



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

TO: Current child development providers with a contract for subsidized child care

FROM: Sara Mead
Assistant Superintendent of Early Learning

RE: Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate

DATE: April 1, 2021

I. Background

On Dec. 18, 2020, Mayor Muriel Bowser announced that the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) put forward emergency and proposed regulations establishing a Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate for child care providers, which were published in the DC Register on Jan. 15, 2021 for a 30-day public comment period ending on Feb. 15, 2021. No comments were received. As such, OSSE anticipates issuing the final regulations in the DC Register in April 2021, with no substantive changes from what was proposed in January.

The Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate temporarily increases subsidy reimbursement rates for licensed child development facilities participating in the District's child care subsidy program, in order to partially offset the effects of increased costs and/or reduced revenues that subsidy child care providers may experience as a result of the public health emergency resulting from the novel coronavirus. The rate is designed to ensure that reductions in subsidy payments that would otherwise result from reduced attendance in child care facilities during the public health emergency, are instead reinvested in increased payment rates for child care providers.

The Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate is one of multiple strategies that the District of Columbia is implementing to support child care providers' continued ability to operate during a time when the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency are affecting all child care facilities' operating capacity, costs, and children's attendance in child care. It is intended to complement other strategies, including:

- Multiple rounds of emergency and relief grants to both subsidy and non-subsidy child care providers;
- Changes in attendance payment policies that increase the number of days of a child's unexcused absences for which child care providers participating in the subsidy program may be paid each month, as well as allowances for COVID-related absences to be considered excused;
- Full time payment for school-age children receiving full time care while their LEA is in a virtual posture; and

- Continued subsidy eligibility for families during the public health emergency.

II. Process for Calculating the Public Subsidy Rate

As defined in the regulations creating the Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate, the Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate is a *percentage increase* in the subsidy rates defined in [DCMRA 5-A203](#).

The percentage increase is calculated by a mathematical formula based on the following steps:

1. Calculating the difference between subsidy payments for the most recent month based on standard subsidy rates (i.e., what February 2021 payments would have been under normal subsidy rates) and the subsidy payments made in the month before the start of the public health emergency (which for the current public health emergency means February 2020)
2. Dividing this difference by the total subsidy payments made in the month before the Mayor first declared the public health emergency (i.e., February 2020)

Under the regulations, the Public Health Emergency Rate is to be updated every 90 days during the public health emergency. Setting the rate in three-month increments provides some predictability for child care providers, while allowing the rate to be updated if attendance in child care facilities changes in response to public health or other conditions.

For the months of March through May 2021, the percentage increase of the public health emergency is calculated as follows:

- The total monthly subsidy payment in February 2021 was \$7,358,108;
- From December 2020 through February 2021, the Public Health Emergency rate increased subsidy payment rates by 32.73 percent. Had child care providers been paid at normal rates in February 2021 (without applying the Public Health Emergency Rate), the February 2021 subsidy expenditure would have been \$5,543,666;
- The total monthly subsidy payment in February 2020 was \$9,219,813;
- The difference between \$9,219,813 and \$5,543,666 is \$3,646,146;
- \$3,646,146 is 39.9 percent of \$9,219,812.75;
- As a result of the implementation of the Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate, **all subsidy rates will increase by 39.9 percent for the months from March through May 2021**

The full table of rates for each provider type and Capital Quality Rating appears at the end of this document.

In June 2021, OSSE will update this document and the accompanying rate table to inform providers of the Public Health Emergency Rate in effect from June-August 2021, using subsidy attendance data from May 2021 to project what the May 2021 subsidy payment would have been, had standard payment rates been in effect, and calculate the percentage difference between that payment and the February 2020 payment, as described above.

OSSE will continue to update this document every three months thereafter until either the

termination of the public health emergency, or until there are no longer funds available to cover the costs of the Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate.

