TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Workforce Development Letter

ID/No: WD 11-20
Date: May 1, 2020
Keyword: Child Care; Natural Disaster
Effective: Immediately

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Commission Executive Offices
Integrated Service Area Managers

From: Reagan Miller, Director, Child Care & Early Learning Division

Subject: Supplemental Child Care Distribution—CARES Act CCDBG Funds

PURPOSE:
The purpose of this WD Letter is to provide guidance to Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) on the distribution of additional Board Contract Year 2020 (BCY’20) Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) funds to Boards in response to the ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

RESCISSIONS:
None

BACKGROUND:
On March 27, 2020, the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was enacted. The CARES Act includes an additional $3.5 billion in federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds. These funds may be used to provide continued payments to child care providers in the case of decreased enrollments or closures related to COVID-19 and to provide child care to essential workers.

On April 14, 2020, Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) three-member Commission (Commission) authorized a supplemental distribution of $200 million to local workforce development areas funded from the CARES Act CCDBG funding.

PROCEDURES:

No Local Flexibility (NLF): This rating indicates that Boards must comply with the federal and state laws, rules, policies, and required procedures set forth in this WD Letter and have no local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to comply. All information with an NLF rating is indicated by “must” or “shall.”

Local Flexibility (LF): This rating indicates that Boards have local flexibility in determining whether and/or how to implement guidance or recommended practices set forth in this WD Letter. All information with an LF rating is indicated by “may” or “recommend.”
NLF: Boards must use the Commission-approved distribution of $200 million (as shown in Attachment 1) for direct care expenditures, supplemental payments to child care programs, and related administrative and/or operational expenditures associated with COVID-19.

NLF: Boards must be aware that the Commission-approved distribution is based on the following equally weighted factors:
- COVID-19–related UI claims
- COVID-19–related cases, as reported by the Texas Department of State Health Services
- Number of children served under age 13

NLF: Boards must be aware that TWC will add the funds to Boards’ existing Fiscal Year 2020 (FY’20) Child Care Formula (CCF) child care grant awards by unilateral amendment.

NLF: Boards must report obligations and expenditures in the Cash Draw and Expenditure Reporting (CDER) system under the cost categories with the “CARES” prefix. The CARES categories will be regular (not supplemental) cost categories for the FY’20 CCF child care grant awards.

ATTACHMENTS:
Attachment 1: FY 2020 COVID-19 Supplemental Child Care Distribution

INQUIRIES:
Send inquiries regarding this WD Letter to childcare.programassistance@twc.state.tx.us.

REFERENCES:
HR 748 CARES Act