

It's an Equity Issue: Rhode Island Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Rates Are too Low

Rhode Island families need access to affordable, high-quality child care so that parents can work and children can thrive. However, CCAP rates, which subsidize the cost of child care for RI families with low- incomes, are too low and do not meet federal standards. Due to this, RI children from low income families cannot access the same level of care that children from high income families can.

CCAP RATES ARE BASED ON QUALITY LEVELS

- A Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), **BrightStars**, measures the quality of child care programs.
- BrightStars measures quality indicators (staff qualifications, learning environment, family engagement, & staff-child interactions) to create an overall rating on a scale of 1-5 stars. **5-stars is the highest level of quality.**
- **BrightStars ratings determine** what **CCAP reimbursement rate** a child care program receives.
- **5-star** programs receive the **highest** reimbursement rate, and **1-star** programs receive the **lowest**.



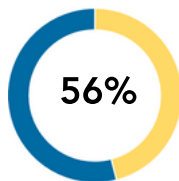
CURRENT CCAP RATES FALL SHORT OF THE TRUE COST OF CARE

2 Star child care center, Providence			
Age	Cost of Care	Current CCAP Rates	Proposed CCAP Rates
Infant	\$304.21	\$203.32	\$226.83
Toddler	\$242.94	\$203.32	\$226.83
Pre-School	\$181.11	\$169.80	\$191.25
School Age	\$179.13	\$146.26	\$151.47

- On average, **the current CCAP rates** leave this program **\$46.17 short per child per week**
- Without enough money to meet costs, centers often turn away children with CCAP subsidies
- On average, the **proposed rates would shrink** the current cost **gap by \$18.42 per child per week**
- Shrinking the cost gap is essential to increase the enrollment of children with CCAP subsidies

MANY RI FAMILIES CANNOT ACCESS 4 AND 5 STAR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

56% of all RI children enrolled in BrightStars rated programs are in **1 or 2 star quality programs**



71% of all children receiving a CCAP subsidy in BrightStars rated programs are in **1 or 2 star quality programs**

