



# Child Care Scholarship Program

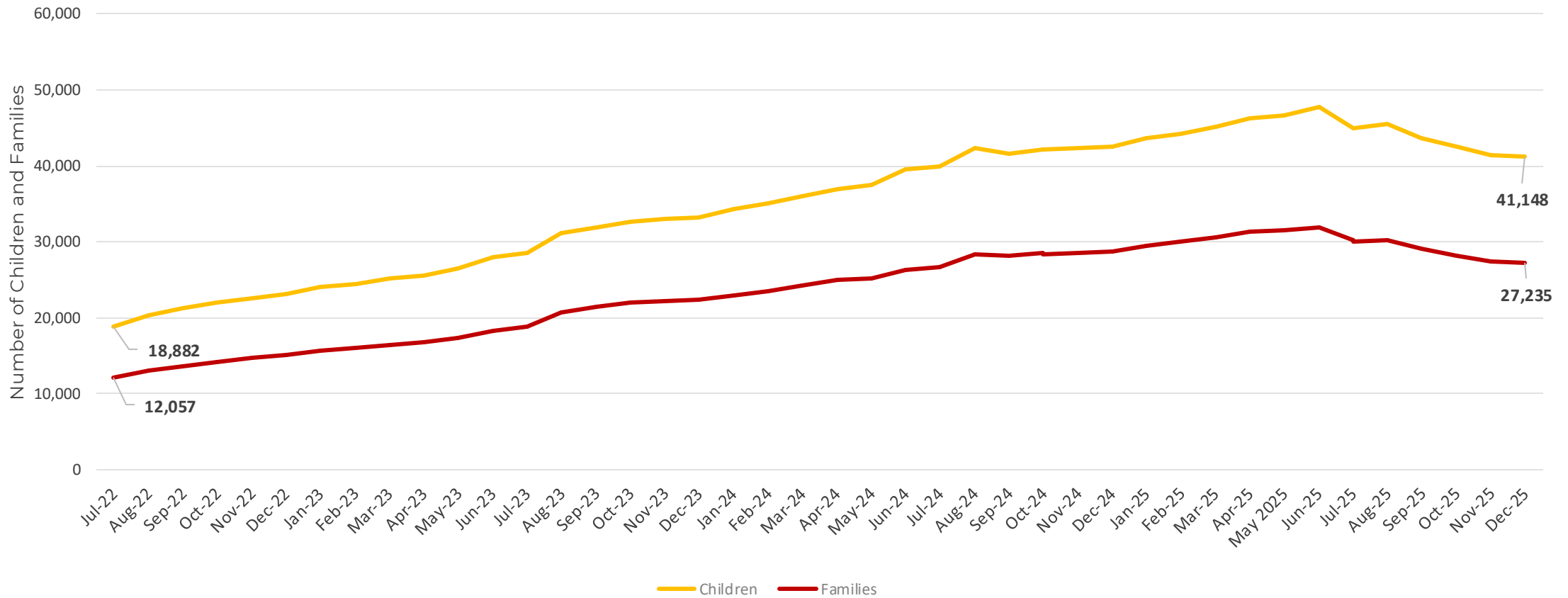
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Ways and Means Committee, Child Care Scholarship Briefing

Presented By | Maryland State Department of Education

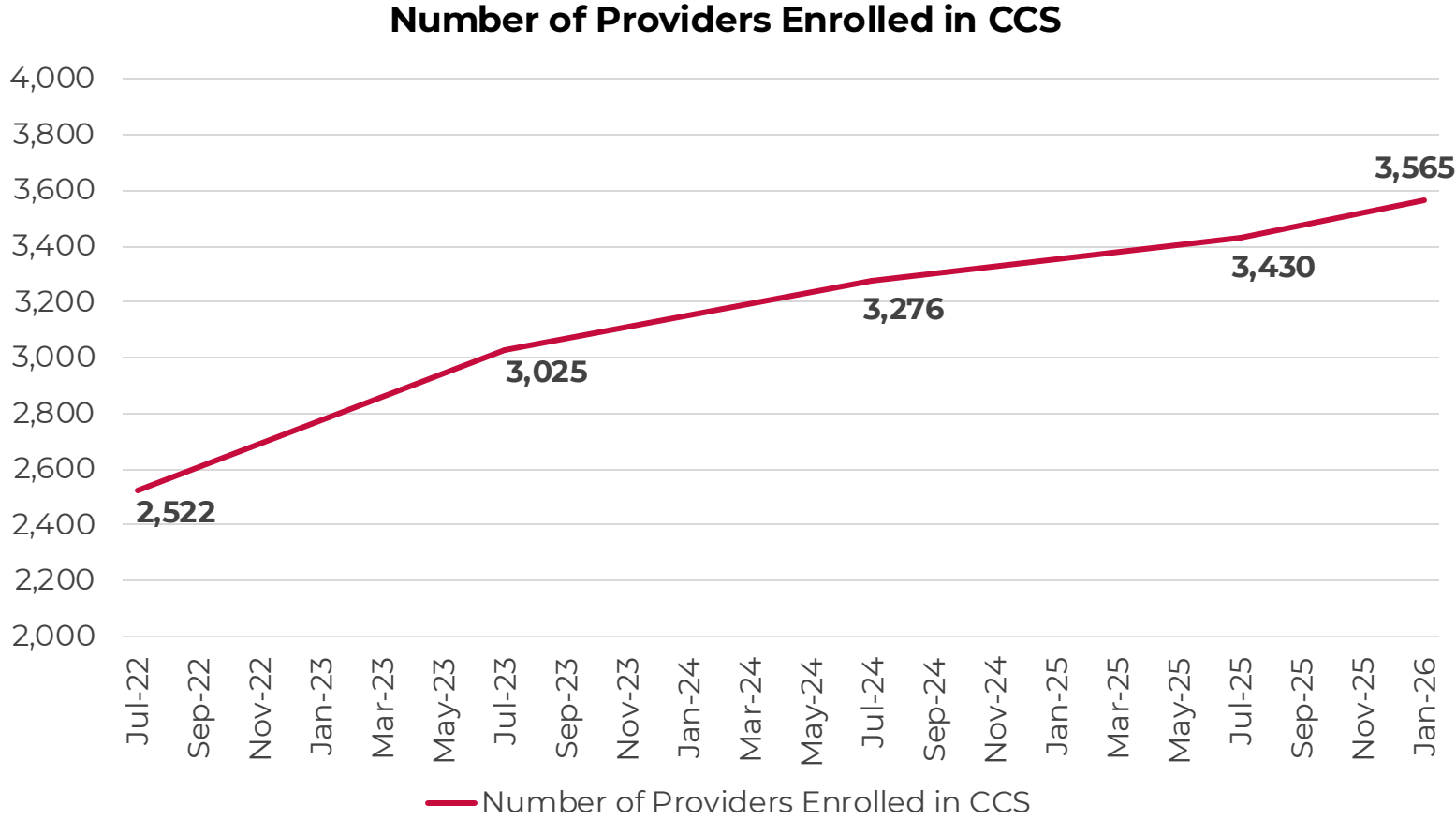
February 4, 2026

# The number of children and families receiving Child Care Scholarships (CCS) more than doubled between 2022 and 2025.



Source: MSDE internal data systems, accessed 1/26/2026.