Please note that on March 15, 2021, Mayor Bowser announced that the public health emergency is extended through May 20, 2021. Given this, and that the Public Health Emergency Rate regulations allow the rate to remain in place for up to 90 days following the end of a public health emergency, OSSE intends to keep the Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate in place through at least July 2021. We will update these plans if the public health emergency is extended further.

III. Accessing the Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rates

Child care providers who participate in the District’s child care subsidy system and submit attendance to OSSE do not need to take any additional action to receive the Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate. The Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate will be automatically applied to the provider’s payment based on reported attendance of children receiving subsidy.

IV. Questions and Public Comment

Child care providers with questions about the Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rate should contact Rebecca Shaw at Rebecca.Shaw@dc.gov.

V. Public Health Emergency Subsidy Rates Table

Developing – Center						
	Traditional		Extended Day		Nontraditional	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$91.54	\$54.92	\$100.69	\$64.07	\$114.42	\$68.65
Infant and Toddler Special Needs	\$108.81	\$64.91	-	-	-	-
Pre-school	\$68.37	\$41.02	\$75.21	\$47.86	\$85.46	\$51.27
Pre-school Before and After	\$68.37	\$41.02	\$75.21	\$47.86	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$50.45	\$30.27	\$55.50	\$35.31	\$63.07	\$37.84
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$50.45	\$25.22	-	-	-	-
Pre-school and School-Age Special Needs	\$86.02	\$51.32	-	-	-	-

Developing - Child Development Home and Expanded Home						
	Traditional		Extended Day		Nontraditional	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$70.59	\$42.36	\$77.66	\$49.41	\$88.25	\$52.95

Pre-school	\$43.15	\$25.90	\$47.47	\$30.20	\$53.93	\$32.36
Pre-school Before and After	\$43.15	\$25.90	\$47.47	\$30.20	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$39.17	\$23.50	\$43.09	\$27.42	\$48.97	\$29.38
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$39.17	\$19.59	-	-	-	-

Progressing - Child Development Center						
	Traditional		Extended Day		Nontraditional	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$95.58	\$57.35	\$105.13	\$66.90	\$119.47	\$71.68
Infant and Toddler Special Needs	\$108.81	\$64.91	-	-	-	-
Pre-school	\$71.29	\$42.78	\$78.43	\$49.90	\$89.12	\$53.47
Pre-school Before and After	\$71.29	\$42.78	\$78.43	\$49.90	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$50.45	\$30.27	\$55.50	\$35.31	\$63.07	\$37.84
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$50.45	\$25.22	-	-	-	-
Pre-school and School-Age Special Needs	\$86.02	\$51.32	-	-	-	-

Progressing - Child Development Home and Expanded Home						
	Traditional		Extended Day		Nontraditional	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$76.97	\$46.18	\$84.67	\$53.88	\$96.22	\$57.74
Pre-school	\$48.04	\$28.83	\$52.85	\$33.63	\$60.06	\$36.04
Pre-school Before and After	\$48.04	\$28.83	\$52.85	\$33.63	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$39.17	\$23.50	\$43.09	\$27.42	\$48.97	\$29.38
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$39.17	\$19.59	-	-	-	-

Quality - Child Development Center						
	Traditional		Extended Day		Nontraditional	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$107.42	\$64.45	\$118.16	\$75.20	\$134.28	\$80.57

Infant and Toddler Special Needs	\$108.81	\$64.91	-	-	-	-
Pre-school	\$79.81	\$47.89	\$87.80	\$55.88	\$99.76	\$59.86
Pre-school Before and After	\$79.81	\$47.89	\$87.80	\$55.88	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$50.45	\$30.27	\$55.50	\$35.31	\$63.07	\$37.84
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$50.45	\$25.22	-	-	-	-
Pre-school and School-Age Special Needs	\$86.02	\$51.32	-	-	-	-

