

DHS Vision: The people of Hawai`i are thriving.

DHS Mission: To encourage self-sufficiency and support the well-being of individuals, families, and communities in Hawai`i.

Guiding Principles: Aloha Spirit statute, `Ohana Nui statute, & Article IX, section III.

Child Care Supports for low- to moderate- income families
Supporting families' self-sufficiency, choice, and needs
Providing families access to affordable child care

Core Values:

Team oriented
Human-centered
Respectful
Intentional
Visionary
Evidence-based

`Ohana Nui:

Housing	Food & nutrition
Health & wellness	Education &
Social Capital	economic stability

DHS Efforts regarding Child Care during COVID-19

Strategy	Responses DHS has done or is doing	Timeframe
Helps families retain their childcare seat and promotes continuity of child's care and well-being and supports providers to remain financially viable	<p>Allow DHS families receiving subsidies to pay to hold their seats with their usual child care provider.</p> <p>Applies for existing families receiving CCCH and POD subsidies, and new families applying for CCCH.</p>	March 29, 2020 until the pandemic emergency is declared over
Supports families to spend financial resources on immediate needs	<p>Extended the deadline for families to submit applications for the POD program.</p> <p>Also allowed families that already applied for POD to submit <i>updated</i> information about their household income in case they had experienced a drop in income due to the pandemic emergency.</p>	<p>January 2, 2020 through May 15, 2020</p> <p>POD year starts July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021</p>
Supports families to spend financial resources on immediate needs while retaining their child's seat at their usual provider.	Continue to pay child care subsidy benefits at the beginning of the month for the month of care for CCCH and POD subsidies based on child's enrollment, not attendance.	On-going
Supports families to spend financial resources on immediate needs while retaining their child's seat at their usual provider.	<p>Suspend temporarily the income eligibility requirements for CCCH program.</p> <p>Applies for new families applying for CCCH to support essential workers pay for their child care costs or other families who may have previously been over-income but need help paying for their child care costs.</p>	March 29, 2020 until emergency is declared over

DHS Efforts regarding Child Care during COVID-19

Strategy	Responses DHS has done or is doing	Timeframe
<p>Supports families to spend financial resources on immediate needs while retaining their child’s seat at their usual provider.</p>	<p>Waive temporarily the DHS family co-pays and provide eligible subsidy assistance amounts to CCCH families.</p>	<p>March 29, 2020 until the pandemic emergency is declared over</p>
<p>Supports families who have experience a job loss or reduction in their work hours or cannot afford their higher education tuition costs.</p>	<p>Suspend temporarily the activity requirement to receive CCCH assistance. Applies for existing families receiving CCCH subsidies, and new families applying for CCCH to support parents have child care while they find new employment.</p>	<p>March 29, 2020 until the pandemic emergency is declared over</p>
<p>Supports providers in following health guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19</p>	<p>Continued technical assistance and consultation through child care licensing offices statewide and DHS contractor PATCH to 260 licensed and registered child care facilities and homes that continued to operate during the stay-at-home orders to care for children of essential workers.</p>	<p>March 26, 2020 and on-going</p>
<p>Supports families and child care providers in understanding the temporary changes and encouraging families to access the CCCH child care subsidy program</p>	<p>Developed in collaboration with the Executive Office on Early Learning information sheets for families and child care providers to highlight the temporary changes that have been put into place for the CCCH program during the COVID-19 emergency period.</p>	<p>End of April – Early May 2020</p>

DHS Efforts regarding Child Care during COVID-19

Strategy	Responses DHS has done or is doing	Timeframe
<p>Supports providers in following health guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19</p>	<p>Development of health guidelines in collaboration with Hawaii Economic and Community Navigator child care liaison for licensed and registered child care facilities and homes to follow to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when they resume or continue child care operations.</p> <p>Guidelines are based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and consultations with the Department of Health. Child care provider workgroup reviewed the draft guidelines and provided written and verbal feedback.</p> <p>Guidelines include measures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical distancing, including group sizes, staff-child ratios, staggering of activities; • Cleaning and sanitization; • Health and safety, including health check screenings and training for staff; • Facility safety; • Child and parent expectations; and • Employee support. 	<p>Issued on May 26, 2020.</p>

DHS Efforts regarding Child Care during COVID-19

Strategy	Responses DHS has done or is doing	Timeframe
<p>Supports providers in meeting the additional cleaning requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19</p>	<p>Availability of contracts with licensed and registered child care facilities and homes and A+ contractors for the purposes of cleaning and sanitation, and other activities necessary to maintain or resume the operation of child care programs.</p> <p>Through the CARES Act additional CCDF grant funds awarded to Hawaii DHS, targeting almost \$12 million in contracts to be available.</p> <p>Additional information will be available once DHS finalizes the details.</p>	<p>Implemented on May 26, 2020.</p>
<p>Supports providers in meeting the additional cleaning requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19</p>	<p>Private agencies, donations, and purchases and working with DHS contractors PATCH and Windward Community College's Learning to Grow Project for distribution of cleaning and sanitizing supplies for child care providers statewide that have requested supplies.</p>	<p>On-going</p>

Survey results of regulated child care providers completed the week of 5/4/2020:

1. Closed during the emergency stay at home orders – 68% of all regulated facilities and homes statewide

	Closed	Open
Family Child Care homes and Group Child Care homes	45%	55%
Group child care centers	84%	16%
Infant and toddler centers	47%	53%
School age programs	100%	0%

2. Have had to lay off staffing – 22% of respondents

Type of staff that have had to lay off:	
Aides	42%
Assistant Teachers	20%
Teachers	21%
Directors	16%
Reported Total # of staff laid off by respondents	1,021

3. Family Child Care homes that stopped care and applied for unemployment – 33% of respondents

4. Child care providers responding reported the following challenges they are experiencing:

Families keeping their children at home	20%
Families needing a space for their child due to school closures	10%
Families unable to pay their child care costs or out-of-pocket costs	15%
Families have lost their jobs or have losses in their own income	24%
Child care provider has loss of income because families aren't paying for child care	16%
Child care provider has loss of income because being paid by attendance and not by enrollment	13%
Child care provider paying the cost of substitutes to cover for staff who are sick	1%

5. Child care providers responding reported the applying for the following:

Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan	24%
Paycheck Protection Program	40%
Hawaii Community Foundation’s Resilience Fund	15%
Aloha United Way’s COVID-19 Rent & Utility Assistance Program	6%
Private loans	5%
Other, including child care grants Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Federal stimulus/CARES Act funds	10%
Child care provider paying the cost of substitutes to cover for staff who are sick	1%

54% respondents reported receiving information about funding for the above programs.

6. Child care providers responding reported the types of supports or information that would be most helpful:

Available financial supports for child care businesses	14%
Health and safety guidelines for child care providers	15%
Layoff procedures and unemployment benefits for staff	6%
Safety net and available supports for families (food, housing, and financial supports)	15%
If any available waivers for DHS regulatory requirements	13%
Changes that might occur for DHS child care subsidy assistance programs	14%
Networking opportunities with other providers	12%
Activities that the child care provider can share with families who are at home to do with their children	12%