# The number of child care providers participating in CCS has increased.



# Key Changes to CCS to Support Families and Providers.

	Income Eligibility Thresholds as a Percent of State Median Income (SMI)	Provider Payment Rate as a Percentile of Market Rate for Child Care
<b>2017</b>	50% of SMI	9 percentile
<b>Current</b>	75% of SMI	75 percentile

## What is State Median Income (SMI)?

SMI varies based on household size and is used to determine CCS eligibility.

For example, a household of four (2 adults and 2 children) has an SMI of \$154,117. At 75% of SMI, the income threshold for CCS eligibility for that family is \$115,587.

# Who is exempt from the CCS Waitlist?

Children receiving TCA, SSI, and siblings of children with existing CCS cases.

589

Children from families receiving Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) have received scholarships since the partial freeze began in May.

1,724

Children who are siblings of children with existing CCS cases have been awarded scholarships since the partial freeze began in May.

**Note:** The data are not mutually exclusive; children can potentially be enrolled in both TCA, SSI, and be a sibling of a child with an existing case simultaneously.

Source: Internal MSDE data as 01/27/2026.



# MSDE Strategic Plan Goals

1

**Every child** has access to a high-quality early childhood program.

PILLAR 1: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



**Every student** is matched with the resources they need to ensure their success.

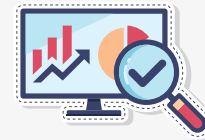
PILLAR 4: MORE RESOURCES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

4

2

**Every school** has high-quality and diverse teachers and leaders.

PILLAR 2: HIGH-QUALITY & DIVERSE TEACHERS AND LEADERS



**Every school and district** receives a rating of \_\_\_ or higher.

PILLAR 5: GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

5

3

**Every student** graduates high school college and career ready.

PILLAR 3: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS



Visit the Maryland State Department of Education website to learn more about the Strategic Plan!

[strategicplan.marylandpublicschools.org](https://strategicplan.marylandpublicschools.org)

# Enrollment in Pre-K Continues to Grow

School Year	Private Pre-K Enrollment	Public Pre-K Enrollment	Total Pre-K (Public and Private)
2018-2019	514	30,941	31,455
2019-2020	927	32,182	33,109
2020-2021	1,456	23,609	25,065
2021-2022	1,504	27,757	29,261
2022-2023	1,277	30,716	31,993
2023-2024	1,460	31,379	32,839
2024-2025	1,919	32,084	34,003
<b>2025-2026</b>	<b>2,529</b>	<b>30,538</b>	<b>33,067</b>

# Preschool Development Grant (PDG) Birth through Five

Division of Early Childhood (DEC) awarded a **one-year \$14.75 million grant** to spend in 2026 to update Maryland's early childhood needs assessment, strategic plan, and to advance a number of priorities, including:

## Align fragmented elements into a unified system

- Align ECE workforce advancement pathways.
- Develop a centralized Pre-K enrollment system.
- Expand Maryland EXCELS Find a Program tool - integrate publicly funded Pre-K programs.

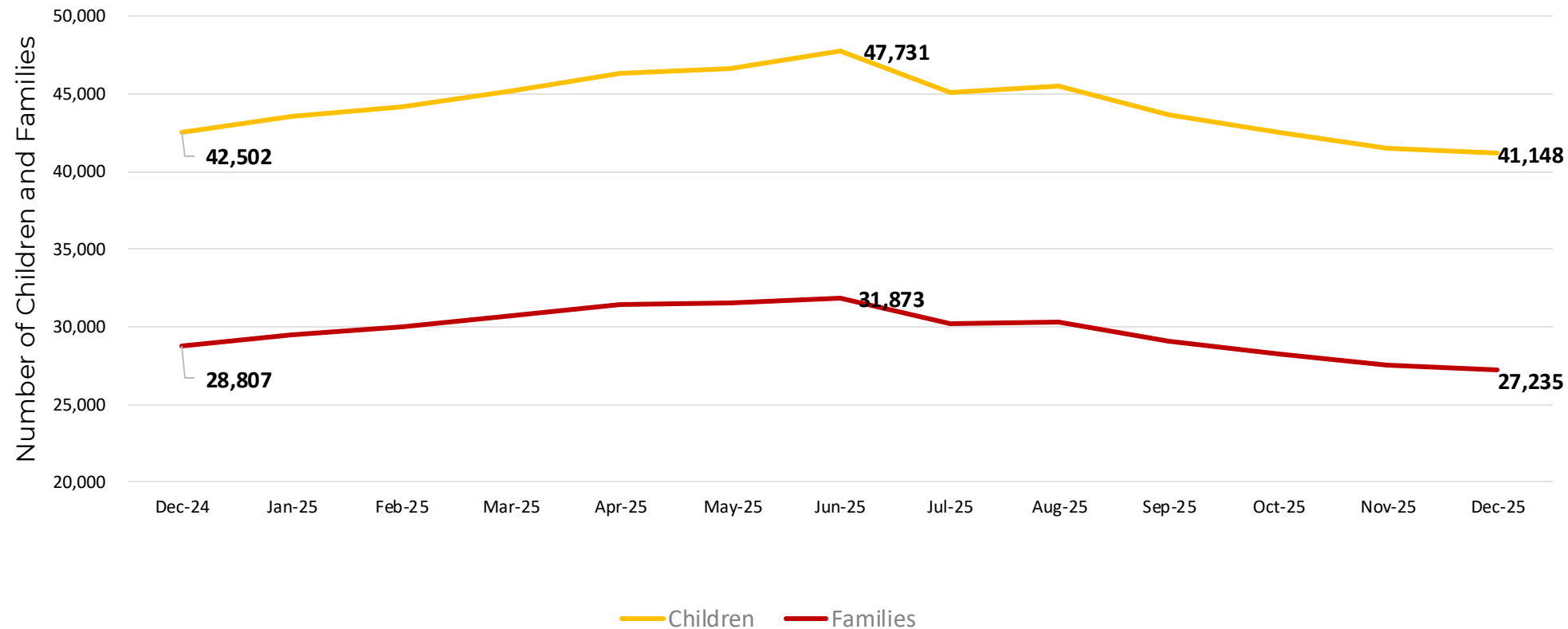
## Expand program availability and sustainability

- Transform CCRCs into regional Shared Services and Resource Hubs that connect to licensing and quality supports.
- Redesign Maryland EXCELS to emphasize instructional quality using CLASS and LENA Grow.
- Integrate HQIM into EXCELS and Pre-K through a curriculum review.

