**Child Care & Development Block Grant in Delaware**

The Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the primary federal grant program that allows states to provide child care assistance to low-income working families with children under age 13. The majority of these funds serve children 6 years or younger, with the remainder supporting care for older children during out-of-school time.

Subsidies help remove barriers to affordable, high-quality child care, whether in center- or home-based settings. They give working parents the ability to access quality care and choose the type of care that works best for them. The majority of funds go directly to providing early learning experiences, but states can also use the funding to:

- Recruit and retain a well-qualified, fairly compensated, and effective workforce
- Support continuous quality improvement
- Meet the child care needs of families working nontraditional hours

### How CCDBG Funds Flow

Using an established federal formula, states, territories, and tribal entities receive grant awards from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

- **Parents**
  - Families can use vouchers to help cover the cost of care if a provider/program agrees to accept them.

- **Providers**
  - Grants and contracts represent agreements between the subsidy program and child care providers to designate slots for subsidy-eligible children.

In Delaware, 40% of children ages 0-6 are eligible for a CCDBG subsidy under federal rules on average each month. However, of these children 85% are not served due to insufficient federal funding.

### Income Eligibility

Given CCDBG is a federal block grant, state Lead Agencies have the flexibility to design their own subsidy programs in compliance with established eligibility and quality requirements and may choose to set their own additional requirements.

The Lead Agency in Delaware is the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services.

Families that meet income eligibility and work/job training/education requirements can apply to the Lead Agency for a subsidy. Many families are required to pay a copay, but states may waive those requirements. Families who receive a subsidy may choose any participating child care provider, including center-based care (including faith-based programs), home-based care, and in-home care.

In Delaware, eligibility is capped at 51% of State Median Income (SMI). This means that a family of 3 is eligible for a subsidy if they make: $3,204 or less per month ($38,448 per year).

### CCDBG by the Numbers in Delaware

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>64,343</td>
<td>Children Under 6³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68%</td>
<td>Population Under 6 with All Parents in the Workforce²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,654</td>
<td>Children Ages 0-6 Served by CCDBG and Mandatory Funds³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>751</td>
<td>Providers Accepting CCDBG Subsidies⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63%</td>
<td>Children Currently Served by CCDBG Who Are Under the Age of 6⁵</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,425,052</td>
<td>CCDBG and Mandatory Funds⁶</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,595,566</td>
<td>CCDBG State Match⁷</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$145,990,839</td>
<td>CCDBG COVID-Relief Allocations: CARES⁸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$0</td>
<td>TANF Transferred to CCDBG¹¹</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Data from the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services.
2. Calculated using SMI data.
3. Data from the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Mandatory Funds.
4. Data from the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services.
5. Data from the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services.
6. Data from the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and Mandatory Funds.
7. Data from the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services.
10. Data from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) CCDF and Stabilization Funds.
11. Data from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program.
Throughout the pandemic, there was strong bipartisan support for federal relief funding to keep the child care sector afloat. CCDBG was the primary mechanism for providing this relief to child care providers and ensuring access to child care for thousands of working families through CARES, CRRSA, and ARPA.

As of December 31, 2022:

- 855 child care programs in Delaware received American Rescue Plan Stabilization support, impacting up to 44,500 children.
- Providers in 100% of Delaware counties have received funds, including:
  - Most common use of funds: Personnel costs and keeping programs staffed.

In Delaware, providers are reimbursed at a lower rate than recommended by the federal government. Low payment rates make it difficult for providers to stay financially afloat and provide high-quality learning experiences. They also force low- and middle-income working families to pay higher child care fees to compensate.

Federal pandemic relief funding, which buttressed an already struggling child care market, expires in September 2024. As this temporary funding expires, Congress must come together to strengthen and invest in our federal early learning and care programs so families can access the reliable, high-quality, affordable child care they depend on.

**Provider Reimbursements**

ACF recommends that Lead Agencies set provider reimbursement rates at the 75th percentile of the market rate. This is the price the lowest 75% of child care programs included in the market rate survey reported charging.

However, market rates often do not reflect the actual costs of providing high-quality care as programs must charge what families can afford in order to fill slots. Therefore, there is a significant gap between how much providers are reimbursed and how much it costs to provide care. Find answers to the most frequently asked questions about provider reimbursement rates here.

**American Rescue Plan Act Spending Spotlight**

Funds have been used to support and stabilize the workforce through wage bonuses. Early childhood workers were eligible to receive a one-time bonus of $1,000.

Federal pandemic relief funding, which buttressed an already struggling child care market, expires in September 2024. As this temporary funding expires, Congress must come together to strengthen and invest in our federal early learning and care programs so families can access the reliable, high-quality, affordable child care they depend on.

