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Child Care Information Session

Division of Early Childhood

February 27, 2025

PRESENTED BY

Alexis Washington, Communications and Engagement Manager

Presentation Outline

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

2. Maryland Family Network

3. Division of Early Childhood Updates

4. Questions

5. Closing Remarks

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Welcome

Alexis Washington, Communications and Engagement Manager

3

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Welcome to the February Information Session

- Please place your name and organization in the chat.

- Your microphones will be muted throughout today's session.

- Please use the chat box on the bottom menu bar of your screen to submit any questions that you may have during the session.

- Feel free to enter your question during any presentation. We will answer the questions during the Q-and-A portion of today's session.

Maryland Family Network

Karen Eisenhuth, Assistant Director of Child Care Resource Network

Division of Early Childhood Updates

Amanda Frekot, Communications and Engagement Specialist

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The Moore-Miller Administration's Proposed Historic Investment in the Child Care Scholarship Program

$500 million total proposed budget investment from the Moore-Miller Administration

- The FY26 funding is a:

    - 392% increase over FY23 funding levels, and

    - 336% increase over FY22 funding levels.

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Child Care Scholarship Income Eligibility Changes

Family Size	Initial Income Scale * Maximum Income	Continuation Income Scale** Maximum Income
	New applications	Changes/ Redeterminations
2	$76,117	$86,266
3	$94,026	$106,563
4	$111,936	$126,861
5	$129,846	$147,159
6	$147,756	$167,457
7	$151,114	$171,262
8	$154,472	$175,068
9	$157,830	$178,874
10	$161,188	$182,680
11	$164,546	$186,486
12	$167,904	$190,292

*All eligibility/income documentation must be received and verified to make a determination for benefits. The application process may take up to 30 days.

Effective December 15, 2024, the income eligibility requirements for the Child Care Scholarship program have been increased to allow more families to qualify for assistance.

- Family of two = $76,117 (previously $61,222)

- Family of four = $111,936 (previously $90,033)

Please share this updated information with any families you serve who may benefit from these increased income thresholds.

The updated eligibility information is available on our website, money4childcare.com.

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Child Care Scholarship Advance Payment Guide

CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT GUIDE

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ADVANCE PAYMENT MONTH	ADVANCE PAYMENT SNAPSHOT	ADVANCE PAYMENT DATES	NUMBER OF PAYABLE DAYS	TRUE-UP RECONCILIATION DATES
JANUARY 2025	DECEMBER 28, 2024	JANUARY 15 JANUARY 31	23	APRIL 30, 2025
FEBRUARY 2025	JANUARY 25, 2025	FEBRUARY 15 FEBRUARY 28	20	MAY 31, 2025
MARCH 2025	FEBRUARY 22, 2025	MARCH 15 MARCH 31	21	JUNE 30, 2025
APRIL 2025	MARCH 29, 2025	APRIL 15 APRIL 30	22	JULY 31, 2025
MAY 2025	APRIL 26, 2025	MAY 15 MAY 31	22	AUGUST 31, 2025
JUNE 2025	MAY 31, 2025	JUNE 15 JUNE 30	21	SEPTEMBER 30, 2025
JULY 2025	JUNE 28, 2025	JULY 15 JULY 31	23	OCTOBER 31, 2025
AUGUST 2025	JULY 26, 2025	AUGUST 15 AUGUST 31	21	NOVEMBER 30, 2025
SEPTEMBER 2025	AUGUST 30, 2025	SEPTEMBER 15 SEPTEMBER 30	22	DECEMBER 31, 2025
OCTOBER 2025	SEPTEMBER 27, 2025	OCTOBER 15 OCTOBER 31	23	JANUARY 31, 2026
NOVEMBER 2025	OCTOBER 25, 2025	NOVEMBER 15 NOVEMBER 30	20	FEBRUARY 28, 2026
DECEMBER 2025	NOVEMBER 29, 2025	DECEMBER 15 DECEMBER 31	23	MARCH 31, 2026
JANUARY 2026	DECEMBER 27, 2025	JANUARY 15 JANUARY 31	22	APRIL 30, 2026

money4childcare.com

The Child Care Scholarship Payment Guide provides a clear overview of the advance payment schedule, including key details such as:

- the Advance Payment Month,
- Snapshot dates,
- Payment Dates,
- Number of Payable Days, and
- True-Up Reconciliation Dates.

It outlines how advance payments are processed, including payment timing, calculation, and adjustments through True-Up reconciliation.

