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# Care 4 Kids Program



## Program Policy TRANSMITTAL

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Transmittal Number: C4K-POL-21-05

Date: May 26, 2021

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**To:** Sherri Sutera, Program Director  
Care 4 Kids (C4K)

**From:** Beth Bye, Commissioner  
Office of Early Childhood

Christopher Lyddy, Chief Operating Officer (Authorized Designee)  
Office of Early Childhood 

**CC:** Distribution List

**Subject:** Accreditation Bonus

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**Program Issue:** Section 17b-749-13 (d) (1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies establishes a 5% payment incentive for licensed child care centers (DCCC), group child care homes (DCGH) and license-exempt providers eligible to receive Care 4 Kids benefits (DCEX) that maintain a national accreditation through one of the recognized accreditation organizations: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Council on Accreditation (COA), and New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). However, section 17b-749-13 (d) (2) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies permits the Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood to establish payment incentives for licensed and unlicensed child care providers eligible to receive Care 4 Kids benefits based on quality standards determined by the Commissioner. This transmittal implements section 17b-749-13 (d) (2) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies by establishing an accreditation bonus for licensed child care centers (DCCC), group child care homes (DCGH) and license-exempt providers eligible to receive Care 4 Kids benefits (DCEX) that maintain a national accreditation through one of the recognized accreditation organizations: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Council on Accreditation (COA), and New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

**Background:** Through the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), Connecticut received child care relief funding to provide expanded child care assistance through the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). The Office of Early Childhood administers the Care 4 Kids program pursuant to CCDBG. The Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood recognizes the importance of supporting child care providers in the voluntary pursuit of accreditation by a national accreditation body with demonstrated, valid, and reliable program standards of high-quality by establishing a 20% bonus under the authority granted to her in section 17b-749-13 (d) (2) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

**Directive:** Effective June 1, 2021, all payments for child care services issued to accredited licensed child care centers (DCCC), group child care homes (DCGH) and license-exempt providers eligible to receive Care 4 Kids benefits (DCEX) that have or obtain a valid national accreditation with one of the approved accreditation organizations: National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Council on Accreditation (COA), or New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) will receive an additional 20% bonus. This accreditation bonus will remain in effect unless and until future notice is provided rescinding this policy transmittal.

20% Quality Bonus for Accredited Centers should = 20% of Base Rate (includes special needs rate).

Total Payment = Base Rate + Accreditation incentive + Quality Bonus – family fee – any other deductions.

Questions concerning this transmittal can be referred to Office of Early Childhood at 860-500-4650.

BB:ks