



## GETTING HELP WITH CHILD CARE

In Pennsylvania there are programs to help pay for the cost of child care. The following information explains how to locate a child care program in your area and how to get assistance paying for child care.

### How do I get help finding child care?

No matter how you are paying for child care, your **county Child Care Information Services (CCIS)** can help you find a child care provider. For information, call your county office listed below:

Bucks County	Philadelphia
70 West Oakland Avenue, Suite 102 Doylestown, PA 18901 215-348-1283 Toll-Free: 1-800-371-2109 www.BucksChildCare.com  <i>Satellite Office - Call first for an appointment</i> 1200 New Rodgers Road Bristol, PA 19007 Office Hours: Tu & Fri 9:00-4:00	<b>Center City and South Philadelphia</b> 1500 South Columbus Boulevard., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Philadelphia, PA 19147 215-271-0433 Zip Codes: 19102, 19103, 19106, 19107, 19112, 19145, 19146, 19147, 19148 <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <b>North</b> 642 North Broad Street, Suite 601 Philadelphia, PA 19130 215-763-0100 Zip Codes: 19121, 19122, 19123, 19125, 19130, 19132, 19133 <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <b>Northeast</b> 1926 Grant Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19115 215-333-1560 Zip Codes: 19111, 19114, 19115, 19116, 19120, 19124, 19134, 19135, 19136, 19137, 19149, 19152, 19154 <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <b>Northwest</b> 6350 Greene Street, Ground Floor Office Suite Philadelphia, PA 19144 215-842-4820 Toll-Free: 1-888-461-5437 Zip Codes: 19118, 19119, 19126, 19127, 19128, 19129, 19138, 19140, 19141, 19144, 19150 <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <b>West and Southwest</b> 5548 Chestnut Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Philadelphia, PA 19131 215-382-4762 Zip Codes: 19104, 19131, 19139, 19142, 19143, 19151, 19153
Chester County	
601 Westtown Road, Suite 310 West Chester, PA 19382 610-344-5717 Toll-Free: 1-800-870-2323	
Delaware County	
110 South 69 <sup>th</sup> Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Upper Darby, PA 19082 484-461-6400 Toll-Free: 1-800-831-3117	
Montgomery County	
1430 Dekalb Street, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor Norristown, PA 19404 610-278-3707 Toll Free: 1-800-281-1116	

*Turn over for more information on help with child care!*

## Child Care and Early Learning Choices

### ***Head Start and Early Head Start***

Head Start and Early Head Start provide free, comprehensive child development and family support services for low-income families. To be eligible, families must have an annual income of less than 100% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. This means a family of four cannot earn more than \$23,050 in a year. See the last page for a table for different family sizes.

Head Start is a pre-school program serving three- and four-year-old children. Early Head Start serves children from birth to three years old. Head Start programs are usually part-day (4 to 6 hours a day) and part-year (in session during the school year).

### ***Pre-K Counts***

Pre-K Counts provides free half and full-day pre-kindergarten in either a school, child care center, Head Start, or licensed nursery school program. Pre-K Counts is for children from age 3 until they enter kindergarten and are at risk of school failure either because of low-income, language (English is not their first language), or special needs.

You can call or visit your county CCIS for a list of Head Start and Pre-K Counts programs in your community and find out how to enroll your child. You can find your county CCIS listed on the previous page.

## Paying for Child Care

### **If I am receiving public benefits, how can I get help with paying for child care?**

Parents applying for cash assistance (TANF) or food stamps may be eligible for child care subsidy from the County Assistance Office (CAO) while working or attending an approved training or education program. An Agreement of Mutual Responsibility (AMR) must be completed. Your AMR is a plan of activities you agree to do to get a job. It is also a plan for how DPW will help you get the services you need to find a job, including paying for child care. Make sure your need for child care is included in your AMR. Your AMR can be changed at anytime and updated if you have additional children.

