



Child Care Information Session

Division of Early Childhood

April 24, 2025

PRESENTED BY

Sarah Neville-Morgan, Assistant State Superintendent



Presentation Outline

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. Division of Early Childhood Updates
3. Child Care Scholarship Updates
4. Questions
5. Closing Remarks

Welcome to the April 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 questions during any presentation. We will answer the questions during the Q-and-A portion of today's session.

Prekindergarten Expansion

The Pre-K Expansion Grant application closed on April 11th.

- Applications are currently being evaluated and scored.
- Programs that will receive a grant will be notified by May 5, 2025.

Push to Pre-K sessions for the 2026-27 school year will begin in September.



pushtoprek.com

Child Care Scholarship Program Open Office Hours

**CHILD CARE
SCHOLARSHIP
OPEN OFFICE HOURS**



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
FEBRUARY 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.

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: May 20, 2025

Child Care Scholarship Program Enrollment Freeze



The Maryland State Department of Education will implement a temporary enrollment freeze for the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program, effective Thursday, **May 1, 2025**.

What does this mean?

New families applying to the CCS Program will not receive scholarships right away. Approved families will be added to a frozen status list (also known as a waitlist). They will be notified via the Family Portal or email when a scholarship becomes available.

Why Freeze New Enrollments?

A significant increase in participation has led to the program reaching its maximum budget capacity for providing scholarships. The freeze allows the program to continue supporting currently enrolled families.

# of Children that Received Scholarships January 2023*	# of Children that Received Scholarships March 2025*	+ 87% increase
21,000	45,000+	

*approximated

How Will the Freeze Affect Currently Enrolled Families?

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



Can Families Still Apply During the Freeze?



Yes, families can submit applications at any time, including on or after May 1, and these applications will be processed during the enrollment freeze.

**If the family is
determined eligible
and approved...**



**Then the family will be
added to the frozen
status list (waitlist).**

As children naturally leave the program—such as when they age out or no longer need care—more funding will become available to support new enrollments.

Then, families from the frozen status list will be invited to enroll, helping maintain a steady number of children served.

Can I Accept New Children Whose Families Have Applied for the Scholarship During the Freeze?

- Scholarship payments will not be made to providers for families on the frozen status list.
- Payments will need to be made by the family as a private-pay client.



**Please
Note!**

Scholarships **cannot** be backdated to cover care provided during the enrollment freeze.

If you provide care for a child while they are on the frozen status list, you **will not** be reimbursed for any costs incurred before the scholarship is made available in the Provider Portal.

How Should I Communicate with Families About the Freeze?

- Let families know they can visit Money4ChildCare.com for the latest updates about the CCS Program enrollment freeze.
- Families should also check their portal account regularly for information about their application or scholarship status.
- Encourage families to respond to text or email notifications immediately.
- If they have questions, they can contact CCS Central 2 for help.



Resources Available



- [Money4ChildCare.com](https://www.money4childcare.com)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Consumer Education Guide](#)

Tips

- Make sure you have active scholarships.
- Respond to text or email notifications immediately.
- Check your portal account regularly.
- Ensure that families complete attendance validation.



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