## Align and share information and data systems

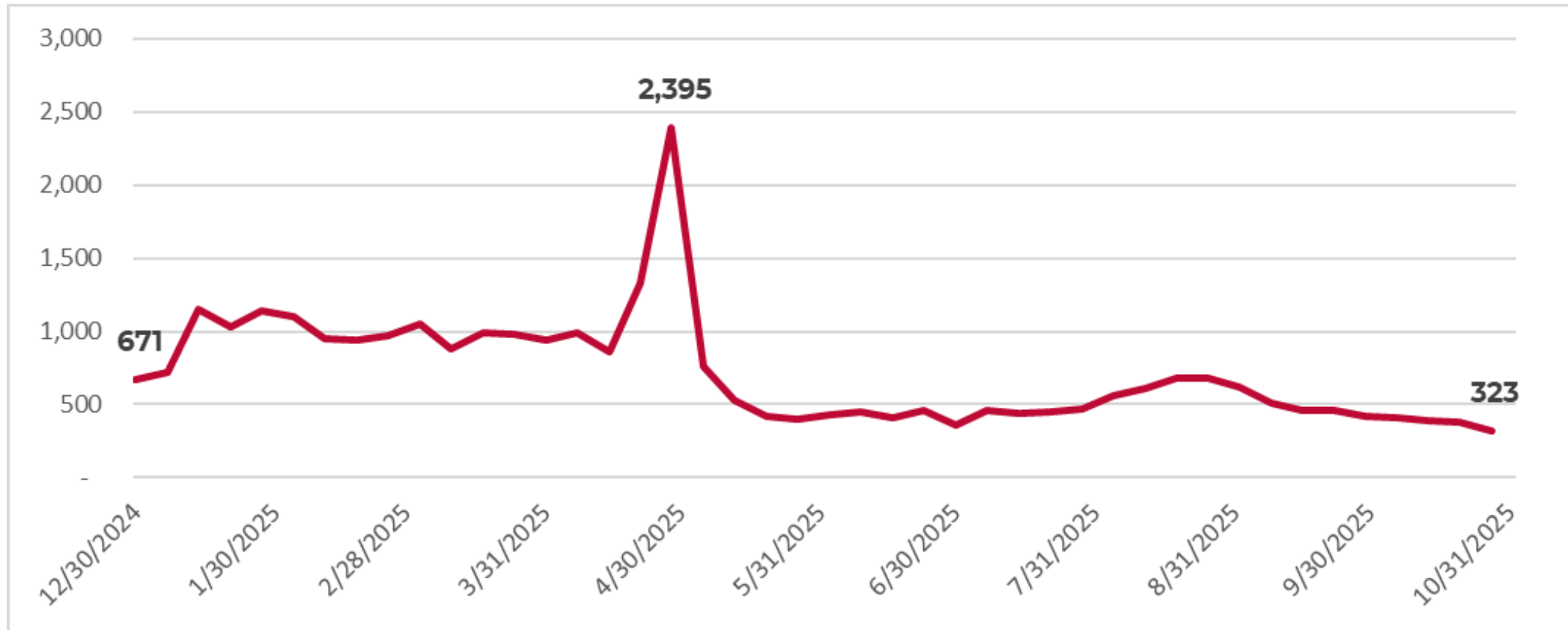
- Modernize Maryland's Criminal Justice Information System to enable child care background check portability.
  - Modernize child care licensing systems.
- Develop real-time dashboard of child care supply and demand.

# CCS enrollment increased rapidly in the first half of 2025 before declining due to the partial enrollment freeze.



Source: MSDE internal data systems, accessed 1/26/2026

# New CCS applications peaked the week before the enrollment freeze went into effect.



**Source:** MSDE internal data systems, accessed 1/26/2026.

**Note:** Total new applications include fast track applications and full applications. There may be some applications counted in both fast track and full applications; therefore, the numbers shown in this graphic represent a high-end estimate of total applications.

More than 2,000 children have received scholarships since the freeze went into effect. Most of those children are siblings of children with existing cases.

Scholarships issued since freeze	Scholarships to siblings	Percentage
Total	2,344	--
Scholarships to siblings since freeze	1,724	74%

- Out of the **2,344** new scholarships issued since the freeze in May, **1,724** (or 74%) were issued to children who were siblings of children with existing cases.
- **Note:** These data are not mutually exclusive; children can potentially be enrolled in both TCA, SSI, and be a sibling of a child with an existing case simultaneously.

# All children receiving TCA and SSI have received new scholarships since the freeze went into effect.

Scholarships issued since freeze	Number	Percentage
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>--</b>
Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)	539	30%
Social Security Insurance (SSI)	50	1%

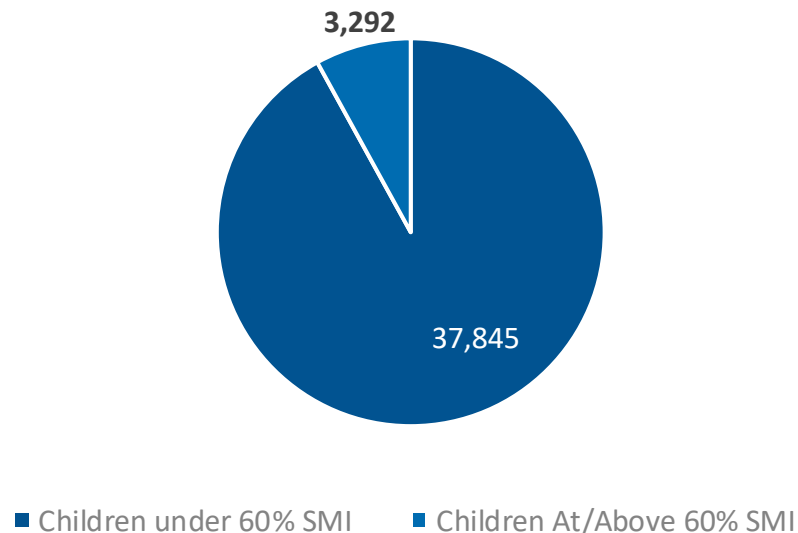
- Of the **2,344** new scholarships issued since the freeze in May, **539** (or 30%) were issued to children who receive Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA).
- Of the **2,344** new scholarships issued since the freeze in May, **50** (or 1%) were issued to children who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- **Note:** These data are not mutually exclusive; children can potentially be enrolled in both TCA and SSI programs simultaneously.

