



NC Department of Health and Human Services
**Division of Child Development
and Early Education**

Ariel Ford
Director

December 7, 2020

Agenda

- **Update on COVID-related supports**
- **Update on DCDEE Activities**
- **Licensing Data Report**

COVID Support Updates

October Operational Grants

- For providers open in October, they will receive 25% of the amount received in previous months.
 - Awarded in mid-December
- Final awards will be based on:
 - Days open (prorated for programs reopening)
 - Total number of children served in February 2020
 - Star rating
 - Infant and toddler enrollment
 - Serving subsidy children*
 - Subsidy density*
- Because subsidy stabilization ended in August, subsidy factors were included for the August grant award and eliminated for September and October awards

Emergency School Age Family Support Program

- Emergency School-Age Family Support Program operated for the service months of October and November 2020
- Licensed child care facilities and unlicensed community-based organizations (CBO) that were registered with DCDEE participated in this program
- Eligible families attested that their school-age child attended a child care facility or CBO remote learning and the family's monthly household income was at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level
- Payment rates for this short-term program were \$870 for licensed child care centers, \$645 for licensed family child care homes, and \$516 for unlicensed CBOs

Changes in Provider Data Collection

- Beginning in October providers began entering service status, capacity, and vacancy information on a weekly basis into the CCR&R [Provider Profile Portal](#), a new secure web portal (powered by WorkLife Systems) for child care providers.
- 90% of programs open
- Programs are averaging ~ 60% enrollment, significant variation
 - Staffing is a primary barrier
 - COVID cases are increasing as community spread increases

Public Health Toolkit for Child Care

- Monthly edits are being made to the [ChildCareStrongNC Public Health Toolkit](#) to reflect changes in guidance, clarify language, and align with the [StrongSchoolsNC Public Health \(K-12\) Toolkit](#)
- November:
 - A section was added explaining PPE, including information on how and when PPE should be used, including face shields
 - Changes to cleaning and hygiene procedures for facilities, especially cleaning and disinfection recommendations for high-touch surfaces
 - Revised guidance on screening and exclusion from child care, for individuals with COVID-19
- December:
 - Updates include a requirement for all 5-year-olds in care to wear a mask, per Governor's Executive Order
 - Changes in CDC guidelines for quarantine when exposed to COVID, without symptoms or a positive test

November & December Staff Bonuses

- Bonus payments will again be provided in November and December
- Funds will pay for the employer portion of payroll taxes
- Available to all programs serving children in person
- Staff attendance for the month of November 2020 should have been entered and submitted by December 5, 2020 through the [Emergency Provider Portal](#)
- Bonus payments for November will be paid in mid-December, bonus payments for December will be paid in late December 2020
- All payments will be made via direct deposit; no paper checks will be issued

DCDEE Activity Updates

Licensing Fee Due Date Extension

- DCDEE annual license fee invoice mailing was delayed due to technical difficulties.
- Invoices were mailed on December 3, 2020, and should be arriving at the mailing address for facilities soon. DCDEE apologizes for any inconvenience this delay has caused.
- Due to the delay in mailing the invoices, the deadline for paying the license fee has been extended from December 17, 2020, to February 1, 2021.

COVID Impact Survey

- DCDEE is planning to request, as is allowed, in the CCDF plan submission, to postpone the typical Market Rate Survey (MRS) for 1 year (October 2021)
- COVID Impact Survey for 2020
- Letters will be mailed to all providers January 1, 2021
- Report summarizing responses is planned by Spring 2021
- All providers (except NCPK only, Developmental Day and Head Start only) will receive a paper letter providing information about the Survey and be asked to respond to the survey online, if at all possible

CCDF Activity Monitoring – 6/29-7/2

Administration for Children and Families staff “greatly appreciated the flexibility and responsiveness of the Lead Agency staff and partners. The Monitoring Team particularly appreciated the conversations with the local licensing staff and local eligibility staff. We valued their openness and willingness to provide us with the opportunity of virtual guided case file reviews and walking us through the information. The collaboration and strong relationships between the Lead Agency and multiple partners was evident during our virtual monitoring visit.”

CCDF Activity Monitoring

- For each CCDF requirement listed as “Unmet,” notice is provided of possible non-compliance. Failure to implement any of the provisions of the Act, regulations, or North Carolina’s approved Plan may be subject to a penalty.
- The Office of Child Care will consider any written responses received from the State of North Carolina to address the non-compliance **within 60 days** (or such longer period if agreed upon) prior to rendering a final determination of compliance.

CCDF Activity Monitoring

- Consumer Education – Posting Monitoring and Inspection Reports in accordance with 45 CFR 98.33(a)(4). The Lead Agency does not post all monitoring reports online.
- 12-Month Eligibility Determination and Re-Determination in accordance with 45 CFR 98.21(a)(1). The Lead Agency does not consider time-limited changes that do not exceed 90 days to be temporary changes.

CCDF Activity Monitoring

- SBS, Head Trauma, and Maltreatment requirement in accordance with 45 CFR 98.41(a)(1)(vi). The Lead Agency does not have child maltreatment standards for license-exempt religious sponsored child care programs.

Licensing Data Request Update

Regulatory Requirements for Child Care

- **NCGS-Article 7-Chapter 110**
- **Child Care Rules-10A NCAC Chapter 9**
- **NC Dept. of Public Health**
 - Sanitation Requirements**
- **NC Dept. of Insurance (DOI)**
 - Building Codes**
 - Fire Codes**
- **Local Ordinances**

Regulatory Data

YEAR	CENTER	FCCH
2019-2020	18,875	3,458
2018-2019	28,357	6,605
2017-2018	23,457	5,382
2016-2017	23,515	5,264
2015-2016	20,215	5,880
2014-2015	18,376	6,164

Violation Corrections

- A provider must correct violations immediately or as soon as possible.
- A provider must submit written documentation to the consultant within 14 days stating how the violation was corrected and how the requirement will be maintained in the future. This document remains in the public master file in Raleigh.
- Once violations are corrected, the consultant documents the information in the regulatory system which is downloaded each day to the public website.

Regulatory Data

Centers- 4 requirements consistently cited annually:

- Storage of hazardous items
- Electrical outlets not covered
- Safe indoor/outdoor environment
- Activity plans not current or available to parents

Regulatory Data

FCCH- 4 requirements consistently cited annually:

- Storage of hazardous items
- Summary of law not provided to parents/signed
- Electrical outlets not covered
- Criminal background checks

Grievances

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, violations alone are not appealable.

DCDEE does have a grievance policy related to violations cited:

- The provider contacts the Supervisor and submits the concern in writing.
- The Supervisor/Manager reviews the concern

Administrative Actions

Admin Actions mostly taken for the following:

- A child maltreatment substantiation
- A substantiated licensing complaint
- More than 16 violations cited at a single visit
- Repeat violations at 2 consecutive visits
- Pattern of violations over an 18-month period
- Sanitation, fire, or building requirements that cause immediate harm to children

Administrative Action Facts

- DCDEE issues 350-400 actions annually
- Approx. 5-7% providers are issued an action annually
- 50-60% are Written Warnings
- All Admin Actions are appealable through the Office of Administrative Hearings
- Approx. 50-60 are appealed annually

Questions