

What is a Child Care Scholarship?

The Child Care Scholarship (CCS) (formerly known as Child Care Subsidy, Purchase of Care or voucher) program helps eligible families in Maryland pay for high-quality child care and early education programs.

Who is eligible for a Scholarship?

- A Maryland resident who is working/employed, in an approved training program and/or attending school. For families where both parents live within the same household, both parents must meet all eligibility requirements.
- A recipient of Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or within CCS income guidelines.
- Willing to have your child immunized to Maryland state standards or provide documentation supporting Exemption from Immunization.
- Willing to provide proof that each child needing child care is a citizen of the United States or a qualified alien. (Provide a Birth Certificate for each child or documentation that certifies the child's status.) NOTE: Parents ARE NOT required to be citizens of the United States.
- Willing to provide proof of identity for all members within the household composition. (Proof of identity for the parent can be any form of a government issued document. The birth certificate or immigration status documentation can serve as proof of identity for each child in the household.)
- Willing to provide a Photo I.D. (Only required of the head of households.)

What is a Scholarship Voucher?

A "Scholarship Voucher," "Purchase of Care Voucher," or "Subsidy Voucher," are the prior names for the Child Care Scholarship.

What is the assigned Co-payment?

The amount that the family is required to pay according to federal regulations.

How much is the assigned Co-payment amount?

The assigned Co-payment amount is the amount that the family is required to pay, this amount ranges from \$0 to \$3 per week.

What happens when the Child Care Scholarship does not cover the child care provider's tuition:

The parent is responsible for paying the remaining amount of the tuition. For example:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Center Tuition: | \$300 per week |
| | -257 per week (Child Care Scholarship) |
| | <u>- 3 per week (Parent assigned Co-payment)</u> |
| | 40 per week (Parent owes for tuition) |

When are advance payments processed?

Advance payments are calculated on the last Friday of each month for the upcoming advance payment, if the provider has submitted all required forms at least 5-days before the last Friday of the month. Scholarships payments processed by the last Friday of each month will be included in the payment processing for the upcoming advance payment.

When do I get paid?

The Child Care Scholarship Program completes payment processing for advance payment by the 1st and the 15th of each month. Once the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) completes payment processing, the Maryland State Comptroller's Office releases payment through direct deposit or by paper check. Providers receiving payment by direct deposit can anticipate payment from the Comptroller's Office within 7 days after the completion of payment processing.

If a provider has a question regarding scholarship payment or the Child Care Scholarship Program, what is the best method of contact?

Complete the Provider Inquiry Link found on Money4ChildCare.com (look for the big red circle at the bottom of the page).

Next month we will continue with more information about the Child Care Scholarship, including forms, terms used and how to calculate your bi-monthly payments.