Data as of 01/27/2026.

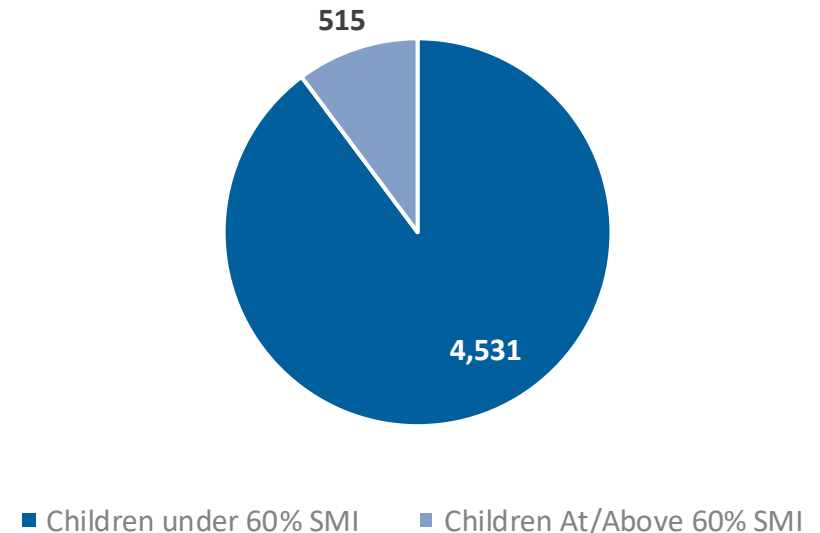
# CCS is reaching low-income families.

The majority of children receiving CCS and currently on the CCS waitlist have family income below 60% of SMI.

Children receiving CCS by SMI

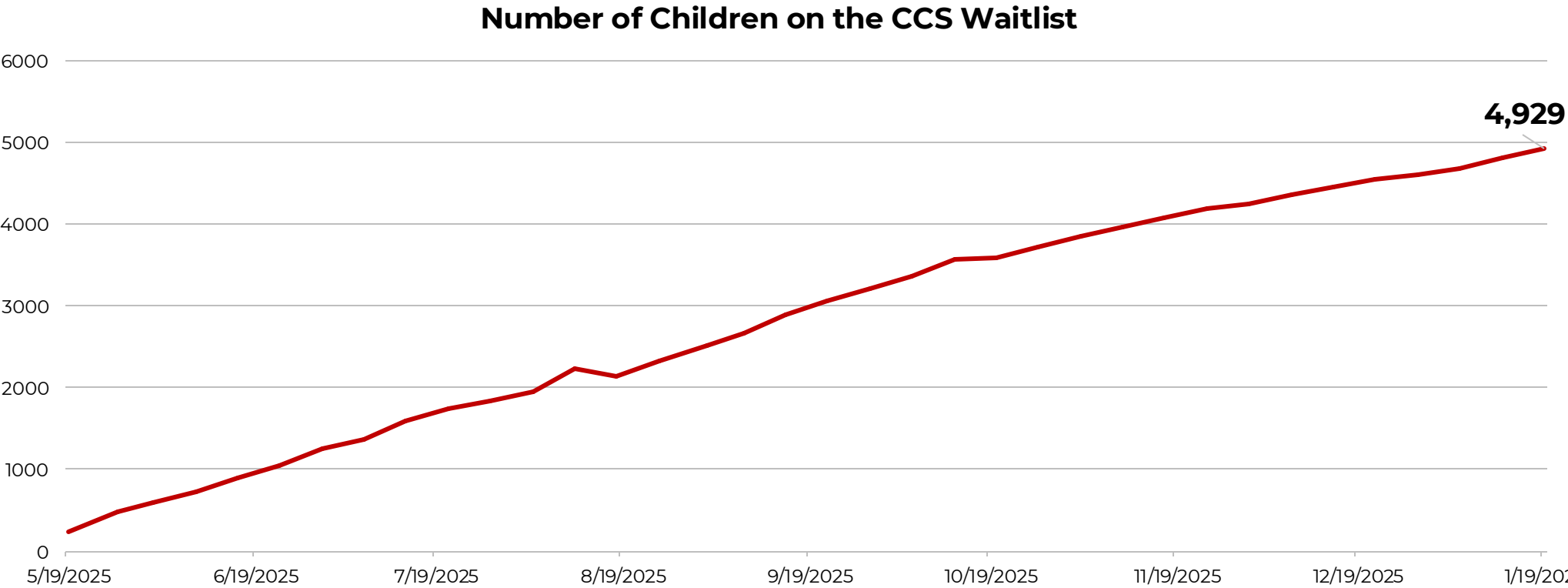


Children on CCS Waitlist by SMI



Source: MSDE internal data systems, accessed 1/26/2026, reflects January 2026 data.

# The number of children on the waitlist has steadily climbed since the freeze went into effect.



# Estimated Cost of CCS Expansion

Significant investment of new resources would be required to completely end the CCS waitlist.

**+ \$68 million per year**

To award scholarships to all of the approximately 5,000 children who are currently on the CCS waitlist.

**+ \$166.5 million per year**

To serve approximately 50,000 children per year – closer to the number of children enrolled at last summer's peak enrollment

Estimates based on internal analysis.

# MSDE is monitoring potential Federal policy changes.

We are considering our payment practices in light potential changes to Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) regulations and based on provider input (CCS Tiger Team).

## Cap on family copayments

- CCDF 2024 Final Rule requires states to limit family copayment to 7%
- CCDF 2025 NPRM proposes to repeal that requirement
- CCS copayments are already well below that threshold
- *No change needed*

## Prospective payment

- CCDF 2024 Final Rule requires provider payments to be made in advance or at beginning of service delivery
- CCDF 2025 NPRM proposes to repeal this requirement
- CCS uses a form of prospective pay
- *Possible change needed if HHS prohibits this practice*

## Enrollment-based payment

- CCDF 2024 final rule requires states to pay based on enrollment – not attendance
- CCDF 2025 NPRM proposes to repeal this requirement
- CCS pays based on enrollment and requires attendance verification for program integrity
- *Possible change needed if HHS prohibits this practice*

*Program Integrity*

# MSDE's Division of Early Childhood Envisions an Early Childhood System Where:

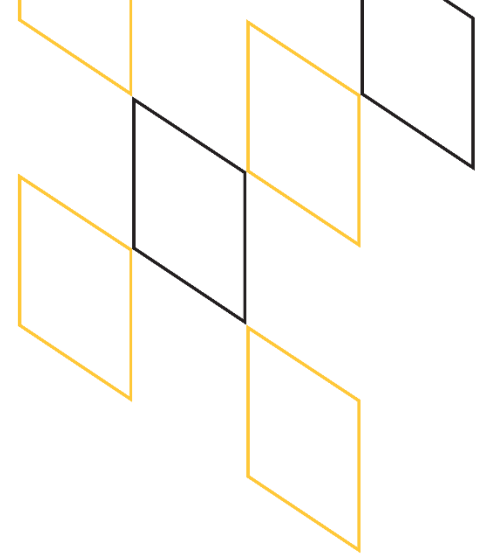
**All children** enter kindergarten ready for success in school as a result of increased access to high-quality, mixed-delivery early childhood education (ECE).

