

March 30, 2020

In response to the unprecedented public health emergency that Illinois is facing as a result of the spread of COVID-19, Governor Pritzker is committed to supporting child care providers offering emergency child care to children of Essential Workers. The State is mindful that child care is a critical emergency service that is necessary for Essential Workers.

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) through the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) System is offering one-time stipends to help defray additional costs that may be incurred by child care programs that opt to open and provide child care for the children of Essential Workers. **We want to stress that these services should be provided only when Essential Workers have no other options available. The goal is to practice social distancing and for children to stay at home whenever possible.**

Please review the attached Guidelines, Frequently Asked Questions, and Application in its entirety. Read through the documents fully before asking questions. After you have read the documents, if you have questions contact your local Child Care Resource & Referral Agency www.inccrra.org/about/sdasearch.

We are committed to supporting our child care providers through this health emergency, and appreciate all that you are doing to support children, families and your communities.

Linda Saterfield
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