



# Child Care Subsidies

## How can I get a child care subsidy?

There are 4 ways to get a child care subsidy.

- ⇒ DCF Child Care. For families working with DCF. Talk to your DCF worker. There are no fees.
- ⇒ DTA Child Care. For families getting or transitioning from TAFDC (cash welfare) if a parent is doing a work or school activity. Talk to DTA. There are no fees and no waitlist.
- ⇒ Teen parents in a high school or HiSet program. Contact the Child Care Resource & Referral Agency (see below).
- ⇒ Income Eligible Child Care. The rules are set by the Department of Early Education and Care, EEC.

## Who qualifies for child care through EEC?

- ⇒ Your income has to be below 50% of the state median income, for example \$4,387 per month for a family of 3. The full chart is here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/state-median-income-smi-eligibility-chart-fy2020/download>
- ⇒ Your children have to be under age 13. If your child has a disability, they can be up to age 16.
- ⇒ You have to have a reason for needing the child care.

## Do I need to be working or in school to get child care?

- ⇒ Normally, you need to have one of these reasons for needing child care:
  - Working
  - Looking for work
  - Going to school
  - Being homeless
  - Having a health issue that makes it hard to care for your child
- ⇒ **Because of changes due to COVID-19, you can get full-time child care for 6 months even if you do not have one of these reasons. After that, you need one of the listed reasons other than “looking for work” to keep child care.**

## What about immigrant families?

- ⇒ A parent does not have to have immigration status or an SSN. If a child has status, that is enough.
- ⇒ Getting a child care subsidy does not affect a parent’s immigration status in any way.

## I think I qualify. What should I do?

There is a waitlist, but it is moving. Call 2-1-1 to put your name on the waitlist. You can get on the list even if you are not eligible right now.

## What do I get?

You will get a subsidy which you can use for a licensed provider you choose. It could be in a child care center or in a provider’s home. You may be offered a spot with a specific provider. If you do not want to use that provider, contact legal services.

## How long do I get child care for?

The subsidy is for 12 months if you show a reason for needing care. If you do not show a reason, it will be for 6 months. At the end, you can renew it if you show you are eligible.

## Do I have to pay?

Child care through EEC is free until December 31, 2021. After that, your fee will be based on your income. There is a new, lower fee scale. You can see it here:

<https://www.eecstrategicplanportal.org/eventlist/parent-co-pay-information-session-xkmzy-jsnr>

## Can I get transportation?

Maybe. If a child care provider offers transportation and has room on their bus, it can be added to the subsidy. COVID-19 has made it harder because of social distancing rules on buses.

## I have more questions.

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies can give you more information. You can find your agency here:

[https://eeclead.force.com/EEC\\_CCRRSearch](https://eeclead.force.com/EEC_CCRRSearch)

## Need help?

**If you live in the Greater Boston Area:**

**Call:** 617-603-1806, or

**Email:** [welfare-help@qbls.org](mailto:welfare-help@qbls.org)

**For other parts of Massachusetts, find help at:** [www.masslegalservices.org/findlegalaid](http://www.masslegalservices.org/findlegalaid)