The guide is available on our website, money4childcare.com.

Child Care Scholarship Program Open Office Hours

CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP OPEN OFFICE HOURS

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Join Us for Open Office Hours with the Child Care Scholarship Team!

Are you a provider with questions about payments or invoices? Or a family needing assistance with your scholarship or application? During Open Office Hours you can speak directly with a Child Care Scholarship Central 2 representative or a member of the Child Care Scholarship Branch.

All sessions will be held from 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024	MAY 20, 2025
OCTOBER 8, 2024	JUNE 10, 2025
NOVEMBER 19, 2024	JULY 15, 2025
DECEMBER 17, 2024	AUGUST 19, 2025
JANUARY 14, 2025	SEPTEMBER 16, 2025
FEBURARY 18, 2025	OCTOBER 21, 2025
MARCH 18, 2025	NOVEMBER 18, 2025
APRIL 15, 2025	DECEMBER 16, 2025

For access information to a session visit,

money4childcare.com

The Child Care Scholarship Program hosts monthly Open Office Hours. The schedule is set for 2025.

CCS Central 2 and the Scholarship Team members will be on hand to help:

- Families who have questions about scholarships or open applications.

- Providers who have questions about invoices.

Registration links and dates are available on our website, money4childcare.com.

Next Open Office Hours: March 18, 2025

Prekindergarten Funding Overview

1. Blueprint Formula Funding

   - Current Prekindergarten Expansion Grantees only

   - Prekindergarten expansion slots from FY 25 will be converted to Blueprint slots in FY 26

   - No application is required; however, grantee must be in good standing with Blueprint and grant requirements (see next slide)

2. Prekindergarten Expansion Grant

   - New Applicants

   - Current Blueprint Formula Funding Grantees seeking to increase slots for FY 26

Prekindergarten Funding Overview

A current Blueprint Formula Funding grantee is considered "in good standing" if the following conditions are met:

- Maintains a Lead Teacher that meets the Blueprint Requirements

- Maintains a Maryland EXCELS published quality rating of Level 3 or higher

- In compliance with grant reporting requirements and fiscal guidelines

- Not under a corrective action plan for fiscal concerns or instructional concerns

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Open Now: Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Application for 2025-2026 School Year

- **Application Release:** February 25, 2025

- **Application Submission:** Online Only –

  - https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/maryland-pre-k-grant-programs

- **Translations:**

  - Spanish

  - French (Coming soon)

  - Chinese (Coming soon)

  - Korean (Coming soon)

  - Amharic (Coming soon)

- All applications must be submitted in English.

- **Funding** per slot for SY25–26: $14,473

Prekindergarten Expansion Grants for 2025-2026 School Year

- **Eligibility:** This funding opportunity is designed for those who deliver prekindergarten services and participate in Maryland EXCELS including:

  o Local Education Agencies (LEAs) or qualified vendors (as defined in <u>COMAR 13A.06.02</u>) and private providers who:

  o hold a valid license, and

  o have not incurred any serious health or safety violations in the last year.

  o Head Start programs

- **Application Deadline:** April 11, 2025

- **Technical Assistance Sessions:** March 4*, 5, 6*, 12, and 19th from 1:00-2:30 pm

  *Spanish language session

All sessions will be recorded and posted on the DEC webpage

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Push to Pre-K

If you are interested in learning more about State Prekindergarten Grants?

Watch a Push to Pre-K information session!

The recordings introduce you to the State Pre-K Grant Program, provide a brief overview of the application process, and answer your most frequently asked questions.

Recordings are available for:

- Family Child Care
- Child Care Centers
- Head Start Program
- Spanish speaking providers
- Faith-based Programs

Push to Pre-K

If you are interested in learning more about meeting the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant requirements, watch a Push to Pre-K session!

Additional recordings also cover:

- Meeting the Maryland EXCELS Participation Requirements

- Meeting Licensing Requirements

- Components of an Educational Program: Defining High-Quality Pre-K

- Grant Writing Tips

Questions?

Contact Information

Branch/Office	Contact Information
Division of Early Childhood	earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov
Office of Early Learning and Instruction	early.learningbranchesmsde@maryland.gov
Office of Family Support Services and Head Start Collaboration	decfss.msde@maryland.gov
Office of Child Care	earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov
Licensing Branch	licensingocc.msde@maryland.gov
Child Care Scholarship Program	money4childcare.com 1-877-227-0125
Maryland EXCELS	info@marylandexcels.org or marylandexcels.org