

**Childcare Emergency Operating Grant  
Program Modification**  
*Effective September 26, 2020*

The Childcare Emergency Operating Grant (CEOG) is designed to help childcare providers cover some of the extra costs of operating that come with the modified operating practices, and to help sustain the childcare industry through this period of disruption. This grant is available to all childcare providers licensed by the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

In addition to the ongoing attestation that each grant participant provides, which states that they are following Modified Operating Practices and are actively serving children and families during the pandemic, **effective September 26, 2020 providers who accept the grant must also agree to follow Department of Health recommendations related to closure due to COVID exposure.**

We recognize that the recommendation to close due to COVID exposure has profound impacts on both families and on the child care provider. We also know that following public health guidance during a pandemic is an essential element of public health and safety. As such, we have **added a component to CEOG that will help offset some of the financial impact closure can cause.**

**NEW: COVID Closure Daily Rate**

Any child care provider who receives a Department of Health recommendation to close due to COVID exposure is eligible to receive the COVID Closure Daily Rate.

For the duration of the closure, the provider would receive a payment of:

- \$15 / child / day for centers (license types C, E, K, M)
- \$11.75 / child / day for group/family settings (license types F, G, H)
- \$7.50 / child / day for self declared (license type S)

The total payment will be based on date of Department of Health notice, number of days closed, number of children affected by closure, and license type.

The “duration of the closure” is determined by Department of Health and must be verified with a copy of the Department of Health letter received by the provider. Typical durations are 3 days, 10 days, 14 days, and 24 days.

The payment will be available for the number of child care slots that are affected. Some closures affect only one room, some multiple rooms, and some the entire facility. The child care provider will attest to the number of children affected when requesting payment.

To receive the daily rate payment, the child care provider must be eligible for CEOG, enrolled in CEOG, and complete all required attestations related to closure and operations.

In exchange for receiving the daily rate, the child care provider is expected to:

- Cap the parent fee for full time care at \$5 / day / child for duration of closure (cap at \$2.50/child/day for part-time care) AND
- Continue to pay staff for regular shifts for duration of closure.

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 325 | Bismarck ND 58505-0250

701.328.3541 | Fax 701.328.3538 | 800.755.2604 | 711 (TTY) | [www.nd.gov/dhs](http://www.nd.gov/dhs)

Provider will be asked to attest to these items while requesting payment.

*Note: This Daily Rate is not a replacement for the existing base Childcare Emergency Operating Grant. Rather, it will be available in addition to the existing base grant.*

### **EXISTING: Childcare Emergency Operating Grant (CEOG) Base Payment**

All childcare providers who are licensed by the State of North Dakota (DHS) or have a Self-Declaration Certification, and who are open and providing service, will be eligible to receive the CEOG.

The payment will be established based on facility type and licensed capacity, as noted in state licensing systems.

- \$70 / child / two weeks for centers (license types C, E, K, M)
- \$55 / child / two weeks for group/family settings (license types F, G, H)
- \$35 / child / two weeks for self declared (license type S)

Each provider who opts-in to the CEOG must agree to:

- Follow Department of Health closure recommendations due to COVID exposure.
- Verify base service information via the provider portal and/or provider payment request form prior to grant distribution (e.g. enrollment numbers, services provided to health/safety/lifeline worker households).

A provider who **opts to close** will **not** be **eligible** to receive a CEOG payment.

A provider who is **required to close** due to a COVID-19-related directive from the Department of Health will still be deemed open and **eligible** to receive CEOG payment during the period of mandated closure, in addition to the COVID Closure Daily Rate (see above).

To prepare to receive payment, a provider needs to have an active provider account in the [provider portal](#) and verify that you have uploaded a current W9 to your account and complete the [baseline facility survey](#).

If you wish to receive EFT or ACH, verify that your banking information is current in the system (we strongly encourage providers to enter banking information as manual processing of checks is a slower process)

To help families identify open capacity in childcare programs call Child Care Aware at 800-997-8515 or go to the website to **update your program's vacancies**, including temporary vacancies, so that families looking for care can find you.

Because CEOG is funded with federal funds, providers who receive payments above a certain threshold may be required to provide additional information to facilitate necessary reporting.

### **Note re Modified Operating Practices and CEOG**

It is important to note that all childcare providers who operate during the emergency will be **required to use the modified operating practices**, which were developed with advice and input from providers and other professionals working in the childcare industry.

If a childcare provider **opts out** of the state-provided Childcare Emergency Operating Grant, they will **not** be required to follow DoH closure recommendations but **will** be required to follow modified operating standards.

### **CEOG Deadlines and Payment Schedule**

The CEOG program has been extended through December 31, 2020. Payments will continue to be issued every 2 weeks according to the following schedule. Specific payment rates are subject to adjustment based on funding availability.

<b>Dates of Service</b>	<b>Payment Request Email will be sent</b>	<b>Payment Request Form DUE 11:59 p.m.</b>	<b>Payment Date</b>
<b>Sept 26 – Oct 9</b>	September 30	October 4	October 9
<b>Oct 10 – Oct 23</b>	October 14	October 18	October 23
<b>Oct 24 – Nov 6</b>	October 28	November 1	November 6
<b>Nov 7 – Nov 20</b>	November 11	November 15	November 20
<b>Nov 21 – Dec 4</b>	November 25	November 29	December 4
<b>Dec 5 – Dec 18</b>	December 9	December 13	December 18
<b>Dec 19 – Dec 31</b>	December 23	December 27	December 31 (partial)

To apply, providers sign in to the provider portal, complete the baseline survey, and the bi-weekly payment request form (delivered via email that is generated upon receipt of the baseline survey).

The Daily Rate for COVID Closure will follow the same payment schedule as the base CEOG payment. Payment will be made in the service period in which attestation of closure occurs.