

# Notice to Programs and Families

## **Re: Modifications to Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) Program Funding**

On March 30, 2020, the Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) program was initiated. Under this program, all child care programs closed, but were allowed to operate under their current license or certificate of registration to provide services to the children of essential personnel as defined by Executive Order 20-03-25-01. Child care programs were paid by the State of Maryland at predetermined rates based on available funding. All child care providers were informed at the time of agreeing to participate that continued funding of the program was contingent upon appropriated funds and not guaranteed.

As Maryland moves towards recovery from the closures due to the pandemic, the EPCC program will be modified consistent with changes made by Executive Order 20-05-13-01. Effective May 16, 2020, approved EPCC sites that have available space were able to accept children of parents from businesses allowed to open by Executive Order 20-05-13-01. Parents and guardians of these children will pay tuition directly to the provider. EPCC sites must continue to invoice the state for children of essential personnel until June 7, 2020.

Effective June 8, 2020, EPCC will be modified to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) no longer providing payment for child care services for essential persons. Parents will be responsible for payment for all child care services, and providers may collect tuition.

**Continued funding of the EPCC program as modified here, is contingent upon appropriate funding designated for this program.**

To remain eligible for EPCC, the provider may not charge a parent for child care more than the provider's rate of care for the age of the child that was in effect at the time of required closure on March 27, 2020, under Executive Order 20-03-25-01.

If a parent or guardian of a child chooses not to continue services with the EPCC provider the parent or guardian must disenroll the child by the close of business on June 7, 2020. To remain in the EPCC program, a provider may not charge termination or enrollment fees to parents or guardians of children who disenroll the child from care.

**Note:** All EPCC child care programs that were approved and provided child care for children of essential personnel between March 30, 2020 and June 7, 2020 will be paid for services delivered from the start of its participation in the EPCC program through close of business on June 7, 2020, as long as all other terms and conditions are met to qualify for payments