Emergency Child Care Program for Young Children

Program Description

The **San Francisco Emergency Child Care Program for Young Children** aims to provide high-quality care for children (up to age 5) of Essential Services Workers (ESWs), as defined by the City’s recent Public Health Order to Shelter in Place. Skilled early educators experienced in working with young children will provide care in licensed, City-funded early care and education programs located throughout San Francisco. The Emergency Child Care Program for Young Children takes place in modified environments with activities that reduce group sizes, increase social distancing, and help mitigate the health risks to children, families, and staff. The program is free of charge to participating ESW families.

**NOTE:** In accordance with the order to shelter in place, the best place for all children is at home with a parent or caregiver. However, the City recognizes that not all ESW families can do this. The Emergency Child Care Program for Young Children supports ESW families unable to keep their children at home, so that they can continue to provide essential services.

The City is continuing to work with early care and education programs to increase the number of available child care spaces, but due to initial constraints and limited capacity, the City may need to prioritize certain categories of ESW families. If current demand exceeds capacity, the City will prioritize access as it has already done for **school-age children**. The following ESW categories will be prioritized for enrollment:

**Healthcare Workers, meaning specifically:**
- San Francisco Department of Public Health employees or employees at its Community Clinics
- Staff at the following San Francisco-based hospitals:
  - VA Medical Center
  - Kaiser SF
  - Chinese Hospital
  - CPMC – Van Ness
  - CPMC – Mission Bernal
  - CPMC – Davies
  - St. Mary’s Medical Center
  - Saint Francis
  - SF General
  - UCSF – Parnassus
  - UCSF – Mission Bay

**Disaster Service Workers, meaning specifically:**
- Employees of the City and County of San Francisco who are activated as Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) to help with the City’s coronavirus response.

If current capacity allows, or as additional sites open, children of other categories of essential workers may be enrolled. The City encourages all essential workers needing care for their young children to apply. Any children of essential workers already enrolled at participating Emergency Child Care sites may remain in their programs without interruption.

**NOTE:** The Emergency Child Care Program for Young Children is for children who have not yet entered kindergarten. If you require care for a school-age child (grades K-12), please visit [DCYF’s website](https://www.dcyf.org) instead.