



# Frequently Asked Questions

Below you find questions about the how the state plans to use the \$41 million in additional funding to assist licensed child care providers in Arkansas as well as essential workers with child care needs.

## **Questions about Child Care Assistance for Essential Workers**

### **Q. How long will this assistance be available?**

A. The child care assistance for essential workers is short-term funding. The funds can used during the Governor declared public health emergency and or until expended. The authorizations will be for one month initially and extended if funding allows.

### **Q. Who is considered an “essential worker?”**

A. Individuals who are working during the pandemic to provide health care, emergency responders, child care staff, food supply, and sanitation workers are considered essential workers. This is based on federal guidance.

### **Q. Will DHS send families a check or pay the provider directly?**

A. Funding will go directly to a licensed provider not families. The provider must participate in the child care voucher program to be eligible. DHS will pay the provider directly through our usual payment process.

### **Q. What if my childcare center does not accept vouchers?**

A. The child of essential workers must attend a participating voucher program to qualify. DHS has a list of participating voucher providers that families could contact if their providers are not part of that program. These funds are tied to federal requirements and providers must meet the licensing and quality criteria for the voucher program.

### **Q. How do I submit the application?**

A. The application is posted [here](#). It is a fillable form and can be submitted to the following email address: [FamilySupport@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:FamilySupport@dhs.arkansas.gov)

### **Q. This funding is limited. How will DHS prioritize who gets vouchers first?**

A. Applications will be processed and approved in the order received and assistance will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### **Q. What if I am still having financial difficulties when the healthcare emergency ends?**

A. Some families may qualify for the regular child care vouchers program. Families can apply for the full voucher program by completing the [Traditional Child Care License Application](#). Eligibility is based on income.