Child Care Information Session

Maryland State Department of Education

Presented By | Division of Early Childhood

June 29, 2023

Presentation Outline

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

2. Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Updates

3. Private Pre-K Grants

4. Workforce Advance Branch Updates

5. Answers to Submitted Questions

6. Closing Remarks

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood

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

- Be sure to send your message to all participants to ensure that we can see your message.

Child Care Scholarship Updates

The fast-track Child Care Scholarship application process expedites services and makes the process easier and quicker for Maryland families.

Beginning July 1, 2023

All new Child Care Scholarship (CCS) applications will go through a fast-track process.

- The fast-track process allows children and families to apply for the CCS program and begin participating in a child care program without having to wait for MSDE to determine a final eligibility decision.

- Families complete a shortened application and are required to submit two verification documents:

  - Proof of Activity – work or attend a training or an education program

  - Proof of Residency – must be a Maryland resident

- An individual must attest to meeting all eligibility requirements for the Child Care Scholarship program.

How is the Process Different?

Approved fast-track applicants will receive a temporary 60-day scholarship.

Shortened Wait for Approval

The new Fast-Track Child Care Scholarship process shortens the wait to three (3) business days for families to get help with child care expenses for a 60-day scholarship.

Time to Complete the Full Application and Approval

Approved applicants will have 15 business days to complete the CCS application and submit the remaining documentation to apply for a 52-week scholarship.

One-Time Approval

Families can only be approved for a fast-tracked application once.

Child Care Scholarship Application

Applications will be submitted online in the Child Care Scholarship Family Portal.

- Applicants will need to register and create an account to apply.

- Applicants cannot submit an incomplete application. The required documents, proof of activity and residence, must be uploaded for an application to be submitted.

- Denied fast-track applicants will receive a letter outlining why their application was denied.

Private Provider Pre-K Grants

Grant opportunity for private child care providers to be part of the State's mixed-delivery Pre-K system.

FY24 Prekindergarten Grant Opportunities: Round 2

Round 2 is opening soon for the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant and the Maryland State Prekindergarten Grant.

This funding opportunity is designed for those who deliver prekindergarten services and participate in Maryland EXCELS.

Who may apply

- Private Providers (including center-based child care, family child care, and Head Start programs)

- Local Education Agencies (public school providers)

Customer support sessions and open office hours will be announced to provide an overview of the grant opportunities and answer questions.

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Workforce Advancement Branch Updates

A look at the Maryland Child Development Associate (CDA) Training Initiative.

Purpose, Goal, and Eligibility Requirements

The purpose of the Child Development Associate (CDA®) training is to ensure that early childhood educators and caregivers obtain required competencies to serve all children in early childhood.

The goal is to ensure that 548 early childhood educators receive training at no cost by June 30, 2024.

Eligibility:

CDA® training is available to all registered Family Child Care Providers and Early Childhood Educators working in a registered or licensed child care program in Maryland.

- The CDA® Council must receive a Signed Agreement from the early childhood educator.

- Early childhood educators must continue to work in a child care program located within the State of Maryland.

- Early childhood educators must commit to completing the CDA® credential for the duration required.

CDA Bundle Options

- 120-Hour Initial Training Bundle for <u>first-time</u> CDA® candidates who have not completed the Maryland 90-hour training

- 30-Hour Bridge Training Bundle for <u>first-time</u> CDA® candidates who have completed the Maryland 90-hour training

- 45-Hour Renewal Training Bundle for CDA® <u>renewal</u> applicants

Options for the CDA Training Bundle

120-Hour Initial Training Bundle

Includes 120 hours of training in the 8 required areas

- Overview of CDA credentialing process

- Support for the CDA exam, observation, and portfolio, and an optional CDA Portfolio Review

- An agreement to complete the training within 6 months

30-Hour Bridge Training Bundle

Includes 30 hours of training for those who have finished the Maryland 90 hours of training required to earn the CDA

- Support for the CDA exam, observation, and portfolio, and an optional CDA Portfolio Review

- An agreement to complete the training within 2 months

45-Hour Renewal Training Bundle

Includes 45 hours of setting-specific training based on the 8 required subject areas

- Overview of the CDA renewal process

- An agreement to complete the training within 3 months

Application Process

Step 1

The Early Childhood Educator completes the "CDA Service Request Form" to request funding for CDA® books and training.

Step 2

Maryland Family Network (MFN) conducts the screening process.

If approved, MFN will share the early childhood educator's information with the CDA® Council for processing.

Step 3

CDA® Council will send the early childhood educator:

- A CDA® Agreement form;

- Instructions on how to create an account through the YourCouncil portal; and

- The training bundle options.

CDA Council Portal: https://yourcouncil.org/

Application Process (Continued)

Step 4

The early childhood educator submits a signed CDA® Completion Agreement to the Council.

- Creates an account through the online portal.

- Submits ID to the Council.

- Provides the Council with the name of the selected Training Organization.

Step 5

The CDA® Council sends the early childhood educator's information to the selected Training Organization.

The Training Organization will provide the early childhood educator access to the appropriate CDA® Training Bundle.

Step 6

The early childhood educator will access the CDA® training bundle through the selected Training Organization.

Timeline

- Maryland Family Network will start accepting training requests on **July 3, 2023**.

- Deadline for applicants to apply is **November 1, 2023**.

- Training must be completed no later than **May 1, 2024**.

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Answers to Submitted Questions

Submitted Questions

Question 1

When may I apply for the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund?

Question 2

What is the difference between the Quality Incentive Grant and Provider Grant Program?

Question 3

How do I locate and register for a child care training?

Questions?

Contact Information

Branch/Office	Contact Information
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Collaboration and Program Improvement Branch	collaboration.programimprovement@maryland.gov
Office of Child Care	earlychildhood.msde@maryland.gov
Licensing Branch	licensingocc.msde@maryland.gov
Workforce Advancement Branch	workforceadvancementocc.msde@maryland.gov 1-877-355-1229
Child Care Scholarship Program	CCSCentral2@maryland.gov 1-877-227-0125
Maryland EXCELS	info@marylandexcels.org or marylandexcels.org

Closing Remarks

Dr. Shayna Cook, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Early Childhood