



Office of Child Care Advisory Council

Branch Updates

August 17, 2023

OFFICE OF CHILD CARE BRANCH UPDATES

Licensing Branch

- All licensing staff members completed ethics training on July 11th.
- The Outdoor Preschool License Pilot Program, as result of [HB525](#), has been initiated and a workgroup is being established. The regulations from Washington State will be referenced for guidance.
- Interviews for the Child Care Licensing Training Manager position are scheduled for August 1.

Child Care Scholarship Branch

- The Fast-Track Pilot for Baltimore City was a success. We received approximately 450 applications between February 28th – June 30, 2023.
- The Statewide launch of Fast-Track Child Care Scholarship application took effect on July 1, 2023. Approximately 2,034 Fast-Track applications were submitted between July 1 – July 13, 2023.

Workforce Advancement Branch

- The Maryland Child Development Associate (CDA) training bundle was launched on July 3, 2023. The cost of training and fees will be covered for registered family child care providers, licensed child care center staff and public school employees who works in Maryland.
- CDA training requests from early childhood educators working in public Pre-k will be accepted until September 29, 2023.
- CDA training requests from family child care and child care centers will be accepted until November 1, 2023.

Maryland EXCELS and Maryland Accreditation

- Maryland EXCELS bonuses will continue in FY24.
- The survey introducing the proposed 5-year Maryland Accreditation, with annual updates, has been completed.
- Licensed child care centers and registered family child care homes no longer need to be open and operating for 6 months to publish at higher quality ratings.
- Maryland EXCELS Family Awareness campaign resulted in 259,000 Facebook views and brought 35,000 new visitors to the Maryland EXCELS website. The campaign consisted of a video that highlighted the importance of finding high quality licensed child care using the Maryland EXCELS Find a Program directory.



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Early Learning Branch

- The FY24 Prekindergarten Expansion Grant and Maryland State Pre-K Grant have been awarded. Press Release Link: https://news.maryland.gov/msde/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2023/07/07.26.2023_Pre-K-Grants_Press-Release.pdf
- The Prekindergarten Capacity Building Grant, a new grant, was released on July 27, 2023. Link: <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/maryland-pre-k-grant-programs>