

# PANDEMIC RESPONSE

DELAWARE INSTITUTE FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

COVID-19 Resources & Supports

## RE-OPENING DELAWARE CHILD CARE SAFELY - A BLUEPRINT FOR SUPPORTING OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS DURING COVID-19:

Compiled and maintained **updated health & safety guidance** for early childhood programs based on Delaware licensing regulations, state of emergency health requirements, and CDC recommendations.

Hosted a series of **webinars with health & safety panelists** to review current guidance and answer program questions.



## DELAWARE EARLY EDUCATION & CHILD CARE STABILIZATION FUND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

Designed and implemented application, review, and verification processes to **support licensed child care centers and family child care programs** remaining open or temporarily closed due to COVID-19 to stay in business, addressing increased operational costs and reduced and inconsistent enrollment.

**\$88,142,925.22** approved for  
**885 programs.**

*"We are very appreciative of this grant!  
It is enabling us to provide bonuses for  
overworked staff and to upgrade our outdoor  
learning space. It's truly amazing!"*

## LAPTOP INITIATIVE:

Responding to the transition of many services to a virtual format and to families' restricted access to child care spaces, purchased and distributed **laptops and technology supports** for **100 early childhood programs** to assist early childhood professionals in communicating with families and accessing technical assistance, trainings, webinars, and coaching.

## HEALTH SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTION:

Purchased and distributed cloth face coverings, hand sanitizer, no-touch thermometers, and replacement batteries to **650** early childhood programs to support early childhood programs unable to obtain health & safety supplies necessary to remain open and serving children during the state of emergency.

Distributed **13,900 covid-19 tests** to early childhood programs throughout Delaware.

*"We are so thankful for all that Stars is doing and for thinking of us with the kits. We know Stars has had to make adjustments during the pandemic, so we are especially appreciative of their staff taking the time to put together the bags and delivering them to us."*

## ECE SCHOOL-AGE REMOTE LEARNING GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION:

Designed and implemented application, review, and verification processes to **support licensed child care centers and family child care programs** providing care to **school-age children engaged in remote or hybrid learning** to ease the burden of additional costs associated with providing a **safe and productive environment** for Delaware's school-age remote learners—**\$999,999.76** distributed to **152** programs.

## ENHANCED REIMBURSEMENT SUPPORT:

Verified **6,821 applications** from early childhood programs participating in "enhanced reimbursement," the program designed to support licensed child care programs remaining open to serve children during the state of emergency, providing additional funds to pay staff, purchase supplemental cleaning materials, purchase safety equipment, and provide staff training **required to operate during the pandemic.**

*"Had it not been for Stars, I would have not been able to continue operations. My technical assistant keeps me in the loop of all the requirements every step of the way, helping me to access all the resources, including financial support, to keep me open."*