

EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF OSCEOLA COUNTY

DISASTER RELIEF – PROVIDER SUPPORT

ITEM: 220A.29

EFFECTIVE DATE: 4-27-06

REVISED: N/A

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POLICY STATEMENT

Immediately following a natural disaster, the Coalition shall take steps to assist child care providers in their recovery efforts. These steps may include, but not be limited to, implementing temporary provider payment adjustments and/or redirecting quality initiatives dollars for use in providing disaster relief mini grants.

PROCEDURE

If Osceola County has been designated as a natural disaster area, has been declared eligible for individual and/or public federal disaster assistance by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Coalition has been approved for disaster relief by OEL, Office of Early Learning, the Coalition shall implement, based on the severity of the disaster, temporary provider payment adjustments and/or the redirection of quality funds for use in implementing provider disaster relief mini grants.

1. Temporary Provider Payment Adjustments

Child care providers serving children in school readiness and Voluntary Pre-kindergarten programs who temporarily close due to disaster related damages to their child care facility may be paid during the closure for a period of up to ten (10) days per month per disaster.

- A. Proof of closure must be verified in order for providers to be eligible to receive temporary provider payment adjustments. Proof may include, but not be limited to, pictures of the child care setting damages, DCF inspection report reflecting non-compliance for health and safety infractions caused by the natural disaster, central agency staff verification as a result of a disaster assessment visit, a certification of closure statement signed and submitted by the provider to the Central Agency.

2. Disaster Relief Mini Grants

Disaster relief mini grants may be awarded for the purpose of helping providers reopen their child care business and/or replenish damaged early learning materials and equipment. The disaster relief mini grant process may be implemented at the discretion of the Coalition's Executive Director and shall follow the guidelines below:

- A. Books, educational toys, playground equipment and minor remodeling, building maintenance and/or repairs needed to re-open the facility or to maintain quality of services to meet state and local child care standards, including applicable health and safety standards will be allowable expenditures
- B. An improvement or upgrade to a facility which is not specified under the definition or major renovations may, by default, be considered a minor renovation. Therefore, remodeling a facility to its original state and purpose is an allowable expenditure. A facility must be constructed or renovated in a manner that ensures the health and safety of children in care, consistent with Sec. 08.41(a)(2) of the regulations. This may include:

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- I. the purchase of equipment, labor, materials and services necessary for the functioning of the facility. Equipment may include fencing, kitchen equipment, playground equipment, etc.
 - II. Major renovations include the replacement of roofs, walls, and/or other structural components, carpet, tile, and/or other major building enhancements are unallowable expenditures.
 - III. The cost of remodeling/upgrades, early learning materials and equipment, minor repairs and other items applied for in disaster relief mini grants must not include amounts recoverable by property insurance.
- C. All providers awarded a disaster relief mini grant from the Coalition must provide:
- I. Proof of damage including but not limited to, pictures and/or quotes for minor repair/replacement of materials and equipment or goods & services associated with the repair/replacement of facility damage
 - II. Receipts for all expenditures made with disaster relief mini grant funds
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PARTIES AFFECTED

All school readiness and/or VPK child care providers affected by a natural disaster

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS / FORMS

Disaster Relief Provider Mini Grant Application