

## Child Care Providers

### Frequently Asked COVID-19 Questions

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**Q: Do I qualify for unemployment insurance?** I don't currently have any children in my care because I feel it's too risky right now. If I close because of Covid-19, am I eligible for unemployment considering I'm "self-employed" but paid through DHS?

Through the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, unemployment benefits will now be available to family child care providers and regulated subsidy providers and all who are self-employed. Under the federal legislation, known as the CARES Act, benefits are extended from 26 weeks to 39 weeks, through the end of the year. The period of coverage will be retroactive to January 27, 2020. Additionally, everyone receiving benefits through Unemployment Insurance (UI) and PUA will automatically receive \$600 per week on top of the base benefit amount through July 31, 2020. This \$600 per week will not be considered income for the purposes of Medicaid or CHIP eligibility.

**However, if you were providing care prior to the pandemic, you are still eligible to receive payments from DHS**, even if the kids you cared for are staying home, or if you are closed. Oregon changed the ERDC program in the following three ways in response to this crisis, starting March 16, 2020:

- First, providers who accept ERDC will continue to be paid for all of the kids in their care, whether they are absent, or whether the provider is closed.
- Second, copays are waived for all parents during the duration of this crisis.
- Third, the income requirements for ERDC have been increased so that more people can access care, especially essential workers.

**For more information, go to**

<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ASSISTANCE/CHILD-CARE/Pages/ERDC-COVID19-Emergency.aspx>

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**Q: How do I ensure I get paid? What if I have questions for DHS about getting paid for March and April?**

You can contact DHS directly by emailing either:

- For billing and listing forms - [DPU.childcarebilling@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:DPU.childcarebilling@dhsosha.state.or.us)
- For questions - [Customerservice.dpu@dhsosha.state.or.us](mailto:Customerservice.dpu@dhsosha.state.or.us)

**Q: Do I qualify for Hazard Pay to make up for the risk I'm taking to care for the children of essential workers?** I want to care for children during the crisis, but I'm afraid of what that might mean because of Covid-19.

One of our top priorities as your union, aside from ensuring all workers have access to PPE who need it, is negotiating a system for COVID Pay, or hazard pay, for all of our members who are continuing to work during this public health emergency.

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**Q: Will I lose my SNAP benefits if I am not currently working? Or what if I am worried about affording food - can I get on food stamps?**

During this crisis, SNAP benefits will not be reduced or taken away, even if you are not working. If you previously lost your benefits, you are encouraged to reapply at [OHP.Oregon.Gov](https://www.oregon.gov/OHP/Oregon.Gov).

You can learn more here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/DHSNEWS/NewsReleases/NR-Increase-SNAP.pdf>

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**Q: How do I apply to provide childcare to essential workers, like parents working in homecare, hospital settings, or grocery stores? How do I complete the emergency essential form for childcare?**

The best way for home-based providers who care for friends, family, and neighbors, is to contact your Child Care Resource and Referral Center. If you aren't sure who that is, you can find yours here: <http://triwou.org/projects/ccccrr>. You can also contact 211.

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**Q: How do I get the personal protective equipment and supplies I need to provide care safely?**

License Exempt (Regulated Subsidy & Relative Care) family providers will be contacted by their local CCR&R to determine if they are open and to determine their need for emergency supplies. CCRRs will email a letter with resources, including the link to the order form.

If you are open and providing care, you can request supplies now by filling out the form at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/af0da6d3cbd5474990f26830a817189b>

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**Q: I want to make sure I am keeping my family and the children I care for safe. Where is the best place to go to learn the latest recommendations for cleaning, social distancing, and more?**

Oregon is closely following all guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization. You can find updates, learn more information, and ask questions at <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>.

The Early Learning Division also has resources and information on their website at <https://oregonearlylearning.com/COVID-19-Resources/For-Providers>

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**Q: My background check is about to expire. Who should I contact about getting recertified?**

You should contact DHS Direct Pay Unit as soon as possible to learn whether you are eligible for an exception or whether you can renew your background check without needing to resubmit a fingerprint.

You may contact the Direct Pay Unit at 1-800-699-9074 or [click here](#) for more information.

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**Q: I heard about a federal bill to pay people affected by the quarantine in their jobs. Who all does that apply to?**

Find out what the Federal Stimulus Package means for SEIU members in Oregon [here](#).

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**Q: My neighbor does essential work and needs childcare. How do I help out?**

During this public health emergency, ERDC eligibility is being increased to ensure everyone has access to care. Please encourage the person to contact their local DHS Self Sufficiency office and search for their county by going to <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/Offices/Pages/General-Public.aspx>