

Submitted Questions for Child Care Information Session on 10/27/22

FAQ:

Q: What are the eligibility requirements?	A: Programs must participate in Maryland EXCELS and publish a first time Quality Rating, increase their Quality Rating, or re-publish a Quality Rating 5 between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.
Q: How much will I receive?	A: You will receive the amount for Fiscal Year 23 outlined on our website .
Q: Is the bonus amount multiplied per child?	A: No, the bonus you will receive is the flat amount found in our bonus chart.
Q: Was the amount determined by capacity?	A: For child care centers, bonus amounts were determined by capacity. For Family Child Care Homes, they were only determined by Quality Rating.
Q: What is the difference between the COMAR amount and fiscal 2023?	A: COMAR amounts refer to bonuses awarded in the past. You will receive the FY23 amount, which is triple the amount of previous bonuses.
Q: When will I receive my bonus?	A: Maryland EXCELS staff are currently processing payments for programs that met requirements between July and October. You can check the General Accounting Division's website to see when your payment begins processing.
Q: How may the bonus be spent?	A: This is at the discretion of the program.
Q: Is the bonus directed to programs or individual providers?	A: Bonuses are distributed to programs.
Q: How often will bonuses be distributed?	A: A program will receive a bonus for each time that they meet the eligibility criteria. For example, a program that increases their Quality Rating twice would receive two bonuses.
Q: Are the bonuses taxable?	A: Yes. Bonuses will be received as income and will be subject to taxes.

Q: If my Quality Rating has remained the same since July 1, 2022, will I receive a bonus?	A: No. To receive a bonus, a program could publish a higher Quality Rating or re-publish a QR 5.
Q: How do I increase my Quality Rating?	A: Contacting your regional Quality Assurance Specialist is the first step to understanding your Quality Rating and getting personalized guidance for quality improvement.
Q: How long do I have to meet eligibility requirements?	A: Bonuses will continue to be distributed to programs that meet requirements between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.
Q: How do I participate in Maryland EXCELS?	A: A QAS can help you create an account and take your first steps as a Maryland EXCELS participant.
Q: How are Maryland EXCELS bonuses different from bonuses being distributed through House Bill 1100 ?	A: House Bill 1100 bonuses will be distributed to bolster staff retention. Maryland EXCELS bonuses are only for Maryland EXCELS participants and reward high-quality care and education.

Grants

- When will I receive the stabilization grant? I submitted the application on Aug 7th.
 - Given the rolling basis of grant application review, the MSDE anticipates that it will complete the processing of grants as early as the beginning of October 2022. The MSDE will complete all award processing by October 28, 2022. This means: the MSDE will have submitted all awards to the Comptroller for payment issuance on or by this date. After the MSDE sends payment information to the Comptroller for processing, providers can expect to receive funds from the state 3-4 business days for ACH (direct deposit) payment or within 30 days for checks sent via regular mail. Please note that post office delays can result in further time between payment processing and check receipt.
- Why are the forms so hard to complete for the new rebuild grant? It seems so difficult.
 - Maryland Rebuilds is a forward-looking grant initiative that envisions a child care system that works for all children, families, child care providers, and educators, especially those that have been historically underserved. The grant opportunity designed to support the state's child care system in utilizing federal funds to stabilize, strengthen, and sustain the child care system

Scholarship

- How does the student scholarship work for the provider? Does the provider still receive her tuition rate or is it discounted?
 - If the "student scholarship" is the "child care scholarship" that is issued to children determined eligible to receive a child care scholarship, then, the answer is as follows: Parents are issued a scholarship based upon the Payment Region in which the child care provider reside and the Unit of Care Authorized.
 1. If the provider's tuition rate is less than the reimbursement rate of the Child Care Scholarship, then, the scholarship will reimburse at the provider's tuition rate minus the "assigned parental co-pay."
 2. If the provider's tuition rate is higher than the reimbursement rate of the Child Care Scholarship, then, the scholarship reimburses based upon the region in which the licensed or registered child care program is located minus the "assigned parental co-pay." The parent is expected to pay the "difference" not covered by the sum of the scholarship reimbursement and the parent's "assigned copay" that is provided on the child care scholarship.

General DEC

- Is this grant for centers or individuals?
 - Non-profit organizations, Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), Local Education Agencies (LEAs), Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils (LECACs), Judy Centers, private child care providers, and public prekindergarten programs are eligible to apply for funding depending on the high-leverage strategy. Partnerships and collaborative entities are also encouraged to apply.
- What are the CDC requirements for Post Covid 19 in the Childcare facility?
 - The latest and most up-to-date CDC requirements can be found on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html>.