



Finding Child Care for Essential Workers during COVID-19

Families can find a wealth of information from the state's one-stop shops for child care called Early Learning Resource Centers (ELRCs). These 19 centers across the state help families find high-quality child care and also help working families apply for child care subsidies.

During this pandemic ELRCs can help essential workers find child care and help them access subsidies for care to the extent that the family meets the income eligibility guidelines.

How Do I Find MY ELRC?

ELRCs are organized by county with several of the ELRCs serving more than one county. See back for full listing or visit: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/ELRCs.aspx>

Additional information about ELRC's can be found here: <https://raiseyourstar.org/>

How can an Essential Worker Find Child Care?

The state maintains a website of child care providers that are permitted to provide care to essential workers during the COVID-19 crisis, found here: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Coronavirus-Child-Care.aspx>

Please note that this list may change as providers listed may make the decision to close at any time and new centers are added.

To enroll a child in one of these providers, essential workers can call the provider directly if they plan to pay directly for child care.

How Does an Essential Worker Pay for Child Care?

Essential workers who meet income guidelines can get subsidized child care if the child/children are going to receive care at one of the state-approved essential worker child care providers.

Subsidies for child care are administered by the ELRC. If the family is eligible for subsidy it will cover most of the cost of the child care. Families are, however, required to pay a modest co-pay for care.

The annual income for a family to be eligible to receive subsidy is 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG) or less.

Family Size	Maximum Yearly Family Income (May 2019)	Family Size	Maximum Yearly Family Income (May 2019)
2	\$33,820	6	\$69,180
3	\$42,660	7	\$78,020
4	\$51,500	8	\$86,860
5	\$60,340		

If the essential worker does not meet subsidy program guidelines the family will need to pay the provider directly for their child care.

Can an Essential Worker get Subsidized Child Care in the Worker's Home?

No. Children may receive subsidized child care in DHS-certified centers and home-based child care. A relative (18 years or older providing child care in a separate residence) may care for three or fewer children, if they meet certain criteria to ensure child safety, such as obtaining background checks.

Can an Essential Worker with Subsidized Child Care Change Child Care Providers?

Parents CAN move their child to a provider that is open during the COVID-19 crisis, if the provider they typically used is closed due to COVID. Parents can find an open child care provider here: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/Coronavirus-Child-Care.aspx>. They can also contact their ELRC for assistance in finding care here: <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/ELRCs.aspx>

Are There Child Care Providers that Offer Night or Weekend Child Care?

Families can contact their ELRC for help finding an open child care center or home based child care provider that provides non-traditional hour care.

Can Child Care Providers Charge Tuition Even if They Are Closed?

Providers can continue to charge tuition to parents to the extent that the enrollment contract between the provider and

the parent/guardian prescribes continued payment during closure. Contract agreements and/or facility policies between parents and child care providers vary. To determine validity of charges parents should:

- Ask for a copy of the contract and/or policies if they do not have one.
- Review sections related to payment policies such as costs, payment frequency, payment requirements during emergency or extended closure, termination.
- If a contract or signed facility policies do not exist, oral agreements may be taken into consideration.
- Each case is likely unique and legal counsel should be consulted for a legal determination. Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network is available to low income families at www.palawhelp.org or Neighborhood Legal Services at www.nlsa.us or **1-866-761-6572**.

Start Strong PA aims to support healthy child development, working families, and the economy by increasing access to and the affordability of high-quality child care programs for young children. Learn more at www.startstrongpa.org.

Early Learning Resource Centers Make Child Care Available In PA

ELRC	Counties Served	Phone	Email
Region 1	Crawford, Erie, Mercer, Venango	1-800-860-2281	chuck.lytle@nwirelrc.org
Region 2	Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Warren	1-800-442-5807	elrcregion2@pa.gov
Region 3	Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Indiana, Lawrence	1-888-864-1654	elrcregion3@pa.gov
Region 4	Fayette, Greene, Washington, Westmoreland	1-800-548-2741	ELRCRegion4@pa.gov
Region 5	Allegheny	1-888-340-3572	elrc5@alleghenycounty.us
Region 6	Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Somerset	1-800-323-9997	elrcregion6@pa.gov
Region 7	Clinton, Lycoming, Tioga	1-800-346-3020	elrcregion7@pa.gov
Region 8	Centre, Juniata, Mifflin, Northumberland, Snyder Union	1-888-440-2247	elrc@elrc8.org
Region 9	Cumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry	1-800-864-4925	info@childcareconsultants.org
Region 10	Adams, Lancaster, York	1-800-864-4925	info@childcareconsultants.org
Region 11	Bradford, Columbia, Luzerne, Montour, Sullivan, Wyoming	1-833-229-6925	ELRC11@cscinc.org
Region 12	Carbon, Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne	1-833-229-6926	ELRC12@cscinc.org
Region 13	Berks, Schuylkill	1-570-990-6200	ELRC13@cscinc.org
Region 14	Lehigh, Northampton	1-800-528-7222	ELRC14@cscinc.org
Region 15	Delaware	1-800-831-3117	elrc15-email@delcohsa.org
Region 16	Bucks	1-215-486-2524	ELRC16@cscinc.org
Region 17	Montgomery	1-800-281-1116	ELRCRegion17@pa.gov
Region 18	Philadelphia	1-215-382-4762	elrcregion18@pa.gov
Region 19	Chester	1-866-262-8565	ELRCRegion19@pa.gov