

HELP FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND HEALTH WORKERS

COVID-19 - Frequently Asked Questions

ELIGIBILITY

What is the eligibility criteria for this program?

Children have to be under 13 years of age, a U.S. citizen or qualified alien. At least one parent must be a first responder or healthcare worker and a Florida resident.

Who is considered a healthcare worker?

Healthcare workers are any individuals working in a medical or healthcare environment and includes the non-medical staff who work in those facilities.

HEALTHCARE/ PUBLIC HEALTH

- Workers who perform critical clinical research, development, and testing needed for COVID-19 response.
- Healthcare providers and Caregivers including physicians, dentists, psychologists, midlevel practitioners, nurses and assistants, infection control and quality assurance personnel, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists and assistants, rehabilitation facility workers, social workers, optometrists, speech pathologists, chiropractors, and diagnostic and therapeutic technicians and technologists.
- Hospital and laboratory personnel (including accounting, administrative, admitting and discharge, engineering, epidemiological, source plasma and blood donation, food service, housekeeping, medical records, information technology and operational technology, nutritionists, sanitarians, respiratory therapists, etc.).
- Workers in other medical and biomedical facilities (including Ambulatory Health and Surgical, Blood Banks, Clinics, Community Mental Health, Comprehensive Outpatient rehabilitation, End Stage Renal Disease, Health Departments, Home Health care, Hospices, Hospitals, Long Term Care, Nursing Care Facilities, Organ Pharmacies, Procurement Organizations, Psychiatric Residential, Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers, and retail facilities specializing in medical good and supplies).
- Manufacturer workers for health manufacturing (including biotechnology companies), materials and parts suppliers, logistics and warehouse operators, distributors of medical equipment (including those who test and repair), personal protective equipment (PPE), isolation barriers, medical gases, pharmaceuticals (including materials used in radioactive drugs), dietary supplements, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissue and paper towel products.
- Public health/ community health workers, including those who compile, model, analyze and communicate public health information.
- Blood and plasma donors and the employees of the organizations that operate and manage related activities.
- Workers who manage health plans, billing, and health information, who cannot practically work remotely.

- Workers who conduct community-based public health functions, conducting epidemiologic surveillance, compiling, analyzing and communicating public health information, who cannot practically work remotely.
- Workers performing information technology and cybersecurity functions at healthcare and public health facilities, who cannot practically work remotely.
- Workers performing security, incident management, and emergency operations functions at or on behalf of healthcare entities including healthcare coalitions, who cannot practically work remotely.
- Pharmacy employees necessary to maintain uninterrupted prescription filling.
- Workers performing mortuary funeral, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services, including funeral homes, crematoriums, cemetery workers, and coffin makers.
- Workers who coordinate with other organizations to ensure the proper recovery, handling, identification, transportation, tracking, storage, and disposal of human remains and personal effects; certify cause of death; and facilitate access to mental/behavioral health services to the family members, responders, and survivors of an incident.

Governor Desantis Executive Order 20-91- ESSENTIAL SERVICES LIST

Who is considered a first responder?

First responders include law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency rescue workers, 911 call center operators and others.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS

- Public, private, and voluntary personnel (front line and management) in emergency management, law enforcement, fire and rescue services, emergency medical services, and private security, to include public and private hazardous material responders, air medical service providers (pilots and supporting technicians), corrections, and search and rescue personnel.
- 911 call center employees and Public Safety Answering Points who can't perform their duties remotely.
- Fusion Center employees.
- Workers - including contracted vendors -- who maintain, manufacture, or supply equipment and services supporting law enforcement emergency service and response operations (to include electronic security and life safety security personnel).
- Workers supporting the manufacturing of safety equipment and uniforms for law enforcement, public safety personnel, and first responder.
- Workers supporting the operation of firearm or ammunition product manufacturers, retailers, importers, distributors, and shooting ranges.
- Public agency workers responding to abuse and neglect of children, elders, and dependent adults.
- Workers who support weather disaster/ natural hazard mitigation and prevention activities.
- Security staff to maintain building access control and physical security measures.

Governor Desantis Executive Order 20-91- ESSENTIAL SERVICES LIST

What documents are required to validate eligibility?

Eligibility documentation for this referral is the same as the documentation required for at-risk referrals. This includes the child's proof of U.S. citizenship or qualified alien status, age documentation, parental relationship, and residency (city where family lives). Please refer to Rule 6M-4.208(4)(a)-(f), F.A.C.

PROVIDER

I am paying a relative to watch my child, does this qualify for the program or would it have to be an actual day care facility?

Only programs that have a current School Readiness contract with the Early Learning Coalition are eligible to participate in this program.

Will centers be assisting school age children with virtual school?

All programs are different. They may or may not have the expertise or equipment to assist with virtual school. Parents/caregivers should check with their program to determine their virtual school assistance capability.

Can a provider who is closed reopen and participate in this program?

Yes. The program is open to all providers with a current School Readiness contract with the Early Learning Coalition.

Will there be an incentive to serve children of First Responders and Health Care Workers?

Providers who are open and who serve children of First Responders and Healthcare Workers will receive a \$500 bonus per child with a maximum monthly bonus of \$4,000 and a maximum \$12,000 bonus for the 90-day duration of the program.

Will the bonus be on top of the regular school readiness payment?

Yes.

CHILD CARE APPLICATION

How can I get a copy of the application?

Click [here](#) to download the application.

Who completes the sections on the referral by parent and employer? Who is the authorizing agency that signs, can it be a provider?

The parent can complete most of the application. The employer can complete anything left blank by the employee. The employer **MUST** sign the Authorizing Referral Agency section . Employer, employee, childcare providers and ELC must work together to provide this service to as many of our first responders and healthcare workers as possible.