**Families** can easily learn about, apply for, and access the ECE and resources they need for their children.

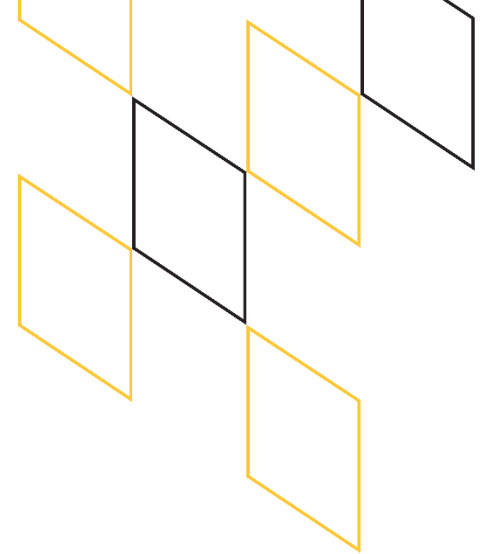
**Providers** are supported to operate stable, high-quality ECE programs with an effective and prepared educator **workforce**.

Maryland's **economy** benefits from thriving families who are supported to work, raise children, and participate in their community.

# Additional Background Information



# Key CCS Policies



## What is the State Median Income (SMI)?

- The state median income (SMI) is the midpoint of all household incomes in Maryland. This means that half of all households have income above the median income, and half have income below the median income.
- The Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program uses SMI to determine eligibility for program services. SMI is generally thought of as a better indicator for economic vulnerability than the Federal Poverty Guidelines when comparing incomes within a state because it takes the state's cost of living and other economic factors into account.
- SMI varies based on household size.
  - The SMI for a household with 1 adult and 1 child (2 people) is \$101,489.
  - The SMI for a household with 2 adults and 2 children (4 people) is \$149,249.
- The CCS Program uses the [SMI estimates](#) published by the Administration for Children and Families for use in Federal Fiscal Year 2025. Income eligibility thresholds at initial application are set at 75% of SMI. Families may continue to receive CCS benefits if their income increases if it remains below the federal maximum of 85% of SMI.

# CCS Program Income Eligibility Thresholds (at Initial Application)

Fiscal Year	Income Eligibility Thresholds as a Percent of State Median Income	Household income equivalent, for a family of 4
2016	50%	\$54,631
2017	50%	\$55,019
2018	50%	\$55,839
2019	65% of 2018 SMI	\$75,590
2020	65% of 2018 SMI	\$75,590
2021	65% of 2018 SMI	\$75,590
2022	65% of 2018 SMI	\$75,590
2023	75% of 2021 SMI	\$93,605
2024	75% of 2021 SMI	\$93,605
2025	75% of 2025 SMI	\$115,588
2026	75% of 2025 SMI	\$115,588

## What is the Market Rate? What Is a Market Rate Survey?

- The Market Rate is a measure of what child care providers are charging for child care.
  - It is a measure of what families are willing to pay for child care.
  - It is not a measure of the true cost of providing child care.
- States are required by the CCDF Final Rule to ensure that families receiving child care assistance have equal access to comparable care purchased by private-paying parents. A market rate survey (MRS) is a tool States use to achieve this program objective.
- A MRS is a study of the prices or fees child care programs typically charge, and families typically pay for a given type of child care based on:
  - Setting (e.g., center-based child care programs or family/home-based child care programs, etc.)
  - Age group (e.g., infants and toddler, school age, etc.)
  - Unit of care (e.g., per week, full-day, half-day, or hour, etc.)

[Office of Child Care](#), [Child Care Technical Assistance Network](#), [Institute for Social Research](#), [Bipartisan Policy Center](#)

# Fast Track Applications

Presumptive eligibility was encouraged, but not required, under the 2024 CCDF Final Rule. Maryland implemented presumptive eligibility, as fast track applications, for the CCS program in 2023, prior to the 2024 Final Rule going into effect.

50,000

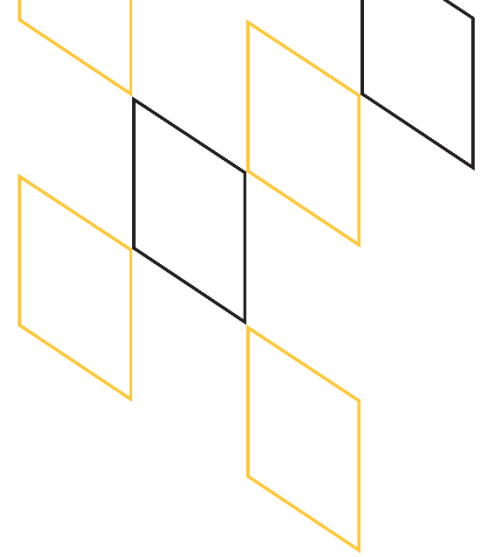
Fast track applications submitted since the policy went into effect in 2023.

22%

Of families that submitted fast track applications went on to receive a full 2-year scholarship.

