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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Beth Bye
Commissioner

OEC Funds Will Cover Background Check Application Fees Through September May 22, 2019

The Office of Early Childhood would like to thank all licensed and license-exempt child care providers for the work you do to provide safe, nurturing care for young children. Background checks are critical to ensure that the adults working with our youngest learners are not a risk to their safety. Changes to the federal CCDF background check requirements for licensed and license-exempt providers were made to protect children. In Connecticut, CCDF provides approximately \$67 million to support the Care 4 Kids child care subsidy program, and pays for quality improvement efforts. At the same time, these federal requirements cost money, add administrative time, and can be inconvenient for child care providers.

After careful consideration, we are pleased to announce that the OEC will provide funds to cover the cost of background check processing fees during this transition period of meeting federal requirements.

Applications postmarked **June 1 through September 30, 2019** – or until funds are exhausted - will be accepted by OEC **without payment**. While OEC funds are available, any payments of \$88.25 for staff or \$86.25 for volunteers received by OEC between June 1 and September 30 will be returned. Please continue to send your fingerprint card, completed DCF Authorization form and signed FBI Privacy Rights document. No payment will be needed during this time period.

We have also added additional staff to help with questions and with processing, and are exploring strategies to create more convenient options for fingerprint collection, and working with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to reduce the time to receive criminal background check results. OEC is developing a new Background Checks Information System (BCIS) for providers to have information on the pending status and results of all background checks. Please visit <https://beta.ctoec.org/background-checks/> for ongoing updates.

Thank You for your partnership with OEC as we work together toward solutions and ensure the safety of our children.

Best Regards,

Beth Bye, Commissioner