

## Follow up Questions from House Human Services Committee Members

### Answers from the Early Learning Division

May 27, 2020 Meeting

1. It was noted during the ELD presentation that many childcare providers have closed and we expect them to remain closed even after the pandemic has passed. The state's emergency payments to many providers have helped keep these low-margin services open, but some providers have reported some that ERDC has not continued payments with the same consistency. I have long had an interest in working with ERDC to improve access to this funding stream for working families, and I have noticed how well SSP has adjusted to covid-19 with flexibility in terms of eligibility and payment methods. I wonder, are SSP and ELD coordinating on ERDC payments? If not, what can the Governor's office do to help facilitate alignment between these programs which are intimately tied together but administered by very different agencies? **Throughout the emergency, ELD has worked closely with SSP to coordinate the policy changes in ERDC to best support children, families, and child care providers. ELD and SSP have started to have twice weekly coordination meetings in early March and these planning meetings will continue until further notice. ELD and SSP have worked together throughout this crisis, as the funds through the Child Care Development Block Grant, which is administered by ELD, supports the direct services through ERDC. The ELD is also working in close coordination with DHS and the Governor's office in develop the plans for allocating the funds for child care in the CARES Act.**
2. How difficult is it to apply to be an emergency provider, and is there resources to help our Childcare Centers to apply to be an emergency provider?  
**Applying to become an Emergency Child Care provider is a process that can take anywhere from 10-30 minutes. The application is available in English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, and Chinese (available here: [https://oregonearlylearning.com/form\\_sets/site-application-form/](https://oregonearlylearning.com/form_sets/site-application-form/)). On the ELD website, there are also toolkit resources to walk providers through the application process and ELD staff were available to answer questions if needed. The general resource page for all Emergency Child Care providers can be found here: <https://oregonearlylearning.com/COVID-19-Resources/Emergency-Child-Care>.**
3. Has there been any testing to confirm how prevalent COVID 19 is among children that are under age 5?  
**Children attending child care are not required to be tested for COVID-19. ELD and the Oregon Health Authority have worked together throughout the crisis to release updated health and safety guidance which includes monitoring children for symptoms of COVID-19. At this time, there has not been wide-spread testing to confirm the prevalence of COVID-19 among children ages birth to five. For more updated information on COVID-19 resources for children ages 0-5 in Oregon, you can visit the Oregon Health Authority's page, ["COVID-19 and Kids: Your questions, answered."](#)**

4. How will summer camp approvals affect childcare providers capacities to stabilize their centers?  
The Early Learning Division does not license or approve summer camps. However, the ELD has been working closely with the Governor's office to assure that the guidance for summer camps and child care is aligned and do not currently see a challenge to child care posed by the opening of summer camps.

5. Why have we not allocated out all the 39 million dollars that was in the Federal CARES package that is earmarked for childcare providers. We desperately need to support these providers stay in business!

To date, we have allocated \$18.5 million to support ECC providers through an Emergency Child Care grant program. The first phase of the Emergency Child Care grant program includes \$8 million in funding and the second round includes \$10.5 million. For the first round, ELD received 2,188 applications by the May 11 deadline. The second round of grants is expected to be released in mid-June. ELD is working with the Governor's office in planning for the remainder of the funds and will continue to coordinate with stakeholders on the allocation of the remainder of the CARES Act funding. Currently, all fiscal decisions must go through an approval process.