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Youth and Early Care Workforce Bonus Frequently Asked Questions

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About the Bonus

What is the Youth and Early Care Workforce Bonus?

The Department of Workforce Services Office of Child Care (OCC) is pleased to offer the Youth and Early Care Workforce Bonus to recognize the critical role of the child care community in supporting working families throughout the pandemic. Utah's more than 12,000 youth and early care professionals exemplify fortitude and resilience. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication.

With \$108 million in Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) funding, OCC elected to purposefully allocate some of these funds to the essential youth and early care workforce.

Upon application approval, each eligible individual will receive a significant one-time bonus as a "thank you" for their dedication to serving Utah's children and youth on the front lines every day.

How is this being funded?

OCC is utilizing Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation Act (CRRSA) funds to pay for the bonus.

Why is OCC giving out this funding?

At the onset of the pandemic, and throughout its variations with school closures and business closures, our child care workforce has continued its service to working Utah families. These professionals are still striving to deliver quality care, despite staff shortages. This is a way for Utah to say "thank you."

How much is being awarded?

Each eligible youth and early care professional will receive a significant, one-time, bonus from OCC. The exact dollar amount will be announced in mid-July.

Who is eligible for this incentive?

This bonus is available to a majority of the child care workforce that have a current (non-expired) and valid background check number issued by the Department of Health (soon to be the Department of Health and Human Services), Child Care Licensing Program (CCL), and are currently employed at a program or facility with one of the following license types and position designations:

Program: License Type	
Center	Residential Certificate
DWS Approved - Exempt Center	DWS Approved - FFN in Provider’s Home
Commercial Preschool	DWS Approved - FFN in Child’s Home
Hourly Center	Out of School Time Program
Licensed Family	DWS Approved - Exempt School Age Program

Program: Role Designation

All employees assigned the role of **Caregiver (‘C’)** in the Child Care Licensing (CCL) Portal will be eligible to receive the bonus. This designation in CCL should include the following types of positions:

- Lead Caregiver or Teacher
- Assistant Caregiver or Teacher
- Substitute/Floater Caregiver or Teacher

Employees 18 or older assigned a role of **Owner (‘O’), Director (‘D’), Director Designee (‘DD’) or Other Staff (‘E’)** in the CCL Portal will also be eligible to receive the bonus. These designations in CCL should include the following types of positions:

- Owner or Licensee
- Director
- Assistant Director
- Director Designee
- Onsite Coach or Coordinator
- Onsite Administrative Assistant or Office Manager
- Cook
- Driver

- Custodian or Janitor
- Other Onsite Supporting Staff

The applicant must intend to remain employed in Utah's youth and early care workforce for at least six months after receiving the bonus.

The applicant must have a Care About Childcare account, which lists their current Child Care Licensing Background Check #, eligible program(s) and eligible role(s) on their profile's "Contact Information" page.

Application Requirements

How do I apply for the bonus?

You can start the process today by registering for an account on the Care About Childcare website, cac.utah.gov. Your account must include your current Child Care Licensing Background Check Number, eligible program and role(s) listed on your profile's "Contact Information" page in order to access the application. Individuals who have completed this registration will receive an email with additional information when the online application is available. **It is important to note that you must ensure you have registered for an account in the Care About Childcare website with your Child Care Licensing background check number and an eligible role listed on your profile's "Contact Information" page in order to access the application.** This process can take a few days. Completing these steps now will ensure you have time to apply.

Do I have to be working full-time to receive the bonus?

No, you do not need to be working full-time to receive the bonus, but you do need to be employed at the time of application and the time of verification of employment during the application processing phase. As this funding is intended to reward those that have helped ensure the continuation of our child care workforce, employees must attest to the intent to continue employment at their current work location for at least six months upon receipt of the award.

Do I need to be a resident of the State of Utah to receive this bonus?

No. However, you must work at an eligible Utah facility.

What is the application period?

Applications are expected to go live mid-July and stay open for applicants until August 31, 2022. Ensure you are pre-registered at careaboutchildcare.utah.gov to receive your application as soon as it is available. Registration is required prior to applying.

What happens if I miss the deadline?

Unfortunately, OCC cannot process any applications that miss the application deadline due to funding restrictions.

Who do I contact if I need technical assistance with my application?

If you need assistance with your application, please contact the OCC help desk at OCCworkforcebonus@utah.gov. You may provide your telephone number if you would like OCC to contact you by phone.

Who do I contact if I need translation assistance with my application?

If you need assistance with translation, please contact our OCC help desk at OCCworkforcebonus@utah.gov

Submitting an Application

What do I need to have prepared to apply for the bonus?

- Background Check number issued by Utah's Child Care Licensing Program ([Help](#))
- Program/Facility name and ID number as listed on [Child Care Licensing \(Help\)](#)
- An individual account and login for the Care About Childcare (CAC) website, <https://cac.utah.gov>
- A current Child Care Licensing Background Check number, eligible program and role listed on my CAC profile's "Contact Information" page ([Help](#))
- Social Security number
- Employment Verification Supporting Documentation (one of the following):
 - Most current pay stub issued within the past 30 days from your application date,
 - Employment Verification Form; or
 - Unexpired license from Utah's Child Care Licensing Program with your name listed as the licensee

Why does OCC need the data requested?

