



MICHAEL P. STARKOWSKI
Commissioner

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Dear Care 4 Kids Child Care Provider,

As many Connecticut families struggle to maintain employment and make ends meet, Care 4 Kids child care providers continue to keep their children safe and well cared for. We appreciate your efforts and encourage your continued participation with the Care 4 Kids program.

While the state is experiencing financial difficulty, we have been fortunate to receive additional federal stimulus child care funds to supplement state funds that support the Care 4 Kids program. As a condition of receiving federal stimulus dollars, Connecticut has an obligation to meet a required level of overall child care expenditures.

Thus, in an effort to relieve some of the burden facing families and to support the valuable service you provide to the children of Connecticut, the Department of Social Services is providing you with a special one-time economic stimulus payment to be used to fund child care-related services only. The enclosed check is made possible to serve two purposes: help Connecticut low-income families seeking child care assistance and help you to maintain your high quality child care service. ***You must deposit or cash your check by July 1, 2010, or you may forfeit this opportunity.***


We realize that there may be several needs for your child care setting. We offer the following guidelines that demonstrate our intent and preference. Since the Care 4 Kids primary purpose is to serve low-income families who need to access child care in order to obtain and maintain employment, we strongly encourage you to forgive and/or reimburse family fees for the months of May and June of this year. In addition, we strongly recommend that you consider staff recognition and retention efforts, utility and/or energy enhancements, improvements to your indoor and outdoor play areas and/or purchase of literacy supplies and new equipment.

Please be advised that this special one-time economic stimulus payment is subject to a possible future audit and you may be asked to demonstrate how you spent the amount received. Please retain any receipts and/or documentation of expenditures.

For other questions or concerns, please call the DSS Child Care Team at 1-800-811-6141.

Thank you again for the vital work you do for children and families.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Starkowski
Commissioner