



## Alternative Payment Program

Children learning, parents earning, communities growing!

October 15, 2020

### COVID-19 Update #6

#### Family Fee Waivers September 2020 – June 2021

Child Development Associates (CDA) has received guidance from the California Department of Education (CDE) regarding family fee waivers for the months of September 2020 through June 2021 as authorized by Senate Bill 820 (SB 820).

SB 820 allows for family fees to be fully or partially waived only when:

- All the enrolled children in a family is sheltering in place.
- The child care provider is closed due to COVID 19 and is not providing services for all or part of the month.

SB 820 authorization to waive fees is limited and does **NOT waive** family fees for **all** families. Families whose children use child care services are required to continue to pay their family fees per their current NOA on file effective September 2020.

#### Implementation Family Fee Waivers

Based on SB 820 and guidance from the CDE family fees will be waived for families for any months between September 2020, to June 2021, for those families where:

- All the currently enrolled children in the family are not attending child care for the **full month** because the family is sheltering-in-place due to COVID-19. (*Sheltering in place is defined as a family choosing not to send their child to care because of COVID-19*)
  - In these situations, the family fee will be waived for the full month.
- The child care provider is closed for the full or partial month due to COVID-19 or is required to limit in person services in response to a local or public health order or guidance.
  - In these situations, the family fee will be evaluated at the end of the month and an adjustment in the family fee may be made based on the amount of care the family received in the month the provider was closed.
    - If the family had been assessed a full time fee (more than 130 hours of care per month) and only part time care (less than 130 hours of care per month) was used, the fee will be adjusted to part time.
    - If a part time fee had been assessed and part time care was used, the fee will not be adjusted.

Family fees **will not** be adjusted for absences in instances in which a family is certified for full-time care and intended, at the beginning of the month and at the time of paying the fee, to use child care services, but does not attend for all of their certified hours in any given month regardless if the absences are due to COVID-19 or any other reason.

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### Family Responsibilities

Families who are sheltering in place due to COVID-19 must notify their child care provider at the beginning of each month if they intend on sheltering in place for the full month.

Families whose children receive child care services must continue to pay the family fee to their child care provider per their current NOA on file. This fee is also printed each month on the CDA attendance record.

Families may, at any time, voluntarily request a reassessment of their family fee based on changes in income or a reduction in the child care hours needed by the family. To request a reassessment, parents should contact their Childcare Eligibility Specialist.

### Provider Responsibilities

Providers must report, on the attendance record, full months of care the family did not receive child care so the fee can be waived. The provider should state on the attendance record **"Family sheltering in place due to COVID."**

Providers are not to collect family fees from families who report at the beginning of the month they will be sheltering in place due to COVID and do not use child care for the full month.

When the family returns to care, family fees will resume and the provider should collect the fee.

Providers must report to their Provider Specialist and note on the attendance record if they close due to COVID-19. The provider should note the specific dates of their closure and add a statement **"Closed due to COVID-19."**

### Provider Reimbursements for Those Families with Family Fee Waivers

Per SB 820, AP child care providers are required to absorb the cost of the family fee waivers unless federal funds are made available to cover the cost. As of today, federal funds are not forthcoming, and absorption of the family fee waivers for September 2020 through June 2021, will be implemented as follows:

- If a provider typically collects \$30 in family fees directly from the family and is reimbursed \$600 from CDA, the provider's total reimbursement is \$630. For the months of September 2020 through June 2021, the reimbursement to the provider will continue to be \$600 from CDA, but the provider will no longer collect \$30 from the family.

Per SB 820, if federal funds are made available, funds will be allocated to CDA to reimburse child care providers for family fees waived from September 2020 and June 2021.

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