All information is necessary for DWS to issue payments to an individual and to verify current employment as well as issue an IRS 1099 for the next tax season. Additionally, DWS is collecting demographic information on the individuals that receive this one-time bonus to better understand the youth and early care workforce and inform our programming for the future. Your personal information will be kept confidential according to all applicable state and federal laws and regulations and will not be shared without your permission except as required by state or federal law. This information may be included in aggregate data and reports provided to local, regional, state and federal stakeholders.

How do I find my organization/center/program facility ID number?

Go to ccl.utah.gov, and use the “Find a Facility” search to find your facility. Click on your facility name, and view the number next to the facility name. The number will follow this pattern: FXX-123456.

I do not have a CCL background check number; can I still get this bonus?

Unfortunately, no. Anyone who wishes to receive this bonus must have a current CCL background check number. This is the only system in which OCC can verify employment with a provider. Any provider that receives DWS funds or is “DWS-Approved” can submit background check requests with CCL.

I worked in child care in the past; am I eligible for this incentive?

No, this incentive is for those that are currently employed with a child care provider.

I am assigned to multiple program sites within Child Care Licensing. Which site information do I use?

You will list the site to which you were most recently assigned or work at the most during the week. If there is equal time between all sites, pick your most recent.

Why do I need to submit a pay stub or other verification of employment?

This will verify that you are currently employed with an approved facility.

Why does DWS need me to fill out a W-9 form?

Federal law requires any person who receives a payment of at least \$600 to complete a W-9 form for tax purposes. Completion of a W-9 will ensure that you receive the correct tax documentation for next year’s tax filings.

You are responsible for any tax liability (Federal, State, and/or other) associated with this payment, and will receive an IRS 1099 form following the close of the calendar tax year. It is your responsibility to consult your tax professional regarding the handling of this tax liability.

How do I complete the W-9 Form?

To learn more about completing a W-9, please follow this [link](#) to a help video and transcript provided by the IRS. If you need further assistance, please contact a tax professional.

How do I upload documentation to my application?

Within the application, you will be directed to upload documentation where necessary. You will not be able to proceed beyond the upload pages until documentation has been uploaded. File sizes are limited to no more than 20 MB per file. If you are using .jpeg images, you may need to resize the files to ensure ability to upload.

Can I submit a paper application?

No, only electronic application submissions will be accepted.

Can I complete my application over a period of time?

Yes, your application will be active and open for additions or editing prior to submission under the registered UtahID.

Can I edit my application after submitting?

No. Once your application is submitted, you will not be able to edit your application. If you submitted your application in error and need to make a correction, please reach out to our designated help desk at OCCworkforcebonus@utah.gov.

Organization Support

Can my organization/center/program use this as a recruitment tool?

Absolutely.

Who in my organization/center/program is eligible to apply?

Any person in an eligible organization who is designated with one of the following roles in the Child Care Licensing Provider Portal is eligible to apply:

- Owner (An individual, not a corporation)
- Director
- Director Designee
- Caregiver (Lead or Assistant Caregivers or Teachers)
- Other ONSITE staff (onsite cooks, drivers, janitors, coaches, office managers, etc.)

How can an organization/center/program help their staff receive this bonus?

Organizations/centers/programs can help their workforce receive this bonus by ensuring that:

- Every employee is associated with the program and has an eligible role assigned in the in CCL provider portal;
- Every employee has a current background check with CCL; and
- Every employee has access to their most recent pay stub or receives a complete employment verification form.

Why are “drop-in centers” employees not eligible for this bonus?

While OCC does appreciate the availability of drop-in care centers, these programs do not meet the licensing requirements of the Child Care and Development Funds, and are not eligible for the incentive.

Why are some owners allowed to collect the bonus, while others are not?

Some programs are owned by corporations, not individuals. Those owners are not eligible to receive this bonus. All private owners must also be residents of the state of Utah.

Why can't volunteers, board members, household members or business administrators connected to a child care program receive this bonus?

While we appreciate the work that is done by the others listed above, this bonus is for paid employees in eligible roles.

After the Application is Submitted

How do I know if I submitted the application properly?

Upon successful completion and submission of your application, you will receive a confirmation email verifying your submission.

Will I be notified if my application is approved or rejected?

After OCC has reviewed your application, you will receive a confirmation that the application has either been approved, denied or rejected. If the application is denied or rejected, you will receive notice explaining why.

Why didn't I receive an email confirmation that my application was submitted/approved/rejected?

Status emails will be sent automatically to the email address provided in the application. Verify that you have the correct email address. Also, check your spam folder to ensure that the verification did not end up there.

Why was my application rejected?

In many instances, applications can be rejected due to licensing numbers being invalid, background check numbers not matching the applicant's name, the W-9 not being completed in entirety, missing information within your application, or during the review process, your validity of work was not able to be determined. You will receive an email with the rejection details.

Can I appeal a denied application?

If you feel that your application was denied without justification, please contact OCCworkforcebonus@utah.gov.

Can I submit a new application if my previous application was denied?

No. A person may not submit more than one application. If your application is rejected on the basis that items were missing or incorrect, you will receive an email asking you to update the information to resubmit your application. If your application was denied because you do not qualify for this bonus, you will not receive notice to resubmit.

When can I expect to receive my payment?

Payments will be made to successful applicants on a weekly basis. After you have submitted your application, you may check the status of your payment within your application page. If you

have not received your payment by the end of October 2022, please email OCCworkforcebonus@utah.gov.

How will I receive my payment?

All approved applicants will receive their payment via a check to the mailing address provided in the application.