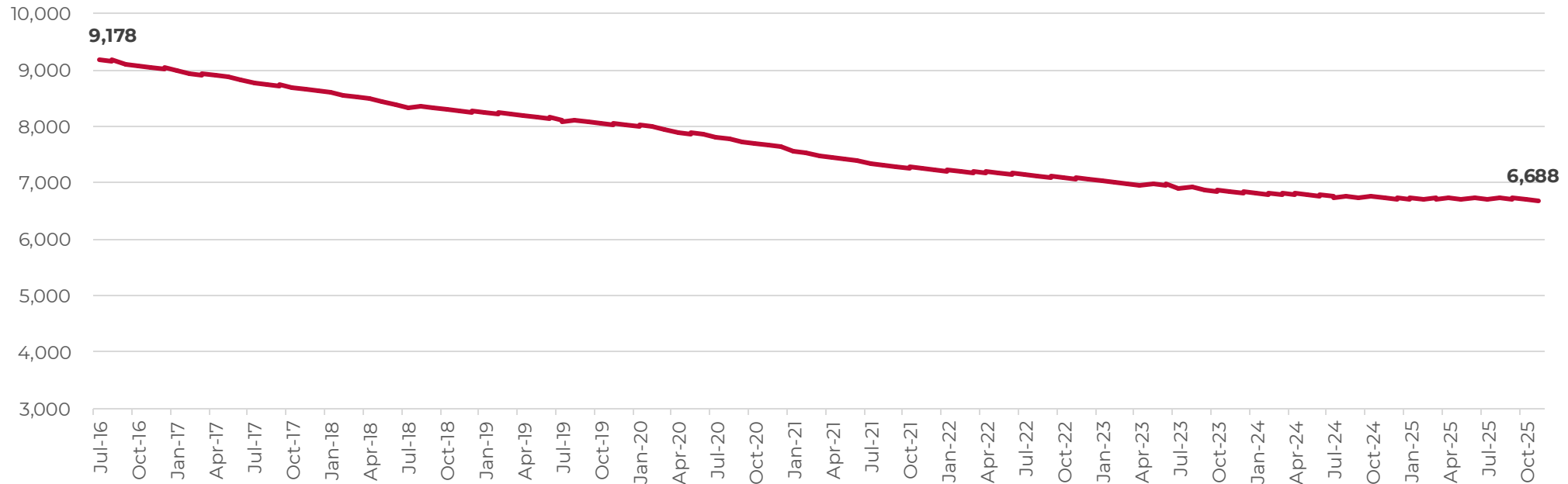
**Source:** Analysis of CCS Applications data, obtained 9/12/2025.

# Data and Trends



# The number of licensed providers in Maryland has declined over time.

Provider Count



Number of Licensed Providers	Family Child Care	Large Family Child Care	Child Care Centers	Letter of Compliance	Total
November 2025	3,892	179	2,426	191	6,688
July 2016	6,357	103	2,500	218	9,178

## The capacity of licensed providers has increased for all providers except small family child care homes.

Type of Care	Capacity July 2016	Share of Capacity July 2016	Capacity July 2025	Share of Capacity July 2025	Change in Capacity July 2016-July 2025
Licensed Child Care Center	158,342	71.4%	162,052	77.4%	+ 2.3%
Letter of Compliance	13,827	6.2%	15,181	7.3%	+ 2.3%
Small Family Child Care Home	48,356	21.8%	30,094	14.4%	- 37.8%
Large Family Child Care Home	1,183	0.5%	2,060	1.0%	+ 74.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>221,708</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>209,387</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>- 8.3%</b>

**Source:** Analysis of Active Providers by County Data, accessed on 10/5/2025 from <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/data>

## Breakdown of Children Enrolled in CCS by Age

Age Breakdown	Number	Percentage
Under 3 years of age	10,302	25%
Ages 3 to 5 years old	12,183	30%
5 years old and older	18,652	45%
Total	41,137	100%

*Note: Data from December 2025.*

- 1 in 4 children enrolled in CCS are under 3 years old.
- Almost half of children receiving CCS are school-aged children.
- 30% of children enrolled in CCS are between 3-5 years old.

**Source:** MSDE internal data systems, accessed 1/26/2026.

# Demographic Data of Children Enrolled in CCS

Race	Number	Percent
American Indian or Alaskan Native	580	1%
Asian	975	2%
Black or African American	31,426	77%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	270	1%
White	10,445	26%

Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	4,424	11%
Non - Hispanic or Latino	35,825	88%
No Response	548	1%

Pulled from MSDE CCS data base on 1/26/26, reflect January 2026.

## Demographic Data of Children Enrolled in CCS

Race by Age Group	Infant/ Toddler Number	Infant/ Toddler Percentage	Ages 2 to 5 Number	Ages 2 to 5 Percentage	School Age (5 years+) Number	School Age (5 Years+) Percentage
American Indian or Alaskan Native	66	0.2%	231	0.6%	283	0.7%
Asian	92	0.2%	432	1.1%	451	1.1%
Black or African American	3,682	9.0%	13,474	33.0%	14,273	35.5%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	24	0.1%	123	0.3%	123	0.3%
White	1,201	2.9%	4,142	10.2%	5,102	12.5%

**Source:** MSDE CCS database, accessed 1/26/26, reflects January 2026

# Demographic Data of Children Enrolled in CCS

Ethnicity by Age Group	Infant/ Toddler Number	Infant/ Toddler Percentage	Ages 2 to 5 Number	Ages 2 to 5 Percentage	School Age (5 years+) Number	School Age (5 Years+) Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	505	1.2%	1,864	4.6%	2,055	5.0%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	4,179	10.2%	15,122	37.1%	16,524	40.5%
No Response	76	0.2%	229	0.6%	243	0.6%

Source: MSDE CCS database, accessed 1/26/26, reflects January 2026

## Geographic distribution of children served by CCS

County	Number of Children Served By CCS	Percent of Children Served By CCS
Allegany County	261	11.5%
Anne Arundel County	2,260	100.0%
Baltimore City	6,333	280.2%
Baltimore County	8,605	380.8%
Calvert County	314	13.9%
Caroline County	155	6.9%
Carroll County	516	22.8%
Cecil County	545	24.1%
Charles County	1,540	68.1%
Dorchester County	258	11.4%
Frederick County	1,085	48.0%
Garrett County	86	3.8%
Harford County	1,387	61.4%

County	Number of Children Served By CCS	Percent of Children Served By CCS
Howard County	1,598	70.7%
Kent County	65	2.9%
Montgomery County	6,429	284.5%
Prince George's County	6,804	301.1%
Queen Anne's County	146	6.5%
Saint Mary's County	406	18.0%
Somerset County	198	8.8%
Talbot County	192	8.5%
Washington County	795	35.2%
Wicomico County	968	42.8%
Worcester County	202	8.9%

Source: MSDE CCS database, accessed 1/26/26.

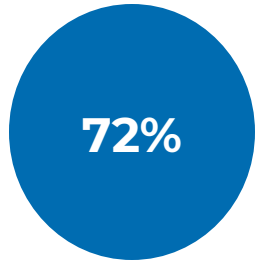
# Maryland EXCELS Participation: Licensed Providers

## Total Participation

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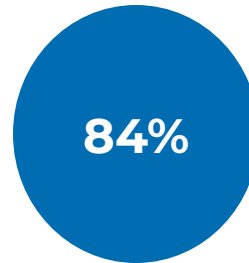
Licensed providers participating in EXCELS statewide



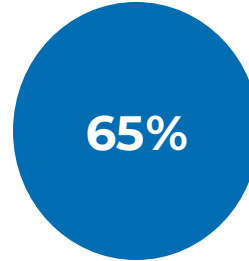
Of licensed programs participate in EXCELS

## Participation by Provider Type

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Of all licensed Child Care Centers participate



Of registered Family Child Care Homes and Large Family Child Care Homes participate

**There are 6,666 licensed or registered child care programs in Maryland.**

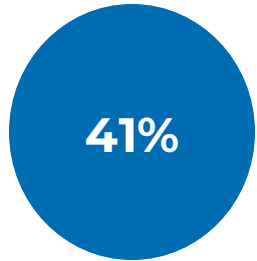
# Maryland EXCELS Participation

## Statewide

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Bonuses distributed in FY25, equaling \$6,642,800.



