

OVERVIEW

Due to a lack of continued funding, effective June 30, 2024, the Maryland State Department of Education will stop accepting applications. Additionally, bonuses for credentialing or reimbursements for training (or training vouchers) will not be available after this date. Programs participating in Maryland EXCELS will be able to maintain current quality ratings and achieve increased quality ratings without current Maryland Child Care Credentials.

- In the 2024 legislation session, there was no dedicated funding for this program for FY 2025. However, legislation does state that funding will be reinstated in FY 2026.
- MSDE does not have governance over funding, but MSDE does implement the program.
- MSDE is not able to allocate federal funding toward the Maryland Child Care Credential Program and the Training Vouchers and Reimbursements Program.

CREDENTIAL PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AND BONUSES

Can I submit my renewal application in July or after June 30, 2024?

No, applications for renewing a child care credential will not be accepted after June 30, 2024.

I already submitted my renewal application but I haven't heard back. Will it be processed?

Yes, applications that are eligible for renewal will be processed if they are received on or before June 30, 2024.

My current credential expires on August 15, 2024. If I submit my renewal application 60 days prior, on June 16, 2024, which is before the funding cut-off date of June 30, 2024, will I be able to receive my bonus?

No, applications with a credential that expires in August or later, will not be processed.

TRAINING VOUCHERS OR REIMBURSEMENTS

What is the cutoff date for someone who wants to submit a training voucher or reimbursement?

June 30th. All completed and eligible requests for Training Vouchers and Reimbursements that are submitted on or before June 30, 2024 will be processed.

Will requests for vouchers or reimbursement that have already been submitted be processed?

Requests that have already been submitted will be honored if the application is complete.

MARYLAND EXCELS AND ACCREDITATION

Will Maryland EXCELS bonuses still be available?

The Maryland EXCELS program is still available for programs to participate in. Programs who publish first time ratings, higher ratings, or republish quality ratings 4 or 5 are eligible for bonuses.

How does this impact current Maryland EXCELS ratings?

There is no impact. The Child Care Credential requirement will be waived.

How can programs increase their EXCELS rating without the Credential Program?

Maryland EXCEL ratings are still able to increase. Programs must meet all of the other requirements to increase their rating.

CHILD CARE CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCCPDF)

When credentialing program ends on July 1, does this mean that the CCCPDF ends too?

The CCCPDF is not impacted by the Credential Program pause. Funds are available for the 2024-2025 school year in the CCCPDF. There was \$3,000,000 in funding allotted by the General Assembly and Governor for the Fund for FY 25.