

Do You Need Help Paying for Child Care?

Child care is often a family's biggest expense after housing, food and taxes. Juggling child care costs can be especially challenging for families who need child care.

Financial assistance is available to help qualifying families pay for child care. Each type of financial assistance for child care has different qualifications, most eligibility criteria is based on income level, employment status, or residency, so make sure you get all the facts.

Review the following options to learn more.

Publicly Funded Child Care is State subsidized care that is for generally available for low-income parents who are working or in school. Other eligibility guidelines also apply. The current income guidelines by family size are:

Family Size	Monthly Gross Income
2	up to \$1,639
3	up to \$2,061
4	up to \$2,485
5	up to \$2,908

You can apply for help to pay for your child care in the county where you live by contacting the county department of Job and Family Services. To find your local county office go to the ODJFS website: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/families.stm>. You must choose a licensed child care center, school-age program, head start, or a home provider. You will still be required to pay for part of your child care, called a fee or co-payment.

Head Start and Early Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness for children by enhancing the social and cognitive development of through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other services to enrolled children and families. It is **free** for income eligible families with children birth to 5 years of age. Eligibility is based upon family income, age of children and household size. The current income guidelines by family size are:

Family Size	Yearly Gross Income
2	up to \$15,730
3	up to \$19,790
4	up to \$23,850
5	up to \$27,910

**for each additional person add \$4,060*

Contact your child care resource and referral agency for the Head Start agency in your area. Most programs offer part-day schedules but some offer extended day schedules.

Early Childhood Education Expansion Program is an Ohio Department of Education (ODE) state-funded program for income eligible families with preschool children ages 3 to 5. These funds are available to children who are not receiving publicly funded preschool services from Head Start, ODJFS, preschool special education, or local funds. Most programs offer part-day schedules but some offer extended day schedules. The current income guidelines by family size are:

Family Size	Yearly Gross Income
2	up to \$31,460
3	up to \$39,580
4	up to \$47,700
5	up to \$55,820

**for each additional person add \$8,160*

Contact your child care resource and referral agency for the programs offering these expansion slots. Most programs offer support for part-day schedules but full day care is often available.

Your family may also qualify for the Child Care **Earned Income Tax Credit**. The Earned Income Tax Credit also called EITC or more simply EIC is a credit for people who earn low-to-moderate incomes. EITC can reduce your taxes, and can mean a refund. In simple terms, working families and individuals keep more of what they earn. More Information can be found at the following link: <http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/EITC-Home-Page--It%E2%80%99s-easier-than-ever-to-find-out-if-you-qualify-for-EITC>.

Your local child care resource and referral agency (http://ocrra.org/about_agencies_list.php) can connect you to resources you need to find financial assistance for child care. Local funds are available to eligible families with program specific scholarship and grant funded projects.

We can assist you in applying for these resources!

State wide resources to assist you in seeking other supports for your family

Listed below are websites to locate support services near you:

- WIC: <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/ns/wicn/wic1.aspx>
- Ohio Benefits Bank: general info on this page <http://www.ohiobenefits.org/>
Locate site near you at this page <https://secure.thebenefitbank.org/ums?task=locator>
- Ohio Association of Food Banks: Regional Food Banks <http://www.ohiofoodbanks.org/foodbanks>
- Services for Military Families: <http://naccrra.org/military-families>