributed?**

After an essential employee enrolls in the child care payment assistance program, DHS will make arrangements to pay for child care at the DHS licensed program where the child is served. A list of licensed child care providers with capacity to enroll children is available at: <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/covid-19/child-care-services-and-covid-19.html>.

- **How long will this program be available?**

Essential Employee Child Care Payment Assistance will be valid through June 15, 2020.

Visit our website at www.tn.gov/humanservices