

CHILD CARE LICENSING UPDATE

Child Care Licensing Program Mission:

The core mission of the Child Care Licensing Program is to ensure the health and safety of children in care. We strive to provide preventative, protective, and quality services to children in care by ensuring that licensed facilities meet established health and safety standards through monitoring facilities, providing technical assistance, and establishing partnerships with providers, parents, and the child care community.

A Note from Pamela Dickfoss, Deputy Director

As we look for alternative ways to celebrate during these summer months in a way that helps ensure the health and well-being of ourselves, our families, and communities, we would like to celebrate you for the continued care you provide to California's young children and youth. I am grateful for your commitment and continue to encourage you to take all necessary precautions that will enable our State to overcome the current public health crisis.

I also would like to recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic is not the only public health crisis facing our nation. As a society we have struggled to address the profound inequities created by laws and systems that continue to disadvantage Black communities and other communities of color. While we have made progress over time, the current social movement for racial equity spotlights how race continues to determine the outcomes of our lives in ways that are deeply unfair to communities amongst people of color. And like COVID-19, overcoming the effects of structural racism will also require a collective effort.

At CDSS we believe that as providers who care for or protect the health and safety of some of the most vulnerable Californians, this is a moment to reflect on how we can ensure that we are developing and implementing anti-racist policies and practices that enable everyone to thrive. We would like to partner with you in this effort by providing you with information and tools. We are also including resources with practical information about how providers can assess organizational current practices, as well as tips for how to institutionalize new systems and approaches that can bring about more equitable outcomes. We hope you will find this information helpful and are eager to continue to work in partnership.

EXAMPLES OF INEQUITIES IN OUR SYSTEMS

Adult and Senior Care

- Access to translation/interpretation for limited-English proficient residents

Child Care and ECE

- Highly segregated environments
- Disproportionate rates of expulsion of Black boys

Children's Residential

- Overrepresentation of Black and Native American children and youth in the child welfare system and in congregate care

Workforce across ASC, CRP, CCP, and HCO

- Inequities in the workforce: low pay primarily impacting women of color

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Racial Equity: Information & Resources

Learn More About the Issues

- [Segregated from the Start](#): Analysis from the [Urban Institute](#) that examines segregation in ECE and finds that nationwide ECE is more segregated than kindergarten and first grade. ECE programs are twice as likely to be nearly 100 percent black or Hispanic, and they are less likely to be somewhat integrated (with a 10 to 20 percent black or Hispanic enrollment share).
- [A Better Start Why Classroom Diversity Matters in Early Education](#): A report from the [Century Foundation](#) that summarizes what we know about racial and economic diversity in Head Start and state pre-K classrooms, discusses how diversity and quality are linked, and recommends steps policymakers can take to increase diversity in preschool classrooms.
- [Pre-Kindergartners Left Behind](#): The first nationwide study of expulsion rates in state-supported preschools conducted finding that boys are being expelled out of preschool 4 1/2 times as frequently as girls. African American preschoolers are twice as likely to be expelled as white or Latino children, and five times as likely as Asian Americans.

- [Racial Wage Gaps in Early Education Employment](#): Paper by the [Center for the Study of Child Care Employment](#) describes how historical and pervasive undervaluing of labor performed by women and minorities in the United States has combined to create one of the most underpaid workforces in the country: women who care for and teach young children. The early care and education (ECE) sector is comprised almost exclusively of women, 40 percent of whom are people of color.

Resources for Practitioners

- [Racial Equity and Anti-Racist Teaching in Early Childhood Education](#): The [National Council of Teachers of English](#) is devoted to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education.
- [Quality: An Equity Lens Across the Age Continuum](#): Hosted by the [Early Childhood Training and Technical Assistance System](#) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the opening session of the 2019 Virtual Infant/Toddler & School-Age Child Care Institute addressed the importance of using a racial equity lens in quality initiatives to support children across the age continuum. The focus of the session was how systems, from states to child care providers, can address the gaps in equity.
- [Preventing Expulsion from Preschool and Child Care](#): Resources on how to better support social and emotional development to prevent expulsion of young children from educational settings from [Zero to Three](#).

Water Safety and COVID-19

During the hot summer months, it is common for providers to allow the children they care for to have water play time. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) says that there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to people through the water in pools, hot tubs, or water playgrounds. Providers should exercise caution when using water play and follow all [water safety guidelines and supervision](#), and physical distancing measures. Follow the [CDC precautions](#) to protect yourselves, the children you care for and others.

Heat Safety

During hot weather, extra precautions are necessary to protect the children and infants in your care during outside time. Infants and children under the age of four years old are at greater risk of heat-related illness. Here are some things to remember:

- Never leave infants, children, or pets in a parked car, even if the windows are cracked open.
- Dress infants and children in loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Schedule outdoor activities carefully, for morning and evening hours.
- Sunscreen protects children's skin from sun damage.

