

Health, Safety & Lifeline Worker Households

To facilitate the continued availability of health, safety, and lifeline services, the Department of Human Services is asking childcare providers to prioritize the provision of care to households who hold these roles in our communities.

The community roles that contribute directly to health, safety and act as community lifeline services can also be understood as necessary to meeting basic human needs:

- Food
- Shelter
- Healthcare
- Safety

In a time of crisis, it is especially important for us to think broadly about the professions and occupations that help our more vulnerable community members meet these same basic needs. This means, people who deliver services to people in specialized residential settings, people who deliver home-based health and safety services, and people who are there to help protect those who may be at risk of harm.

By way of example, this core of health/safety/lifeline staff include:

- First responders, law enforcement and emergency personnel
- People whose work supports access to food supply, agriculture and distribution of other necessary supplies and equipment
- Healthcare and human service workers including those who deliver care in facilities, in homes and remotely
- People involved in the care of children (childcare, child welfare, education)
- Workers who help ensure continued access to energy and basic utilities
- People who assure access to financial resources, and
- Workers who support the range of specialized group settings that are home for some of the most vulnerable among us (homeless, developmentally disabled, seriously mentally ill, etc).

Each community's needs will be different. Each childcare provider's capacity will be different. We encourage each provider to use their best judgment in making health/safety/lifeline worker prioritization decisions that are in line with their community's needs. And want to make clear that any excess local capacity can be prioritized to meet local needs.

We recognize that it is essential for health/safety/lifeline households to have access to childcare. If they don't, our ability to meet basic health and safety needs during the crisis will be severely constrained, which puts us all at risk.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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