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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner

DATE: March 13, 2020

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Coronavirus Memo #3
OEC Funding and Program Closure Related to COVID-19/ Corona Virus

The Office of Early Childhood wishes to provide guidance to our funded programs to ensure stability of programs during this very challenging COVID-19 situation. We realize that consistent and accurate information is of utmost importance.

Funding: The OEC will continue funding all state-funded programs and settings (Child Day Care, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, Even Start, School Readiness, Smart Start, State Head Start Supplement) at the full monthly allocation regardless of child attendance or program closure through March 30, 2020. We are exploring options to extend this payment policy if the effects of COVID-19 continue. We will update you as soon as possible.

There will be a separate communication regarding the Care 4 Kids child care subsidy forthcoming.

Determining Program Closure: The OEC is not instructing or requiring any program to close. Unless ordered by government officials, programs may remain open by their own determination which may be made considering guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Public Health and/or your local health department. To guide the decision making process there is [updated guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html) for administrators of public and private childcare programs and K-12 schools on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>).

On behalf of the OEC, 211childcare is gathering data through a survey to collect information on program closures. Please use this survey link (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BMCMXTN>) to share your program's status.