



OKLAHOMA Human Services

April 15, 2020

Dear Community Partners,

Oklahoma Human Services oversees all licensed child care centers in the state of Oklahoma. Family child care and child care centers are necessary to meet the needs of employers who are defined as essential per the federal and state emergency declarations related to COVID-19. Child care is an often overlooked essential program, especially when it comes to supplies like food and cleaning supplies, despite the critical service they provide in the community of caring for children during the pandemic.

Many stores are limiting the amount of products which can be purchased during this time because of shortages created by the COVID-19 health emergency. This has significantly impacted child care businesses. **This letter is to appeal on their behalf for special consideration to either submit a specific order to meet their business needs or allow them special shopping times without a designated limit.**

There are more than 3,000 licensed child care homes and centers in Oklahoma. More than 2,300 of them are operating with children in their care during this pandemic. If you would like to know more about child care in your area, a searchable list of open child care programs is available on the OKDHS website. The programs are listed by city, county or zip code and can be viewed at <http://childcarefind.okdhs.org/childcarefind>.

If there is anything further Child Care Services can do to help support and encourage this collaboration with you, please let me know.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration and for helping us ensure Oklahoma families have access to licensed, affordable, quality child care.

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www.okdhs.org/services/cc/pages/childcare.aspx