
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2630 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY FIEDLER, DALEY, SIMS, ULLMAN, T. DAVIS, SANCHEZ,
ROZZI, ROEBUCK, GALLOWAY, SCHLOSSBERG, ISAACSON, KENYATTA,
OTTEN, A. DAVIS, YOUNGBLOOD, BRIGGS, MADDEN, HANBIDGE, GREEN,
HILL-EVANS, McCLINTON, GAINNEY, RAVENSTAHL, DONATUCCI AND LEE,
JUNE 29, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, JUNE 29, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), entitled "An
2 act to consolidate, editorially revise, and codify the public
3 welfare laws of the Commonwealth," in public assistance,
4 providing for child care payments during the pandemic of
5 2020.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known
9 as the Human Services Code, is amended by adding a section to
10 read:

11 Section 408.4. Child Care Payments During the Pandemic of
12 2020.--(a) This section applies only to the fiscal year 2019-
13 2020 as a result of the global pandemic declared by the World
14 Health Organization on March 11, 2020. The following shall
15 apply:

16 (1) A child care center or family child care home shall
17 continue to receive subsidized child care payments from the
18 department as the child care center or family child care home

1 would otherwise be entitled to receive for the fiscal year 2019-
2 2020 had the pandemic of 2020 not occurred. For the time period
3 a child care center or family child care home is closed or has
4 lower subsidized child care attendance due to the pandemic of
5 2020, the child care center or family child care home shall
6 receive subsidized child care payments based upon its enrollment
7 as of March 13, 2020.

8 (2) A child care center or family child care home may
9 collect copayments from the parent or caretaker of a child
10 enrolled in subsidized child care during the pandemic of 2020
11 for days a child is in attendance. A child care center or family
12 child care home may not collect copayments from the parent or
13 caretaker of a child enrolled in subsidized child care during
14 the pandemic of 2020 if the child care center or family child
15 care home is closed or for days a child is not in attendance.

16 (3) The department shall issue payments to child care
17 centers and family child care homes for the cost of uncollected
18 subsidized child care copayments as the result of a closure or
19 lower subsidized child care attendance due to the pandemic of
20 2020. Payment shall be prioritized to child care centers and
21 family child care homes that have attained a STAR 2, 3 or 4
22 rating under the Keystone STARS Program first if funds are
23 limited.

24 (4) The department shall establish a grant program for child
25 care centers and family child care homes to support the costs of
26 children enrolled as of March 13, 2020, who were not enrolled in
27 subsidized child care when:

28 (i) there is a closure of the child care center or family
29 child care home due to the pandemic of 2020; or

30 (ii) the child is not in attendance due to the pandemic of

1 2020. For this clause, the following shall apply:

2 (A) Payment shall be equivalent to the payment which would
3 be received by the child care center or family child care home
4 for a child enrolled in subsidized child care based on:

5 (I) The age level of the child.

6 (II) Whether the child attends a full day or half day.

7 (III) The quality rating level of the program.

8 (B) Grant payments shall be provided to child care centers
9 and family child care homes serving at least one child in
10 subsidized child care and that have attained a STAR 2, 3 or 4
11 rating under the Keystone STARS Program first and then programs
12 that have not received funds through the Paycheck Protection
13 Program established under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and
14 Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136, 134 Stat. 281).

15 (C) The child care center or family child care home shall
16 provide the signed agreement with a parent or caretaker to the
17 department to prove enrollment in order to receive payment.

18 (5) Every child care center shall have a minimum of two
19 staff persons and every family child care home shall have a
20 minimum of one staff person participate in a training on the
21 best practices for sanitization related to the pandemic of 2020
22 and sanitize the center or home prior to reopening. The
23 following shall apply:

24 (i) Training shall be:

25 (A) Offered at no cost.

26 (B) Credit-bearing.

27 (C) Approved or offered by the department, in consultation
28 with the Department of Health.

29 (ii) Child care centers and family child care homes with
30 children enrolled in subsidized child care and child care

1 centers with children enrolled in the Pre-K Counts Program or
2 the Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program as of March 13,
3 2020, shall be issued a payment of forty dollars (\$40) per
4 child, to assist with the costs of reopening, including
5 sanitization, meeting COVID-19 public health requirements and
6 standards, providing supplies and training.

7 (6) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the sum of
8 one hundred seventeen million dollars (\$117,000,000) is
9 appropriated from money received by the Commonwealth under the
10 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law
11 116-136, 134 Stat. 281) to the department for the purpose of
12 child care.

13 (b) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
14 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
15 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "Child care center." An entity providing child care under
17 section 901 and child care centers under section 1001.

18 "Family child care home." As defined under section 1001.

19 "Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program." The program
20 established under section 1502-D of the act of March 10, 1949
21 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.

22 "Keystone STARS Program." The child care quality rating and
23 improvement system administered by the department.

24 "Pre-K Counts Program." The program established under
25 section 1512-D of the Public School Code of 1949.

26 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.