



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

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House Ways and Means Committee and House Appropriations Committee HB 1321: Child Care Scholarship Program – Enrollment and Copays – Alterations Letter of Information

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) supports the Child Care Scholarship Program because of the positive impact on children with disabilities and their families. The Child Care Scholarship Program (CCSP) provides financial assistance with child care costs to eligible families in Maryland. Services are provided to eligible families based on established categories and priorities. Within in each category, eligible families experiencing homelessness and eligible families of children with disabilities are given first priority.

Programs must provide children with disabilities and their families an equal opportunity to participate in the child care program and services by providing reasonable modifications, accommodations, and provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services needed for effective communication.ⁱ Some of these additional accommodations may be costly. In recognition of that, **Maryland law allows for increased CCSP reimbursement rates to a child care provider for the additional costs of providing one-time or ongoing accommodations to a child with a disability – up to 15% above the traditional reimbursement rates or more if approved by MSDE.**ⁱⁱ

WHAT does this bill do?

- Codifies the current list of people who are exempt from the CCSP enrollment freeze, except for siblings of currently enrolled children.
- Requires MSDE to provide information to families about the availability of public prekindergarten, including how to apply, and help them actually apply if needed.
- Establishes new copay amounts for families for two years.

Since the early 1990s, Maryland families, children, and child care providers have dealt with several long periods of CCSP enrollment freezes and waiting list. The most recent enrollment freeze and waitlist began in May 2025, causing a hardship for many Maryland families, including those of children with disabilities. **We appreciate the Sponsor’s intent to serve more families.**

The cost of raising a child with disabilities is already higher than raising a child without disabilities. Potentially increasing copayments for families, even just for two years, would significantly impact families of children with disabilities. Any additional expense is not possible for many families. That being said, requiring MSDE to provide families with information about public prekindergarten very helpful.

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ⁱ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 (2009).

ⁱⁱ COMAR 13A.14.06.11(E)(5).