

## Letter to Superintendents from Child Development Division.

Some important resources in letter below.

August 11, 2020

Currently under Vermont statute, registered family child care homes are limited to providing care for school-aged children for up to four hours per day on schools' remote learning days. CDD is actively working to resolve this barrier to school-aged child care. This limitation does not apply to other regulated child care programs including licensed family child care home providers and center-based care. We are aware of the school-aged child care concerns in light of our schools' needs to accommodate learning amid this pandemic, and that these concerns affect a lot of families in Vermont. We are working to address this ahead of the delayed school start on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

We hope the following information is helpful for your communication with families about school-aged child care:

- Families can access child care through the state-wide child care referral network. Child Care Referral Specialists at statewide Community Child Care Support Agencies can match families with available child care options, including for school-aged children. There is no charge for this service, and it is available to all Vermonters. For more information: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/cccsa>
- Families can receive financial support for child care by talking with an eligibility specialist. The Child Care Financial Assistance Program helps families pay for child care. Families with a household of four people can make up to \$77,256 per year and qualify for help. Eligibility specialists maintain an ongoing connection with families who receive this benefit and help them as their needs change. For more information: <https://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap>

School leadership should also be aware of this information:

- CDD is working to maximize child care options as needed. We are collaborating with state and community partners, legislators, and school leaders to find and implement positive solutions for school-aged child care during remote learning days.
- Communication about school facility operations is key to co-located child care programs. Child care programs that utilize school facility spaces that may or may not be administered by the school itself will benefit from knowing whether they can use the school facility so they can plan accordingly. Communication about school facility operations will be a key component in helping these programs plan and communicate with the families they serve.

- If approached with offers for vacant space for child care programs, please refer property owners to CDD. Our licensing team will rapidly vet these opportunities from a health and safety perspective and make the connection between programs and approved locations. The best way for property owners to get in touch with CDD is: (802) 241-0837 or [ahs.dcfddchildcarelicensing@vermont.gov](mailto:ahs.dcfddchildcarelicensing@vermont.gov).
- CDD licensing staff are available for any and all questions related to regulated care and supervision of children. Our staff are available to discuss any questions related to child care programming, licensing, regulations, and more. Please contact us with any questions related to licensing: (802) 241-0837 or [ahs.dcfddchildcarelicensing@vermont.gov](mailto:ahs.dcfddchildcarelicensing@vermont.gov).

The path ahead may be challenging for families, schools, and child care. Let's work together to find solutions that keep our children in safe and healthy environments.

Looking forward to our work together,

Steven

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