

## STEPS TO FIND A CHILD CARE PROVIDER FOR ESSENTIAL WORKERS

Talent 2025, along with Intermediate School Districts in West Michigan, have compiled information to assist essential workers and critical infrastructure employers in finding child care resources allowed for in [Executive Order 2020-16](#) as a response to COVID-19. We will update this resource as needed if additional information becomes available. [Executive Order 2020-21](#) provides further details about workers classified as essential.

- Essential workers, regardless of county, will need to go to the [Help Me Grow Michigan](#) site. Once on the site, please fill out the intake form. Your information will be sent to the appropriate staff member at the Intermediate School District (ISD) office for your county of residence.
- ISD staff will connect with the family applying for child care to notify them of child care options near their home or near their work.
- An email with these options will be sent to the family and the child care providers will be copied.
- Families are responsible to contact the child care provider about enrollment for disaster relief child care.
- A few days after the families receive the email, ISD staff will contact the family to make sure they have found a placement.
- If no placement is found, the ISD staff will match the family to more child care providers.
- The child care sites providing disaster relief child care will be required to screen all staff and families when they enter the site by taking their temperature and having them complete a brief health screen to determine if they've been sick, had a cough, etc.
- Currently, there is no additional funding to support the disaster relief child care effort. Families will need to pay for these services.

**Below are the best points of contact at each ISD. There is *no need* to contact them directly to complete the application process or to be matched with available child care providers. They may be helpful if issues arise for your workforce.**

### Intermediate School District Information in West Michigan:

#### **Kent ISD**

Staff contact: Ashley Karsten

Email: [ashleykarsten@kentisd.org](mailto:ashleykarsten@kentisd.org)

#### **Muskegon Area ISD**

Staff contact: Stuart Jones

Email: [sjones@muskegonisd.org](mailto:sjones@muskegonisd.org)

Note: Intake forms are being transmitted to the local CALL 211 center with the ISD serving as backup. CALL211 (or MAISD personnel) will contact the requestor upon receipt of the intake form and refer for care based on our local list of willing providers and requestor's specific needs.

**Ottawa Area ISD**

Staff contact: Tami Mannes

Email: [tmannes@oaisd.org](mailto:tmannes@oaisd.org)

Note: Connecting with referrals within 24 hours of placing the request.

**Montcalm Area ISD**

Staff contact: Cari O'Connor

Email: [coconnor@maisd.com](mailto:coconnor@maisd.com)

**Newaygo County RESA**

Staff contact: Nicole Skrabis

Email: [nskrabis@ncresa.org](mailto:nskrabis@ncresa.org)

Note: NCRESA in addition to the online forms has a hotline available the number is 231-924-3689

**West Shore ESD (Lake, Mason, Oceana Counties)**

Staff contact: Sara Jeruzal

Email: [sjeruzal@wsesd.org](mailto:sjeruzal@wsesd.org)

**Mecosta-Osceola ISD**

Staff contact: Karen Roy

Email: [kroy@moisd.org](mailto:kroy@moisd.org)

**Allegan AESA**

Staff contact: Lindsay Sichta

Email: [Lindsay.sichta@alleganaesa.org](mailto:Lindsay.sichta@alleganaesa.org)

**Barry ISD**

Staff contact: Shanon Everett

Email: [severett@barryisd.org](mailto:severett@barryisd.org)

**Ionia ISD**

Staff contact: Sally Kapteyn

Email: [skapteyn@ioniaisd.org](mailto:skapteyn@ioniaisd.org)