

CTCARES for Frontline Workers Child Care Subsidy Program

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If you're struggling to find and pay for child care during COVID-19 — and you're a frontline worker, like a health care, child care, or grocery worker — this short-term program can help. **It offers payments directly to child care providers, so your child gets the care they need and you're able to work.**

How does the program work?

The Office of Early Childhood (OEC) has a \$10 million fund to help frontline workers pay for licensed child care at a child care center, family child care home, or group child care home.

And if you need care outside of the provider settings mentioned above, we can still help. We'll pay the same funding to an adult to care for your child while you're working. Note that this adult needs to be age 20 or older and can't be the child's parent.

This is a short-term program — we're accepting applications from Monday, April 27 through Friday, May 22, 2020.

How much funding does the program offer?

The funding depends on the number of children you have who need care and the number of hours the frontline worker in your family needs to work.

If you work **21 or more hours each week**:

- **For one child**, \$200 each week for up to 6 weeks
- **For 2 or more children**, up to a maximum of \$500 per family each week for up to 6 weeks

If you work **8 to 20 hours each week**:

- **For one child**, \$100 each week for up to 6 weeks
- **For 2 or more children**, up to a maximum of \$250 per family each week for up to 6 weeks

OEC will pay the subsidy directly to the child care provider. You should expect to pay a co-pay as well, since child care costs are often higher than the subsidy.

Note that there are some requirements. You can't receive this funding if you're already in the Care 4 Kids program. There's also a family income limit of up to 85% of state median income to qualify. For example, if you're in a family of 4, your income would need to be less than \$99,000 a year to qualify. You can get more information about income limits when you apply.

Who counts as a frontline worker?

Frontline workers are those who must work outside of their own home for at least 8 hours a week caring for people or providing in-person direct services and essential goods to maintain human livelihood during Governor Lamont's Stay Safe, Stay Home order. Examples of frontline workers may include:

- Healthcare workers
- First responders
- Child care workers
- Grocery workers
- Workers at state facilities (get more detail in the next question)
- Home/group home care workers (for seniors, youth, mental health or people with disabilities)
- People who provide in-person services to any of the above

[Here's a more detailed list of frontline workers.](#) The state may expand the list of frontline workers later. It depends on the essential services Connecticut needs during the COVID-19 emergency.

I work for the State of Connecticut — can I apply?

Yes, state workers — such as employees in corrections, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Service, Department of Children and Families, and the Department of Developmental Services — can qualify as long as they're frontline workers and either:

- Designated as a Level 1 Intermittent or Level 1 Constant by the State of Connecticut for the COVID-19 pandemic
- Excluded from or deemed exempt from expanded family and medical leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Can I get funding if I already receive Care 4 Kids funding?

No, this program isn't for families who already receive Care 4 Kids.

Learn about Care 4 Kids

Care 4 Kids is a program that helps low to moderate income families pay for child care. Find out if you are eligible for Care 4 Kids — [use the screening tool on their website](#). For some families with lower incomes, Care 4 Kids would provide financial help for longer than CT Cares for Frontline Workers.

How do I apply for the CTCARES for Frontline Workers Program?

Dial 800-505-1000 to connect with 2-1-1 Child Care and let them know you want to apply. They'll help you understand if you're eligible and tell you about nearby child care programs.