The Centers for Disease Control have additional tips for [beating the heat](#) and recognizing signs of [heat-related illness](#).

Trauma-Informed Care Resources

California families and child care providers are adapting to the changes in their daily life caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and protests of institutional racism in the United States. During times of uncertainty, shifting messages, and stressful circumstances, the Child Care Licensing Program (CCLP) would like to connect providers and families with resources which prioritize the social-emotional health of communities served and licensees. It is our mission in CCLP to serve the most vulnerable people of California and to promote the health, safety, and quality of life of each person in community care.

Some valuable resources we have identified include:

- Child Care Aware [Infographic on How to Support Children Who Have Faced Trauma](#)
- The California Surgeon General playbook on [Stress Relief during COVID-19](#).
- The University of California Berkeley's Greater Good Science Center resources for [Caregiving/Parenting during COVID-19 and resources on Racism, Diversity and Bridging Differences](#).
- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network [resource for educators on Addressing Race and Trauma in the Classroom](#).
- PBS [resources for parents and caregivers to talk to children about race and racism](#).

It is our intention as Community Care Licensing to support all members of our community, creating a safe and inclusive space for the families we serve.

Cleaning and Supplies Funding for Child Care Providers

On April 10, 2020, Governor Newsom [announced the release](#) of \$100 million to support child care providers, including \$50 million for Cleaning and Supplies for Childcare Providers (CSCP). This funding will be distributed through the Resource and Referral (R&R) program. Please [contact your local R&R](#) for more information on applying for CSCP funds.

Which providers are eligible for this CSCP funding?

1. Providers who are open and providing care have multiple options for receiving CSCP funds. They may (1) request an allocation from their local R&R for independent purchasing of supplies; (2) use their allocation to obtain supplies and equipment directly from the R&R's; or (3) use a combination of the two options.
2. Any providers that are not open must self-certify that they will reopen and provide the R&R agency with the expected date of reopening.
3. Providers who are currently closed, and do not intend to reopen during the period of the COVID-19 emergency, are not eligible for CSCP funding.

CSCP funds will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis and allocated based on the capacity of the child care provider and a predetermined per-child funding amount. Providers can receive the CSCP resource through only one R&R and may not access them more than once, unless the R&R has additional funding and resources left after the first round and makes the resources available again.

What are the conditions for this CSCP funding?

1. Funds must be used to ensure the health and safety of both the providers and children receiving care. Allowable expenses include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Cleansers and sanitizers.
 - b. Masks, facial coverings, gloves, and other personal protection equipment (PPE).
 - c. Labor costs associated with additional time for cleaning or cleaning services.
 - d. Supplies, including instructional materials, necessary to implement social distancing and other reasonable health and safety costs associated with responding to state and local health official COVID-19 guidance.
2. Child Care providers accessing funds from R&Rs will be required to provide specified information regarding the facility, children served, and supplies purchased.

What is the timeframe to apply for these CSCP funds?

CSCP funds may be utilized for supplies and services purchased beginning on March 4 through December 31, 2020. Supply distribution will be prioritized to serve providers who have not yet applied for CSCP funds. As a result, providers who apply for CSCP funds after September 30, 2020, may need to obtain supplies from the R&R instead of receiving funds directly.

For information and resources regarding cleaning and disinfecting, please see [PIN 20-11-CCP](#) on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). If you have any other questions or if we can provide any assistance, please contact your local [Licensing Regional Office](#).

[Food and Drug Administration Warning on Hand Sanitizers with Methanol](#)

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning to consumers and health care providers about hand sanitizer products that are labeled as containing ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) that have tested positive for methanol contamination. Methanol (i.e., methyl alcohol or wood alcohol) is a substance that can be toxic when absorbed through the skin or ingested and can be life-threatening when ingested. As per the FDA news update hyperlinked below, “Methanol is not an acceptable active ingredient for hand sanitizers and must not be used due to its toxic effects. FDA’s investigation of methanol in certain hand sanitizers is ongoing. The agency will provide additional information as it becomes available.” Please discontinue use immediately and remove from children’s reach. See the [press release](#) for information on how to properly dispose of these hand sanitizers.

Please see the full [FDA news update on hand sanitizers with methanol](#) for further information.