Quality - Child Development Home and Expanded Home						
	Traditional		Extended Day		Nontraditional	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$83.63	\$50.18	\$92.00	\$58.55	\$104.55	\$62.73
Pre-school	\$54.84	\$32.90	\$60.32	\$38.39	\$68.55	\$41.13
Pre-school Before and After	\$54.84	\$32.90	\$60.32	\$38.39	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$39.17	\$23.50	\$43.09	\$27.42	\$48.97	\$29.38
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$39.17	\$19.59	-	-	-	-

High-Quality - Child Development Center						
	Traditional		Extended Day		Nontraditional	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$131.38	\$78.83	\$144.52	\$91.97	\$164.23	\$98.53
Infant and Toddler Special Needs	\$108.81	\$64.91	-	-	-	-
Pre-school	\$86.02	\$51.61	\$94.63	\$60.21	\$107.53	\$64.52
Pre-school Before and After	\$86.02	\$51.61	\$94.63	\$60.21	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$50.45	\$30.27	\$55.50	\$35.31	\$63.07	\$37.84
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$50.45	\$25.22	-	-	-	-
Pre-school and School-Age Special Needs	\$86.02	\$51.32	-	-	-	-

High-Quality - Child Development Home and Expanded Home			
	Traditional	Extended Day	Nontraditional

	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$97.62	\$58.45	\$107.39	\$68.34	\$122.03	\$73.22
Pre-school	\$60.41	\$36.25	\$66.45	\$42.29	\$75.52	\$45.31
Pre-school Before and After	\$60.41	\$36.25	\$66.45	\$42.29	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$39.17	\$23.50	\$43.09	\$27.42	\$48.97	\$29.38
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$39.17	\$19.59	-	-	-	-

Preliminary - Child Development Center						
	Traditional		Extended Day		Nontraditional	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$91.54	\$54.92	\$100.69	\$64.07	\$114.42	\$68.65
Infant and Toddler Special Needs	\$108.81	\$64.91	-	-	-	-
Pre-school	\$68.37	\$41.02	\$75.21	\$47.86	\$85.46	\$51.27
Pre-school Before and After	\$68.37	\$41.02	\$75.21	\$47.86	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$50.45	\$30.27	\$55.50	\$35.31	\$63.07	\$37.84
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$50.45	\$25.22	-	-	-	-
Pre-school and School-Age Special Needs	\$86.02	\$51.32	-	-	-	-

Preliminary - Child Development Home and Expanded Home						
	Traditional		Extended Day		Nontraditional	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$70.59	\$42.36	\$77.66	\$49.41	\$88.25	\$52.95
Pre-school	\$43.15	\$25.90	\$47.47	\$30.20	\$53.93	\$32.36
Pre-school Before and After	\$43.15	\$25.90	\$47.47	\$30.20	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$39.17	\$23.50	\$43.09	\$27.42	\$48.97	\$29.38
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$39.17	\$19.59	-	-	-	-

Relative Child Care Rates						
	Traditional		Extended Day		Nontraditional	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$33.83	\$20.29	\$37.21	\$23.69	\$42.29	\$25.38
Pre-school	\$20.05	\$12.03	-	-	-	-

Pre-school Before and After	\$20.05	\$12.03	-	-	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$19.47	\$11.68	\$21.42	\$13.63	\$24.34	\$14.61
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$19.47	\$5.85	-	-	-	-

In-Home Child Care Rates						
	Traditional		Extended Day		Nontraditional	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Infant and Toddler	\$19.84	\$11.91	\$21.82	\$13.89	\$24.80	\$14.89
Pre-School	\$12.17	\$7.30	\$13.39	\$8.52	\$15.22	\$9.14
Pre-school Before and After	\$12.17	\$7.30	\$13.39	\$8.52	-	-
School-Age Before <i>and</i> After	\$10.55	\$6.32	\$11.60	\$7.39	\$13.19	\$7.92
School-Age Before <i>or</i> After	\$10.55	\$5.79	-	-	-	-

Quality Improvement Network (QIN) Rates	
QIN Child Development Center	\$117.17
QIN Child Development Home and Expanded Home	\$91.03