



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Walz

75 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ Suite 130 ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155-1611

March 25, 2020

RE: Available Child Care Providers

Dear Employers:

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the well-being of Minnesotans and our emergency response to COVID-19. We are grateful for your service each and every day. I am writing to provide an update on our efforts to support you and your employees in accessing child care while remaining on the frontlines of this peacetime disaster.

As Governor, I put out a call to licensed family and center-based child care providers to stay open, if at all possible, to serve families of emergency workers. Child care providers across this state stood up. More than 1500 licensed family and center-based child care providers informed us that they are currently able and willing to provide such care, and we are sharing this information with [Child Care Aware of Minnesota](#).

Emergency workers with children infant to school age in need of child care should call 1.888.291.9811 to be directed to available providers. In addition, families can view current providers on this [map](#).

We have launched mn.gov/childcare to offer child care providers and families of emergency workers seeking care the most up-to-date information. We will continue to provide links to the most current child care information from state agencies, including the departments of education, human services, and health, and share the latest public health guidance, best practices, and access to cleaning and other necessary supplies. Providers have implemented significant changes to both cleaning and operating procedures to follow best-practice guidelines for COVID-19 mitigation.

Please consider purchasing care from these existing providers or encouraging your employees to pay for care through these available providers before you attempt to stand up temporary child care. Licensed family child care and center-based providers around the state stand ready to provide children of emergency workers with safe, secure and playful learning experiences during this stressful time.

For those families accessing state supports to pay for child care, state agencies have provided flexibilities to waive absent day policies in the Early Learning Scholarship Program and the Child Care Assistance Program, and have enabled concurrent payment to providers and additional flexibilities to meet employee child care needs. We will continue to work with our state agencies and the legislature to provide supports to our child care providers, including a proposal for approximately \$30 million to support providers in keeping their doors open for your essential employees in the coming months. Updates will be shared on mn.gov/childcare.

Finally, if you have a moment, please thank the child care providers in your community. As emergency workers, you are all heroes, including the child care providers who ensure children are safe and parents and guardians who need to work can continue to provide critical care and response.

Thank you for all you do to manage the health of our communities and for your leadership during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,



Tim Walz
Governor



Peggy Flanagan
Lieutenant Governor