



# Child Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Department for Community Based Services (DCBS)**

**Office of the Inspector General (OIG)**

**Program Review and Investigations Committee**

**June 11, 2020**



# COVID-19 Pandemic in Kentucky

The Novel Coronavirus is a respiratory disease that can range from very mild to severe symptoms

Kentucky's first confirmed case was on March 6, 2020

Kentucky's response has consistently followed White House and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines

# COVID-19 Pandemic in Kentucky

As of 6/9

11,708

CONFIRMED CASES IN KY

477

CONFIRMED DEATHS IN KY

114,000

CONFIRMED DEATHS IN US

# Initial Timeline

- The public school system closed in Kentucky on Friday, March 13, 2020
- Child care programs closed in Kentucky on Friday, March 20, 2020.
- For comparison, Pennsylvania closed childcare on March 16, Illinois on March 21, and Ohio on March 26.
- The first Limited Duration Centers (LDC) began opening on Monday, March 23, 2020

# The Need for Limited Duration Centers (LDCs)

- The OIG, Division of Regulated Child Care, responded to Kentucky's first responders and essential workers' child-care needs when child-care programs were closed by Executive Order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- LDCs were established and began operating under OIG monitoring immediately

# Who Qualified for Child Care in a LDC?

- Healthcare entity employees
- First responders, including law enforcement, EMS, and fire departments
- Correctional officers
- Members of the military
- Activated National Guard members
- Domestic violence shelter employees
- Rape crisis center employees
- DCBS employees
- Postal office employees
- Grocery store employees
- Essential government employees
- Utility company employees
- Employees of large structured physical plants with 1,000 staff or more

# Kentucky's Response

## “Healthy at Home” Launched March 26

- To flatten the curve and strengthen health care and public health
- Kentucky adhered to the White House/CDC's guidance
- Results: “Healthy at Home” saved thousands of lives
  - CDC study (4/2/20)
  - UofL study (4/23/20)
  - UK study (4/28/20)



# Health Entity Partnership

To ensure child care was available for essential medical personnel, limited duration centers were implemented as an extension of a health entity license

AS OF 5/21/2020:

Total limited duration centers	68
Current enrollment	2,672
Average enrollment	1,714
Average available openings	3,208



# Location of LDCs



# Federal Funding

- Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) funding comes from the federal Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and has specific rules for spending
- DCBS, Division of Child Care, reached out to federal partners to ask for changes on how funds can be spent
  - Paying programs CCAP based on enrollment rather than attendance – continue payments through closure
  - Paying parent co-pays to maximize CCAP payments
  - Paying full tuition of children in LDCs during shutdown

# Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

- Kentucky was awarded \$67.74 Million for child care aid
- This aid package has more flexibility than typical CCDBG funding, designated to support child care programs during closure and reopening, as well as support essential employees and the child care programs serving them
- Centers that do not typically receive CCDBG funding can receive assistance through the CARES Act

# CARES Act Funding

- All licensed, certified, and registered child care providers receive a one-time stipend of \$225/child based on maximum program capacity to assist with fixed expenses
- All childcare providers working in a LDC receive a \$1,500 “Hero Bonus” for serving essential employees
- Division of Child Care pays the full amount of tuition (beyond CCAP fees) for eligible children enrolled in LDC programs

# CARES Act Funding

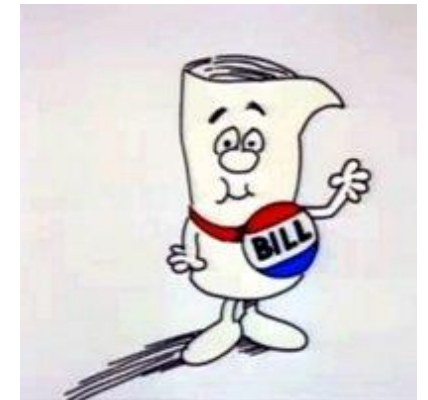
- LDCs receive a one-time stipend of \$250/child based on maximum program capacity to assist with operational costs
- All licensed, certified, and registered child care providers receive a one-time stipend for cleaning supplies, thermometers, and PPE based on program size (\$1500, \$3000, or \$6000)

# Kentucky's Plan to Reopen Childcare

- Family childcare programs allowed to reopen on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>
- Child care centers allowed to reopen on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>
- New public health requirements (via emergency regulation)
  - Limiting class sizes and exposure
  - Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing
  - Health screenings upon arrival and throughout day
  - Masks required for adults, but not children under age 5
  - No field trips or group transportation yet

# Other Child Care Updates

- Implementing SB 45
  - Collaborating with Kentucky Department of Education's Community Nutrition Program on Federal Food Program Guidelines
  - Child Care Advisory Council has submitted its recommendations for regulatory requirements
  - Early Childhood Advisory Council will review recommendations at its June meeting
- Training and substitute staff requirements effective summer 2020
- Updating child care credentialing





## Questions