

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE

There are many types of financial assistance to help pay for child care in Massachusetts. The most common types of financial assistance are listed below. For more information about subsidy options or to get on the central waitlist, please call the Child Care Resource Center at 617-547-1063 x504.

## STATE SUBSIDY

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) has several programs to help low-income families pay for child care. The two subsidy programs all use the same centralized waitlist. They are:

- **Income Eligible Vouchers** - Vouchers are funded through EEC and managed by local Child Care Resource & Referral (R&R) Agencies like the Child Care Resource Center
- **Contracted slots** - Licensed programs hold direct contracts with EEC to provide subsidized child care.

In order to access these two types of EEC financial assistance, your family must meet income guidelines, and have a service need as outlined by EEC. Parents may pay a portion of the child care fees which is determined by family size and the gross monthly income of the family. The chart below shows you current income eligibility by family size. Families with a parent or child who has special needs meet different income requirements. Please call us to discuss your family's eligibility.

Family Size	Maximum Annual Income
2	\$30,378
3	\$37,526
4	\$44,674
5	\$51,822
6	\$58,970

If you are interested in receiving a state subsidy, the first step is to get on the waitlist. To get on the waitlist, call your local Resource and Referral Agency (R&R). Your local R & R agency is the Child Care Resource Center if you live in: **Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge, Newton, Needham, Somerville, Watertown, Wellesley, Weston**. Call the Parent InfoLine at 617-547-1063 x504 to get put on the waitlist. If you live outside of this area, call 1-800-345-0131 to find your Resource and Referral Agency.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE

This child care subsidy is funded through the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). Participants must be receiving or have received TAFDC (Transitional Aid for Families with Dependent Children) in the last 12 months and be referred by a DTA worker for immediate access to child care. To find out if you are eligible, contact your local DTA office or visit them on-line at [HTTP://WWW.MASS.GOV /DTA](http://www.mass.gov/dta).

## THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Participants must have an open case with the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Contact your DCF worker for more information.

## HEAD START

Head Start is a community-based child development program for children aged 3-5. Head Start programs are free of charge and usually run 10-months a year for 4-6 hours a day. These programs also offer trainings and workshops for parents and access to other social services. To be eligible for Head Start, your income must fall below a certain level, or you must receive TANF or SSI. For more information about Head Start or to find a program in your area, call toll-free 1-866-763-6481. If you live in Cambridge or Somerville, call C.A.A.S. Head Start at 617-623-7370.

## PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIP

Many child care centers also have private scholarships. The best way to find this information is to call child care providers and ask if they have scholarships or sibling discounts.

# Additional Resources for Families

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## WIC NUTRITION PROGRAM

WIC is a nutrition program for children, pregnant women, and new mothers. If you meet income requirements, WIC gives you checks that can be used to buy approved supplemental foods like milk, eggs, tuna, infant formula, carrots, and beans. **To apply call 1-800-WIC-1007 or get more information at [www.mass.gov/wic](http://www.mass.gov/wic).** If you live in the Cambridge/Somerville area call 617-666-5059.

## SNAP: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOOD STAMPS (FORMERLY FOOD STAMPS)

SNAP Food stamps are a form of government assistance that helps low-income families buy food. Parents who are working or in school can get more SNAP food stamps by claiming child care expenses. Many low-income families are eligible. The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) runs the SNAP Food Stamp program in Massachusetts. **Call DTA at 1-800-249-2007 to find the closest DTA branch, or call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline 1-800-645-8333 to find other locations where you can apply for SNAP food stamps.**

## CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT

If you work and have children, you are eligible for several tax credits. Whether or not you owe income tax, you must file a tax return to get these credits.

<b>Tax Credit</b>	<b>Worth Up To:</b>
<i>Federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit</i>	\$2,100
<i>Massachusetts Tax Deduction for Child and Dependent Care Expenses</i>	\$509
<i>Federal Earned Income Tax Credit</i>	\$4,824
<i>Massachusetts Earned Income Tax Credit</i>	\$724
<i>Federal Child Tax Credit</i>	\$1,000

**Call the IRS toll-free number 1-800-TAX-1040 to find out where you can get FREE help with your taxes.** For more information contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue at 617-887-MDOR.

## HEALTH INSURANCE

Did you know that all adults living in Massachusetts are required by law to have health insurance? We want to help you! You may be eligible for health benefits through MassHealth, Commonwealth Care, Health Safety Net, or The Insurance Partnership. Avoid tax penalties by enrolling today. **For more information or to get help for enrollment, call the Child Care Resource Center's Health Access Line at 617-547-1063 x295 or email [healthaccess@ccrcinc.org](mailto:healthaccess@ccrcinc.org).**

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