



DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING DEADLINE EXTENDED

This is the **final week** for child care and early learning provider directors to verify and submit instructor information for the first of two \$1,000 qualified disaster relief payments authorized by Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Legislature.

Information must be verified and submitted by **Friday, August 13, 2021**. To assist with this important opportunity, the Division of Early Learning has added new webinars for provider directors who have not submitted their applications or need assistance in finalizing their applications.

If you have not submitted your application, please register for one of the webinars. If you have not received an email from “Donotreply_disasterrelief@oel.myflorida.com,” check your junk or spam folder and then if you still do not see an invitation, send a request to DisasterRelief@oel.myflorida.com.

To qualify for a disaster relief payment, the child care and early learning instructor must be:

- Employed as of July 1, 2021 at a private child care, early learning center or family child care home or at a public school assigned to a VPK or Title I prekindergarten program;
- Employed at the time the center/program director
- submits the application; and
- Assigned to a classroom, full-time or part-time.

Please keep in mind that these payments are provided as “qualified disaster relief payments” to reimburse reasonable and necessary personal, family, living and funeral expenses incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in order to promote the general welfare.

Under section 139 of the Internal Revenue Code, qualified disaster

relief payments are generally not gross income for tax purposes and are not reportable as income on a federal income tax return. That means the payments will not have income tax or employer taxes withheld. Of course, recipients should consider consulting with a tax advisor for more information.

If you have questions, please email the help desk at DisasterRelief@oel.myflorida.com or call 1-833-258-6735.



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