### **My family receives food stamps, but no cash assistance.**

#### **Can I get help paying for child care?**

If you are receiving food stamps, but **no cash assistance** and meet the requirements of the Employment and Training Program (ETP), you may be eligible for child care assistance while going to an approved school or training program. The child care assistance must be written into your ETP. When you finish your ETP, and find a job, but you are still receiving food stamps, you will no longer be eligible to receive child care benefits under the CAO. You will have to apply for child care benefits with your CCIS office. You can receive child care benefits while working and receiving food stamps but these benefits are provided through the CCIS and not the CAO.

**See the next page for information about Child Care Subsidy.**

# What is the Child Care Subsidy Program?

The Child Care Subsidy Program helps low-income working families pay for child care. The program serves children from birth until the day before the child's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. Disabled children between the ages of 13 and 19 may be eligible for the child care subsidy if the child is unable to care for him or herself.

The Child Care Subsidy Program is managed by your **county CCIS**. The CCIS pays part of the weekly child care fee which is the subsidy payment. The parent pays a portion of the weekly child care fee which is the co-payment. The subsidy and co-payment go directly to the child care provider.

## **Is my family eligible for a child care subsidy?**

You may be eligible for a child care subsidy if you meet the income and work or education requirements.

***See income eligibility chart on last page.***

To meet the work and education requirements you must:

- Work at least 20 hours a week, or
- Work at least 10 hours per week and go to an approved education and training program for a minimum of 10 hours per week, or
- Attend high school full time if you are under age 22, or
- Attend high school or another approved educational program if you are under age 18, or
- Have a job that will start within 30 days of the application for subsidized child care.

## **How much is my co-payment?**

The co-payment is based on family income and family size. A family has only one co-payment no matter how many children are in child care.

## **What types of child care programs are covered?**

An eligible child care provider could be a child care center, a small family day care home, a group day care home or even a relative or neighbor who has met certain state requirements. The co-payment is the same no matter what type of child care the parent chooses.

## **How can I apply for a child care subsidy?**

You can call or visit your county CCIS to request an application and to ask for further information. You may also apply for subsidy on COMPASS: <https://www.humanservices.state.pa.us/compass>. You can find a listing of your county CCIS agency listed on the first page.

## **When will my subsidized child care begin?**

If you meet the guidelines for the subsidy, CCIS will send you a Child Care Eligible Notice. If funds are available, subsidized payments begin the date that your application was received in the CCIS office. Within 30 days you need to have a face-to-face interview with the CCIS worker, select an eligible child care program and enroll your child. If funds are not available, your name will be placed on a waiting list and the CCIS will send you a letter when they become available.

## **What else should I know about subsidy?**

If your cash assistance stopped within the last 6 months, you are eligible for continued child care assistance as long as you meet the 20 hour-a-week work requirement. The CCIS will be notified electronically when your cash assistance closed and will contact you. You will also receive information from your CAO to contact your local CCIS office. **It is very important when your cash benefits end that you contact your local CCIS!**

# Am I Eligible?

## CCIS CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

**2012 Child Care Eligibility Calculations**  
**Updated based on May 7, 2012 Co-Payment Chart\***

### By YEARLY Income

Size of Family	Head Start Up to 100% of Poverty Level	Weekly Co-pay if you make just under this amount	Subsidized Child Care Maximum Annual earnings Up to 200% at entry	Weekly Co-pay if you make just under this amount	Subsidized Child Care Maximum allowable earnings Up to 235% at exit	Weekly Co-pay maximum
2	\$15,130	\$20	\$30,260	\$57	\$35,556	\$74
3	\$19,090	\$26	\$38,180	\$73	\$44,862	\$90
4	\$23,050	\$32	\$46,100	\$87	\$54,168	\$111
5	\$27,010	\$38	\$54,020	\$103	\$63,474	\$132
6	\$30,970	\$44	\$61,940	\$119	\$72,780	\$149
7	\$34,930	\$50	\$69,860	\$134	\$82,086	\$170
8	\$38,890	\$56	\$77,780	\$149	\$91,392	\$191

\*This chart shows only a sample of earnings and co-pay amounts.  
 Your CCIS office will calculate the exact amount for your income and family size.