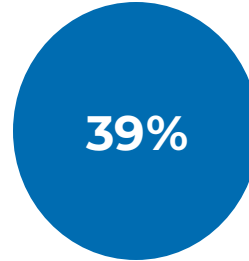
Of rated programs have a quality rating of 3, 4, or 5.

## CCS Participation

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Programs participating in CCS and Maryland EXCELS.



Of rated programs participating in CCS have a quality rating of 3, 4, or 5.

**CCS providers are required to participate in Maryland EXCELS**

## Household income of children served by CCS

Jurisdiction	0 to 10% SMI	10% to 20% SMI	20% to 30% SMI	30% to 40% SMI	40% to 50% SMI	50% to 60% SMI	60% to 70% SMI	70% to 80% SMI	80% SMI and Higher
Allegany County DSS	41	30	40	53	51	20	12	12	0
Anne Arundel County DSS	246	229	450	430	433	263	137	54	1
Baltimore City DSS	942	700	1,408	1,288	933	651	250	110	1
Baltimore County DSS	958	894	1,640	1,805	1,454	1,090	445	241	5
Calvert County DSS	16	39	53	71	47	52	22	17	1
Caroline County DSS	9	21	36	45	19	10	12	3	0
Carroll County DSS	27	53	116	97	99	60	41	17	1
Cecil County DSS	52	53	124	127	93	61	20	21	1
Charles County DSS	93	156	320	358	273	190	82	54	0
Dorchester County DSS	43	28	54	62	38	17	5	8	0
Frederick County DSS	95	97	238	211	179	142	73	29	0
Garrett County DSS	4	7	11	8	22	13	11	6	0
Harford County DSS	209	113	305	259	260	131	61	51	0
Howard County DSS	187	139	275	330	287	225	85	56	0
Kent County DSS	2	10	14	19	7	6	0	3	0
Montgomery County DSS	545	735	1,271	1,310	1,031	822	394	244	0
Prince George's County DSS	581	742	1,351	1,368	1,236	884	399	180	0
Queen Anne's County DSS	7	17	22	40	25	11	14	4	0
Saint Mary's County DSS	36	45	105	93	51	43	21	9	0
Somerset County DSS	20	37	54	42	24	18	2	1	0
Talbot County DSS	18	17	40	48	31	22	7	5	0
Washington County DSS	62	89	157	182	125	98	47	29	0
Wicomico County DSS	110	120	229	245	119	88	31	30	0
Worcester County DSS	21	21	46	39	34	20	16	3	0

Source: MSDE CCS database, accessed 1/26/2026

Division of Early Childhood

# Early Childhood Education Programs

## Patty Center Family Support Programs

**Patty Center Family Support Programs** provide multi-generational services for families with children birth to three (most centers up to age five). Services contribute to:

- Improving parenting skills
- Developing the family as a functioning unit
- Promoting growth and development of young children

**Where:** Throughout the state

**Reach:** In FY26 provide services in Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Washington, and Worcester counties

**Supports for Patty Centers:** Maryland Family Network (MFN) serves as intermediary and provides program management, fiscal monitoring, training, technical assistance, and evaluation of programs.

State funding in FY 2026: **\$9,608,315**

## Judy Center Early Learning Hubs

**Judy Center Early Learning Hubs** are comprehensive hubs where families can engage in early learning experiences with their children from prenatal stages through age 5 and access support services. Using a multigenerational approach, Judy Center Early Hubs focus on family support and child development to help whole families thrive.

**Where:** Located at elementary schools across the state.

**How:** Staff connect families with developmental screenings, learning activities, parenting classes, child development information, adult education, and more.

**Reach:**

- In the 2024-2025 school year, Judy Center Early Learning Hubs directly served 6,170 children across 86 fully operational sites.
- For children to be considered served, they must engage directly with the Judy Center Early Learning Hub at least 12 times during the grant year.

State funding in FY 2026: **\$33,330,000**

# Growing Opportunities for Family Child Care (GOFCC)

**GOFCC** aims to increase the supply and ensure the sustainability of family child care providers in areas with above-average rates of poverty and unemployment, or areas with a lack of available child care providers.

## How GOFCC supports child care:

- Administered by the Maryland Child Care Resource Network
- Selected child care resource centers (CCRCs) provide business coaching to providers
- Provides “start-up assistance” (funding) for starting a family child care program, including the cost of materials, curriculum, and renovations.

## Reach:

- FY23-FY24: 5 CCRCs participated in GOFCC and 172 participants opened licensed programs providing over 700 child care spaces statewide.
- FY25: 5 CCRCs participated in GOFCC and 63 participants opened licensed programs providing 437 child care spaces statewide.

State funding in FY 2026: **\$450,000**

# Child Care Credential

**The Child Care Credential** recognizes individual child care providers who increase their qualifications beyond the requirements of state licensing and registration regulations and CCS provider requirements. The program temporarily ended in FY 2025 and is currently being reestablished through an MOU with the University of Maryland.

## About the child care credential:

- Offers recognition of achievement based on a provider's professional development or education, years of experience, and professional activities across 6 staff credential levels, and 4 administrator levels.
- Providers are eligible to receive financial assistance for ongoing professional development through training reimbursement and training vouchers.

## Vouchers and reimbursements:

- Training reimbursements are issued upon completion of a training when an individual submits evidence of successful completion to MSDE.
- Vouchers are issued before a training takes place, and can be used to attend conferences or complete training or coursework at community colleges.

State funding in FY 2026: **\$5.7 million**

# Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF)

CCCPDF is a tuition assistance program designed to help eligible child care providers to earn a college degree towards a degree in early childhood or related field from an accredited college or university approved under the fund.

## Eligibility requirements:

- Currently an early educator
- Have one year of documented experience working with groups of children in an approved setting
- Maryland Child Care Credential of at least a level 2
- Acceptance by an accredited college or university

## Registered Apprenticeships:

CCCPDF also supports a Registered Apprenticeship Program at Hartford Community College where students can earn on-the-job training in early childhood while completing coursework and preparing for the CDA.

