**Providing Child Care for Health Care Workers During the Public Health Emergency**

(March 21, 2020)

**Overview**

As part of the District of Columbia Government’s response to coronavirus (COVID-19), the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is partnering with licensed child care providers to offer care for the children of DC’s health care workers. This effort will help ensure continuity of critical healthcare services across the District’s hospitals and primary care centers.

OSSE will stand up these partnerships in several rounds to make 1,000 seats for children ages 0-12 available by early April. The sites will follow recent federal and District of Columbia Government health and precautionary guidance related to group size limits, staggered pick-up and drop-off times, and screenings before children and staff enter a facility.

**Connecting Families to Providers**

Given the urgency of this situation and the additional demands being placed on both families and the partnering providers, OSSE will work closely with the DC Hospital Association and DC Primary Care Association to identify families in need and match them to partnering providers with sites near the hospital centers. Once matches are made, health care workers will hear directly the city’s child care resource and referral system and will have the opportunity to accept or decline. Health care workers who do not receive an immediate placement or who decline their seat will be put on a waitlist for matching with future partner providers as seats become available.

**The Cost of Care**

* Health care workers currently receiving subsidized child care in DC will continue to have their child care costs covered and will not be charged a co-pay.
* Health care workers seeking emergency child care placement who do not receive subsidized child care will be asked to cover the private pay rate.
* Private pay rates vary depending on the provider and age of the child but are expected to range from $30-55 per child per day.

**Timeline**

The first round of partnerships will launch the week of March 23 and will serve approximately 250 children. OSSE is working urgently to establish additional partnerships to serve 1,000 children by early April.

**Questions**

If you have questions, please contact the DC Child Care Connections hotline at (202) 829-2500 (translation services provided) or email osse.dcchildcareconnections@dc.gov.