

## **CURRENTLY ENROLLED FAMILIES**

### **Why is the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program freezing new enrollments?**

The Child Care Scholarship Program is freezing new enrollments due to a significant increase in participation and current budget limitations. The number of children served has grown from approximately 21,000 in January 2023 to over 45,000. As a result, the program has reached its maximum budget capacity for providing scholarships. The freeze allows the program to continue supporting currently enrolled families.

### **How will the freeze affect families who are currently receiving a scholarship?**

The temporary enrollment freeze will affect new applications only. Families currently enrolled in the CCS Program will continue to receive their benefits without interruption, provided they continue to meet eligibility and program requirements and complete the recertification process on time.

### **Can I still apply for the scholarship during the freeze, and what happens to my application if I do?**

Families may continue to submit CCS Program applications at any time, including on or after May 1, when the enrollment freeze begins. Applications submitted during the freeze will be processed, and if determined eligible and approved, families will be added to a frozen status list.

### **When will the freeze be lifted?**

The freeze will be lifted once additional funding becomes available. To ensure the program remains stable and can continue supporting families already receiving assistance, the frozen status list will stay in place until the budget can support new enrollments.

As children naturally leave the program—such as when they age out or no longer need care—families from the frozen status list will be invited to enroll, helping us maintain a steady number of children served.

## **Are there any alternative resources or assistance available for families who cannot receive a scholarship during the freeze?**

Yes. While the Child Care Scholarship Program is frozen, there are other resources that may help families pay for child care. Be sure to check with each program or resource directly to see if you meet their eligibility requirements.

- **Head Start and Early Head Start:** These programs are free for eligible low-income families and offer early learning, health, and family support services for children from birth to age 5.
- **Military Child Care Assistance:** Military families may qualify for financial help through special programs, no matter where they are stationed. Visit the [Child Care Financial Assistance for Military Families](#) page to learn more.
- **Local Assistance and Scholarships:** Some child care providers and nonprofit organizations offer financial help or scholarships. Ask providers you are considering if they offer any assistance.
- **Sibling Discounts:** Some providers offer discounts if you enroll more than one child, such as a reduced rate or waived fees. Be sure to ask about this when exploring options.
- **Military Discounts:** Some civilian providers offer discounts for active-duty military families. Always ask if this is available.
- **Employer-Sponsored Child Care Benefits:**
  - Some employers offer Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs), which let you set aside pre-tax income to pay for child care.
  - Others may offer onsite child care or partner with providers who offer employee discounts. Check with your human resources department to see what is available.
- **College or University Child Care:** Some higher education institutions offer child care services on campus, often with discounts for students, faculty, and staff. Contact your college or university for details.
- **Pre-K for 3- and 4-Year-Olds:** State-funded Pre-K programs are available for eligible 3- and 4-year-olds. These programs are offered through public schools and private providers, including family child care, child care centers, and Head Start programs. Contact your local school district for availability and eligibility information.
- **[Montgomery County Working Parents Assistance Program](#):** This program is for families residing in Montgomery County with incomes above the initial income scale for the CCS Program as listed on [money4childcare.com](#).
- **[Parent and Provider Consumer Education Guide](#):** This resource provides information that supports families and child care providers.

These resources can help fill the gap while the scholarship program enrollment is on hold.

**Will my current scholarship be affected by the enrollment freeze?**

No. Families currently enrolled in the CCS Program will continue to receive their benefits without interruption, provided they continue to meet eligibility requirements and complete the recertification process on time.

**Can I renew my scholarship or make changes to my existing case during the freeze?**

Yes. Families currently enrolled in the Child Care Scholarship Program can still renew their scholarship and make changes to their existing case during the freeze. This includes submitting recertification forms, updating household information, or requesting to add a child. Be sure to complete all required forms on time to avoid any interruptions in your benefits.

**If I have another child who needs care, can I add them to my current scholarship during the freeze?**

Yes. You can request to add another child to your current scholarship by completing a Change of Circumstance form in the Child Care Scholarship portal. This request will be reviewed as part of your existing case, even during the enrollment freeze.

**Will my provider continue to receive payments during the freeze?**

Yes. Child care providers will continue to receive payments for currently enrolled children.

**What happens if my income or household situation changes while the freeze is in effect?**

Report changes in your household by completing a Change of Circumstance Form. Parents that move outside of Maryland, who gain income above the continuing income scale on [money4childcare.com](http://money4childcare.com), or who gain \$1,000,000 in assets are no longer eligible for child care scholarship benefits.