State funding in FY 2026: **\$3 million**

Child Care is IMPORTANT!  
The Early Years Matter!

**90%**

**of a child's brain  
development  
happens  
before age 5**



- 90% Brain development before age 5
- 10% Brain development after age 5

*Source: Harvard Center for the Developing Child*

Child Care is the workforce behind the workforce. Child Care is ESSENTIAL to the Economy, Children, Families, and Communities!

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Child Care is  
Early Childhood  
Education  
\$1 INVESTED IN  
EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
YIELDS A \$16  
RETURN

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## INCREASED

- High School Graduation
- College Matriculation
- Economic Development & Personal Income

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## DECREASED

- Special Education/Remediation
- Dependence on Social Welfare
- Crime-related Costs & Incarceration Rates

**Child Care  
Matters!  
Child Care is  
Infrastructure  
and Helps Grow  
Maryland's  
Economy**

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**The Child Care Scholarship Program is a lifeline for Maryland's Families!**

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The Child Care Scholarship Program has been frozen since May 2025, creating a waitlist with over 3,000 children and growing

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The number of families missing out is likely much bigger, as parents likely aren't applying during the freeze, this negatively impacts Maryland's economy

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Child Care Scholarship freeze destabilizes child care programs/businesses

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Child care investment delivers immediate return on investment for Maryland's economic growth

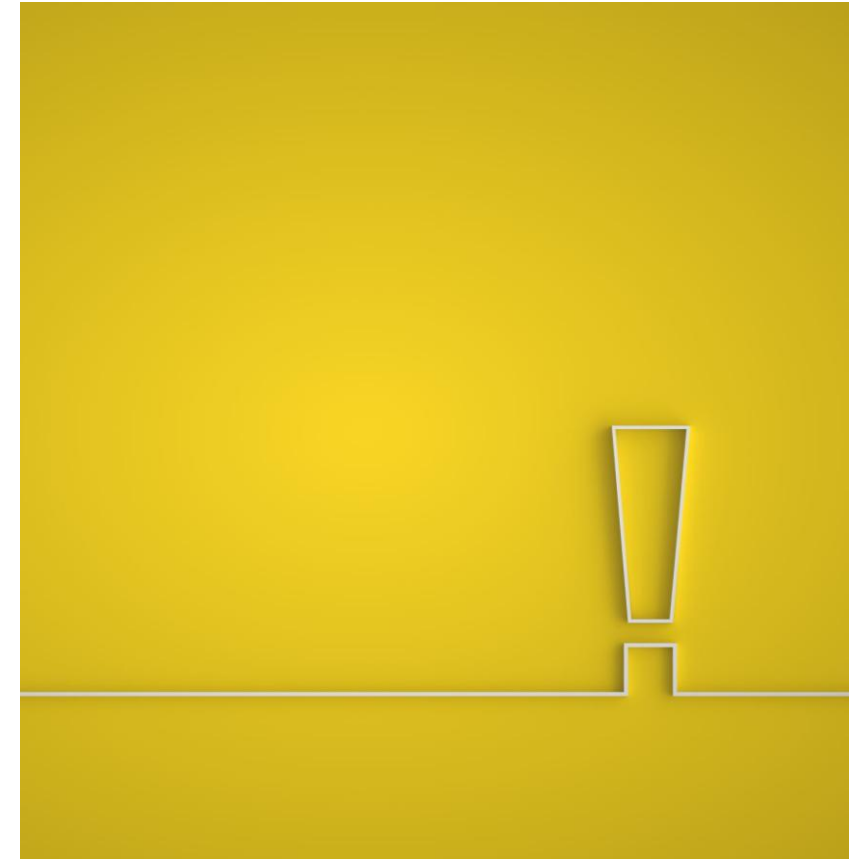
# Survey - Summary of Critical Findings

- **Enrollment Crisis:** 78.8% of providers experiencing decreased enrollment
- **Scholarship Freeze is Primary Driver:** 85% of declining providers cite CCS freeze
- **Nearly 900 Children Lost to Pre-K:** Competition from public Pre-K is significant
- **Staffing Impact:** 44% of providers made staffing cuts or adjustments
- **High Program Dependency:** 95.8% of providers accept scholarships; many families rely heavily on this support
- **Sustainability Risk:** 43% of programs face closure within 12 months if freeze continues
- **Waitlists Despite Enrollment Drop:** Two-thirds have waitlists (mainly infants/toddlers), indicating demand exists but affordability is the barrier
- **Awareness Gap:** 45% unaware of partial reopening
- **Limited Pre-K Participation:** Only 20% awarded Blueprint/Pre-K slots, meaning most face Pre-K as competition
- **Systemic Concerns:** Administrative burdens, audit issues, and need for provider respect consistently raised

# Federal recommendations

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- Child Care Scholarship market rates not increased in six years. The reimbursement rates MSDE/State Board recommended to cut 10% from 70<sup>th</sup>% to law limit of 60<sup>th</sup>% therefore any market rate will not have the financial impact intended to align with inflation and increasing costs of doing business.
- Health and Human Services define affordable child care as costing no more than 7% of a family's annual income, however Maryland far exceeds this recommendation with families often paying over 25% of income. A typical Maryland family with two children may spend over \$30,000 annually for child care.
- Child Care Scholarship Program administrative issues with advance payment model.



# Budget Constraints- What Can We Do?

- **Dedicated revenue stream - CCSP only serves 15% of eligible families.- Maryland Child Care is declining –leaving less options for families and lots of lost revenue-Maryland can't afford not to figure this out.**
- **Convene a state workgroup, commission, or affordability task force to develop strategies, study other states, provide a vision and identify sustainable revenue streams to fund Child Care Scholarship Program. Research states like Vermont, Connecticut, Montana, New Mexico to create recommendations on sustainable funding streams and innovative approaches to child care as our working families and our economy depends on child care!**
- **Support and pass legislation that support smart regulations to help small businesses thrive, support proven successful workforce programs, support alternative pathways to prove competencies, support equitable expansion of mixed delivery of public PreK.**
- **Continue to improve early care and education systems building on successes of the Ways and Means Committee, House and Senate around advocacy/legislation (HB 1441, HB 1475, HB 477, HB 859, HB 389/SB 516 property tax enable, HB 785, and consider revenue initiatives such as HB 1469 (For Our Kids Act)**
- **Advocate! Just because there isn't available funding today doesn't mean planning and policy development can't continue. We are here to engage, learn, and reimagine together through effective strategies, policies, initiatives, and move advocacy into action steps.**

Child Care  
Practitioner Voices:  
The Importance of  
Child Care  
Scholarship and  
Support

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