



D 2020 149

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Amending and Extending Executive Order D 2020 120 Directing the Colorado Department of Human Services to Access Federal Funds for Child Care Services Due to the Presence of COVID-19

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2 of the Colorado Constitution and the relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, et seq., I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order amending and extending Executive Order D 2020 120, directing the Colorado Department of Human Services to access federal funds for child care services due to the presence of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Colorado.

I. Background and Purpose

On March 5, 2020, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) public health laboratory confirmed the first presumptive positive COVID-19 test result in Colorado. Since then, the number of confirmed cases has continued to climb, and there is community spread throughout the State. I verbally declared a disaster emergency on March 10, 2020, and on March 11, 2020, I issued the corresponding Executive Order D 2020 003, as amended by Executive Orders D 2020 018, D 2020 032, D 2020 058, D 2020 076, D 2020 109, and D 2020 125. On March 25, 2020, I requested that the President of the United States declare a Major Disaster for the State of Colorado, pursuant to the Stafford Act. The President approved that request on March 28, 2020.

My administration, along with other State, local, and federal authorities, has taken a wide array of actions to mitigate the effects of the pandemic, prevent further spread, and protect against overwhelming our health care resources.

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, allocated \$3.5 billion to the states through the Child Care and Development Block grant. These funds may be used by states for all existing allowable Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) activities as well as a number of purposes related to COVID-19 and child care. Executive Order D 2020 007 directed the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) to access additional federal Child Care Development Funds to reimburse counties that pay providers through the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) for absences or closures as a result of COVID-19 for the next eight (8) weeks, with the possibility of extension.

This Executive Order extends Executive Order D 2020 120 for an additional thirty (30) days, which directs CDHS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-33.5-704(7)(b), to access remaining available CCDF funds allocated by the CARES Act to continue to support child care services during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure stability and consistency for child care providers and protect the vital role they play for children and families. Accessing and allocating these available federal funds now will enable the State to continue to support child care services and avoid interrupting support while the economic disruption caused by the pandemic continues.

This Executive Order amends Executive Order D 2020 120 by deleting Section II.E, which is no longer necessary in light of forthcoming guidance from CDPHE.

II. Amendments

Executive Order D 2020 120 is amended as follows:

- i. Sections II.A, II.B, II.C, and II.D are extended for an additional thirty (30) days.
- ii. Section II.E is deleted

III. Duration

Executive Order D 2020 120, as amended and extended by this Executive Order, shall expire thirty (30) days from July 26, 2020, unless extended further by Executive Order. In all other respects Executive Order D 2020 120 shall remain in full force and effect as originally promulgated.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty-sixth day of July, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor