



Hi all,

I think my original Vermont update was sent while the list was down, which is okay because so much has evolved in the last 24 hours! First, our [list of essential workers](#) was updated last night, and it includes educators and early childhood educators, grocery stores and food supply workers, foster families, fuel distribution workers, and more. All these people are eligible for emergency child care, which the Governor [ordered](#) Tuesday night – closing all child care programs except those caring for children of essential workers. There is still A LOT of detail to figure out about what this emergency care looks like. We supported our state agencies to develop a [web form](#) that went live last night for “essential persons” to request child care. Our Child Development Division called every regulated program (we’re a very small state so there are only 1200 programs) and tracked who was closing, who was remaining open because they already cared for children of essential workers, and who would be willing to re-open to provide emergency care. Our resource and referral agencies are working locally to match the need to the capacity that CDD identified.

Today we learned that our state child care financial assistance program (CCFAP) will continue paying for enrolled children even if their program closes or can no longer serve them because they’re not essential workers, and CCFAP will expand to cover all families unable to pay tuition or make their co-pays. In order for programs to qualify for this assistance, they need to pay staff during closure (as opposed to laying them off/furloughing). Here’s a link to a helpful [FAQ](#) with more information. Families are encouraged to pay tuition in order to help ensure that their child care program will remain available after closure, but if they can’t afford the tuition then the state will make up the difference. We’re not yet sure exactly what that process will look like, but it’s a promising start.

I’m so grateful to this list for all the collective wisdom. It sure helps to know that there are many very smart people thinking through all these details alongside us!

Sarah

Sarah Kenney  
Pronouns: she/her/hers  
Senior Director of Policy  
Let’s Grow Kids  
Email: [sarah@letsgrowkids.org](mailto:sarah@letsgrowkids.org)  
Cell: 802-735-2205  
19 Marble Avenue | Suite 4 | Burlington, VT 05401