

## CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

### **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 families still apply for the scholarship during the freeze, and what happens to their application if they 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 the 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.

**Will payments for families currently receiving scholarships continue during the freeze?**

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

**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.

**Will I receive back pay for care provided to a child whose scholarship is approved after the freeze ends?**

No. 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.

**Will applications or documentation submitted during the freeze still be processed?**

Yes. Families may continue to submit CCS Program applications and documents at any time. Applications submitted during the freeze will be processed.

**How should I communicate with families about their scholarship status and what the freeze means for them?**

Let families know they can visit [money4childcare.com](https://money4childcare.com) for the latest updates about the Child Care Scholarship freeze. They 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. Providing these resources will ensure families have accurate, up-to-date information.

## **How can I support families during the freeze while protecting my business from unpaid care?**

The [Consumer Education Guide](#) on [money4childcare.com](http://money4childcare.com) provides information that supports providers and families.

Providers will continue to be paid for families who are currently enrolled and approved in the Child Care Scholarship Program. Make sure you have active scholarships, respond to text or email notifications immediately, and ensure that families complete their attendance verification. Check your portal account regularly and respond to text or email notifications immediately.

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