

RI Child Care is Essential Act

H-5672 (Diaz) & S-378 (Cano)



Right from the
Start

Why Child Care? Families need access to affordable, high-quality child care so parents can work and their children can grow and thrive through nurturing relationships with educators who provide enriching learning experiences.

What is the Child Care Assistance Program? The Rhode Island Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is managed by the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS). Eligible low-income families are approved for a certificate that they can use to enroll their children from birth through age 12 at any licensed child care program (or license exempt) that accepts the certificate.

How do child care providers get paid? DHS pays child care programs after care is delivered. Most families are assessed a copayment which they must pay to the provider, reducing the amount DHS pays the provider. Reimbursement rates have been set by the General Assembly and are well below the federal equal access standard for almost all quality levels. In June 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor implemented rate increases through Executive Order.

How is the Child Care Assistance Program funded? In FY 21, CCAP was funded with \$9 million in state general revenue dollars and \$57.6 million in federal funds. State funding for child care is down \$47.2 million from 2005. Governor McKee has proposed to increase state funding by \$6 million. The American Rescue Plan will provide the state with \$93 million in new federal funding for child care (\$36 million as a permanent annual funding increase).

The Rhode Island Child Care is Essential Act:

- 1. Permanently Increases CCAP Rates.** Meet or exceed the federal equal access standard for all age groups and settings (75th percentile of the 2018 Market Rate Survey) with 5 quality tiers connected to the program's BrightStars quality rating to promote access to quality care. Rates for 5-star programs will meet or exceed the 90th percentile of the 2018 Market Rate Survey.
- 2. Provides Weekly Infant Care Bonuses.** Pay a \$20 weekly bonus payment to providers for each infant under 18 months in care on top of the rate. Infants require more staffing and individualized care.
- 3. Caps Family Copayments at 7% of Family Income.** The federal affordability standard is 7% of family income. Some families using CCAP subsidy are charged copayments of 10% or 14% of family income.
- 4. Allows More Low-Income Working Families to Qualify for a CCAP Certificate.** In 2007, all working families with incomes over 180% FPL (\$39,528*) were cut from the program. It is important to restore eligibility to families with incomes at or below 225% FPL (\$49,410*) and allow families to retain their subsidy up to 300% FPL (\$65,880*). *family of 3 in 2021

Type of Care/Age Group	Pandemic Rates as of June 2020	RI Child Care is Essential Act SUBA Proposed Rates	Governor Proposed Rates for FY22
Center: Infants & Toddlers			
1 star	\$257.54	\$256.75* (75th)	\$222.38 (25 th)
2 star	\$257.54	\$267.26*	\$227.65
3 star	\$257.54	\$277.79*	\$239.96
4 star	\$257.54	\$288.32*	\$248.75
5 star	\$273.00	\$298.85* (90th)	\$257.74 (+75 th)
Center: Preschoolers			
1 star	\$195.67	\$230.00 (75th)	\$187.50 (25 th)
2 star	\$195.67	\$235.14	\$193.88
3 star	\$195.67	\$240.30	\$208.75
4 star	\$195.67	\$245.46	\$219.38
5 star	\$260.00	\$250.62 (90th)	\$230.00 (75 th)
Center: School-Age Kids			
1 star	\$200.00	\$198.75 (75th)	\$148.50 (25 th)
2 star	\$200.00	\$202.43	\$148.50
3 star	\$200.00	\$206.12	\$148.50
4 star	\$200.00	\$209.81	\$148.50
5 star	\$245.00	\$213.50 (90th)	\$148.50 (25 th)
FCC: Infants & Toddlers			
1 star	\$224.43	\$200.00* (75th)	N/A
2 star	\$224.43	\$208.11*	N/A
3 star	\$224.43	\$216.24*	N/A
4 star	\$224.43	\$224.37*	N/A
5 star	\$224.43	\$232.50* (90th)	N/A
FCC: Preschoolers			
1 star	\$171.45	\$191.50 (75th)	N/A
2 star	\$171.45	\$199.25	N/A
3 star	\$171.45	\$207.00	N/A
4 star	\$171.45	\$214.75	N/A
5 star	\$171.45	\$222.50 (90th)	N/A
FCC: School-Age Kids			
1 star	\$162.30	\$180.00 (75th)	N/A
2 star	\$162.30	\$185.00	N/A
3 star	\$162.30	\$190.00	N/A
4 star	\$162.30	\$195.00	N/A
5 star	\$162.30	\$200.00 (90th)	N/A

* RI Child Care is Essential Act would also require a \$20/week payment on top of this rate for all infants under 18 months.