**Provider Reimbursement Rates in Delaware**

In percentiles of market rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Center-Based</th>
<th>Home-Based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Delaware, providers are reimbursed at a lower rate than recommended by the federal government. Low payment rates make it difficult for providers to stay financially afloat and provide high-quality learning experiences. They also force low- and middle-income working families to pay higher child care fees to compensate.**

**Families that don’t receive subsidies pay significantly higher costs.**

For instance, center-based infant care ranges in price from:

- $13 out-of-pocket per month
- $1,725 out-of-pocket per month

Families with very low incomes, children experiencing homelessness, and families receiving TANF are exempt from copayments.

**Conditions that qualify families for CCDBG subsidies:**

1. Families with very low incomes
2. Children experiencing homelessness
3. Families receiving TANF

**In Delaware, a family receiving a CCDBG subsidy pays between $13 and $1,725 out-of-pocket per month.**

**Families that don’t receive subsidies pay significantly higher costs.**

For instance, center-based infant care ranges in price from:

- $866 per month in Sussex County
- $1,220 per month in New Castle County

Find more information on child care prices by age and care setting in your state or county here.

**American Rescue Plan Act Spending Spotlight**

Funds have been used to support and stabilize the workforce through wage bonuses. Early childhood workers were eligible to receive a one-time bonus of $1,000.

Federal pandemic relief funding, which buttressed an already struggling child care market, expires in September 2024. As this temporary funding expires, Congress must come together to strengthen and invest in our federal early learning and care programs so families can access the reliable, high-quality, affordable child care they depend on.

**Provider Reimbursement Rates in Delaware**

In percentiles of market rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Center-Based</th>
<th>Home-Based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Delaware, providers are reimbursed at a lower rate than recommended by the federal government. Low payment rates make it difficult for providers to stay financially afloat and provide high-quality learning experiences. They also force low- and middle-income working families to pay higher child care fees to compensate.**

**In Delaware, a family receiving a CCDBG subsidy pays between $13 and $1,725 out-of-pocket per month.**

**Families that don’t receive subsidies pay significantly higher costs.**

For instance, center-based infant care ranges in price from:

- $866 per month in Sussex County
- $1,220 per month in New Castle County

Find more information on child care prices by age and care setting in your state or county here.

**American Rescue Plan Act Spending Spotlight**

Funds have been used to support and stabilize the workforce through wage bonuses. Early childhood workers were eligible to receive a one-time bonus of $1,000.

Federal pandemic relief funding, which buttressed an already struggling child care market, expires in September 2024. As this temporary funding expires, Congress must come together to strengthen and invest in our federal early learning and care programs so families can access the reliable, high-quality, affordable child care they depend on.

**Provider Reimbursement Rates in Delaware**

In percentiles of market rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Center-Based</th>
<th>Home-Based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Delaware, providers are reimbursed at a lower rate than recommended by the federal government. Low payment rates make it difficult for providers to stay financially afloat and provide high-quality learning experiences. They also force low- and middle-income working families to pay higher child care fees to compensate.**

**In Delaware, a family receiving a CCDBG subsidy pays between $13 and $1,725 out-of-pocket per month.**

**Families that don’t receive subsidies pay significantly higher costs.**

For instance, center-based infant care ranges in price from:

- $866 per month in Sussex County
- $1,220 per month in New Castle County

Find more information on child care prices by age and care setting in your state or county here.

**American Rescue Plan Act Spending Spotlight**

Funds have been used to support and stabilize the workforce through wage bonuses. Early childhood workers were eligible to receive a one-time bonus of $1,000.

Federal pandemic relief funding, which buttressed an already struggling child care market, expires in September 2024. As this temporary funding expires, Congress must come together to strengthen and invest in our federal early learning and care programs so families can access the reliable, high-quality, affordable child care they depend on.

**Provider Reimbursement Rates in Delaware**

In percentiles of market rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Center-Based</th>
<th>Home-Based</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infant</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toddler</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>$866 in Sussex County per month</td>
<td>$1,220 in New Castle County per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In Delaware, providers are reimbursed at a lower rate than recommended by the federal government. Low payment rates make it difficult for providers to stay financially afloat and provide high-quality learning experiences. They also force low- and middle-income working families to pay higher child care fees to compensate.**

**In Delaware, a family receiving a CCDBG subsidy pays between $13 and $1,725 out-of-pocket per month.**

**Families that don’t receive subsidies pay significantly higher costs.**

For instance, center-based infant care ranges in price from:

- $866 per month in Sussex County
- $1,220 per month in New Castle County

Find more information on child care prices by age and care setting in your state or county here.

**American Rescue Plan Act Spending Spotlight**

Funds have been used to support and stabilize the workforce through wage bonuses. Early childhood workers were eligible to receive a one-time bonus of $1,000.

Federal pandemic relief funding, which buttressed an already struggling child care market, expires in September 2024. As this temporary funding expires, Congress must come together to strengthen and invest in our federal early learning and care programs so families can access the reliable, high-quality, affordable child care they depend on.