

## TANF Emergency Benefits during COVID – 19

- The Tennessee Department of Human Services will be issuing Emergency Pandemic TANF which is an emergency cash assistance program for those impacted by COVID-19. Emergency Pandemic TANF will utilize existing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds.
- To qualify, a family must:
  - o Have children in the household
  - o Be at or below the 85th percentile of the State Median Income
    - Example: below approximately \$52,000 a year for a family of 3
  - o Be able to show they are impacted by COVID-19.
    - Examples: job loss due to employer closure for COVID-19
- The emergency benefits will be available to families in the following amounts:
  - o For a family of 1-2      \$500
  - o For a family of 3-4      \$750
  - o For a family of 5+      \$1000
- These benefits will be available for up to 2 months.
- TDHS encourages individuals who wish to apply to go ahead and begin gathering birth certificates, tax returns, school attendance records, or other documentation, to verify that there are children in the household.
- This program is **NOT** currently operational but the Department is anticipating the program details, including qualifications and requirements, will available within the week.
- TDHS encourages Tennesseans in need to apply online when the application becomes available at <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices.html> in order to encourage social distancing.

### **Child Care during COVID-19**

- Each facility will decide whether to remain open based on the needs in their own community. TDHS has relaxed child care rules so that currently licensed and temporary child care operations can appropriately respond to the needs of their communities.
  
- Child care facilities that currently receive subsidies will continue to receive them through the end of March, regardless of a potential loss in the wake of COVID-19.
  
- TDHS is working to distribute COVID-19 emergency response and recovery grants to facilities affected. More information on that will be available in the coming days.
  
- TDHS encourages any provider affected by COVID-19 to contact their licensing program evaluator, so they can understand the provider's situation and determine how best to support them.
  
- As Tennesseans step up and consider providing child care for friends and neighbors, please contact the Department of Human Services here for guidance on how to safely accomplish this especially in the wake of COVID-19. For information on providing emergency child care, please visit <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/human-services/documents/Guidance-FAQs-3.17.20.pdf>.