

Dear CCPP Child Care Provider:

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Mississippi received a temporary increase in funding from the federal government to support child care programs statewide. Because of this funding, MDHS was able to issue Child Care Strong grants directly to you, establish a state-wide teacher substitute pool, provide bonus payments to child care staff, and most importantly, greatly increase the number of child care certificates issued to qualifying families. In fact, MDHS is helping more families have access to high quality child care than ever before in agency history. We are very proud that we have been able to work directly with you to not only keep child care going in Mississippi but make it better than ever using these temporary dollars.

MDHS remains committed to supporting child care in our state but with the ending of the COVID-19 relief funding, we also must make changes to the number of families and children we can serve with the funding available to us.

Effective April 1, 2025, DECCD will be implementing the following temporary changes:

- We will continue to accept applications and issue certificates to the families that fall within these categories: (1) TANF families and families transitioning away from TANF assistance (TCC), (2) MDCPS foster care children, (3) teen parents, (4) families that have special needs, (5) deployed military families, and (6) homeless families.
- For families that fall outside of the six categories listed above, DECCD will also continue paying for services for the duration of their current certificates until the 12-month period of the certificate expires.
- DECCD will temporarily place a hold on accepting: (1) new applications for families outside of the six categories, (2) redetermination applications for families outside of the six categories, and (3) "add a child" applications for families outside of the six categories listed above.

The hold will remain in place until the number of certificates we have issued falls back into line with what our current budget can support. We cannot accurately estimate how long the hold will remain in place, but we will be monitoring the situation very closely and will lift the hold as soon as we can. Likewise, we will notify you when it appears we are near the point where we can lift the hold.



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We understand that this situation will raise concerns from our families and from you, our child care partners. We will be holding a virtual town hall meeting to address questions and concerns on Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025, at 11:00AM. To register for this session, go to <https://mdhs.zoom.us/j/85037361824>.

Thank you for your continued dedication to early childhood education and our littlest Mississippians.

Division of Early Childhood Care and Development