[Wildfire Season Through a COVID Lens](#)

Provider Information Notice [PIN 20-13-CCLD](#) – Preparation for Extreme Heat, Public Safety Power Shutoffs and Wildfire Emergencies includes information about factors that led to previous wildfire seasons becoming so destructive. It warns that California may no longer have a wildfire “season” but rather a year-round risk of wildfires, and provides the following wildfire preparation tips:

- Create a “Wildfire Action Plan”
- Make sure that smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers are always in place and working
- Have a portable radio or scanner to stay updated on fires

- Create a defensible space around the facility by trimming trees and clearing away debris

How do I make a disaster plan during a pandemic?

Plan what you will do before, during, and after each type of disaster. Different emergencies require different actions to stay safe.

- Review the [Red Cross Emergency Library](#) for safety checklists and information
- Download the free [Red Cross Emergency App](#) for safety tips, severe weather alerts and more
- Get accurate information on how to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19 from [the CDC](#) and [the Red Cross](#).

[Ready.gov](#) notes that, since Spring of 2020, the CDC has recommended people include additional items in their emergency kits to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 or other viruses and the flu. This list now includes: [cloth face coverings](#) (for everyone ages 2 and above), soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes to disinfect surfaces, etc. For a complete list, please visit their [website](#).



Call for Stakeholder Engagement on Assembly Bill 605

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 605 \(Chapter 574, Statutes of 2018\)](#) requires the Department of Social Services to adopt regulations for a single Child Care Center License to serve infant, toddler, preschool, and school-age children for new licensing applicants by January 1, 2021. (Existing licensees will be transitioned to a single license by January 1, 2024). The Department is reaching out to stakeholders in the child care community who are interested in participating in a workgroup on this new single Child Care Center license. Your voice matters, if interested, please contact cclclppolicy@dss.ca.gov by August 7, 2020.

Lead Testing in Child Care Centers

In accordance with [AB 2370, Chapter 676, Statutes of 2018](#), lead testing in Child Care Centers, **effective July 1, 2020**, licensing applicants are required to take a health and safety training that includes prevention of lead exposure. There is a 30 minute to 1-hour course specifically for lead topics to help those individuals who previously took the 8 hour health and safety training without the lead poisoning prevention topics. Please refer to the [California Emergency Medical Services Authority \(EMSA\)](#) for more information.

COVID-19 Child Care Resources

- [Child Care Decision Tree](#)
- [Step by Step Cleaning instructions](#) (English, Spanish, Chinese)
- [Step by Step Disinfecting](#) (English, Spanish, Chinese)
- [Child Care Law Center](#) COVID Information

PINs

[PIN 20-16-CCP](#)- Online Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Training Now Available in Spanish. [Spanish](#).

[PIN 20-15-CCP](#)- Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Updated Guidance for Child Care Settings

[PIN 20-14-CCP](#)- Resources to Support Social and Emotional Development of Children During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. [Spanish](#)

[PIN 20-13-CCP](#)- Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Testing Sites

[PIN 20-12-CCP](#)- Written Directives for Lead Testing in Child Care Centers Will Be Delayed Due to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

[PIN 20-11-CCP](#)- COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Child Care Licensees and Providers

[PIN 20-10-CCP](#)- Announcing a New Mobile-Friendly Web Application to Find Child Care Services. [Spanish](#)

CCLD PINs

[PIN 20-13-CCLD](#)- Preparation for Extreme Heat, Public Safety Power Shutoffs, and Wildfire Emergencies. [Spanish](#), [Chinese](#), [Tagalog](#)

[PIN 20-11-CCLD](#)- Community Care Licensing Division Online Resources on COVID -19. [Spanish](#), [Tagalog](#)

Are you interested in becoming part of the Child Care Licensing team?



Please apply at [CalCareers](#)

- Information on how to apply for a state job can be found at the [Cal Careers Website](#).

Helpful Reminders and Information

- Please remember to check out new PINs: [Provider Information Notices](#).
- Latest Recalls from the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#).
- [Regional Office Locations and Numbers](#)
- [Short Child Care Videos](#) addressing common questions on licensed care for families and providers.
- [Free Online Mandated Reporter Training](#).
- [Resources for Preventing Suspension and Expulsion in Child Care Settings](#).

Provides resources for dealing with challenging behaviors.

- [California Teaching Pyramid Website](#)- Provides information and resources to support children’s Social and Emotional Development.
- [Healthy Schools Act Training, Department of Pesticide Regulation.](#)
- [California Resource for Power Outages and Fire Recovery Resources.](#)

- [California Poison Control System \(CPCS\)](#)
- [Kids Specialty Plate](#)



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS	
Centralized Complaint & Information Bureau (CCIB)	1-844-538-8766
Child Care Advocate Program	1-916-654-1541
Child Protective Services	1-916-875-5437
California Poison Control System	1-800-222-1222
Caregiver Background Check Bureau	1-888-422-5669
CA Child Care Resource and Referral Network	1-415-882-0234

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