



The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), MaineAEYC and Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network are working together to create a temporary listing of the child care programs that are open and able to offer care to children of essential workers.

First of all, thank you to all the child care programs and staff across the state. We appreciate your work. As we navigate the realities of COVID-19, some child care programs have needed to close, while others have remained open. Please know that we support all programs regardless of the difficult choices you have made.

It is a very difficult decision about whether to close your program. This flow chart from Child Care Aware may be helpful:

<https://info.childcareaware.org/blog/should-i-close-my-child-care-program-a-coronavirus-flowchart>

To help those parents who are considered “essential workers” to find child care, we are compiling two lists which will be housed in a special section on the Child Care Choices website:

<https://childcarechoices.me/>

- A list of licensed child care programs in the state that are open and able to care for additional children.
- A list of Non-Relative License Exempt Providers who offer care for children enrolled in the Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP), and therefore have had a background check. (Gov. Mills signed an agreement on March 24, 2020 that increased the number of unrelated children a license exempt provider can take from two to three.)

If you are a licensed program and are willing to help essential workers with their child care needs, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/L8LkJ81NMauaNNtu6>

If you are a CCSP Non-Relative License Exempt Provider who can temporarily care for additional child/children and are willing to help essential workers with their child care needs, please fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/KaQdo9Mz7C4eJXqe8>

You may contact MaineAEYC with any questions, updates about your program, spaces available, or other information at info@maineaeyc.org. MaineAEYC is working with the state to collect information and support all licensed programs (you do not need to be a member).

Please refer to the OCFS website for latest updates and information, including important information around licensing and child care subsidies: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/COVID-19-response.shtml>

We appreciate your willingness to assist families of essential workers who continue to keep us safe and help us meet our daily needs.

Stay safe and healthy.

March 27, 2020