

DO YOU NEED HELP PAYING FOR CHILD CARE?

Child care is often a family's biggest expense after housing, food and taxes. Financial assistance is available to help qualifying families pay for child care and early education. Each type of financial assistance has specific qualifications, usually based on income and family size.

LOCAL CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE OPTIONS:

A CHILD CARE EXPERT in your area can assist you in finding local scholarship programs or grant funds that may be available. To be connected to these resources and for information on how to apply, contact your local child care resource and referral agency: (https://cdn.occrra.org/documents/CCRR_Agency_List.pdf).

STATEWIDE CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE OPTIONS:

Statewide child care and early education options are also available. Below are current options. Specific eligibility guidelines apply for each program. Please note that these guidelines are subject to change by their respective funding agency at any time.

PUBLICLY FUNDED CHILD CARE is state subsidized care that is available for low-income parents who are working or in a school or training program. Other eligibility guidelines also apply.

*Current income eligibility guidelines for new applicants, by family size are:

Family Size	Maximum Gross Income, Monthly	Maximum Gross Income, Yearly
2	\$1,736	\$20,826
3	\$2,184	\$26,208
4	\$2,633	\$31,590
5	\$3,081	\$36,972
6	\$3,530	\$42,354

*Income guidelines are based on 2016 federal poverty guidelines.

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 that currently accepts publicly funded child care as a form of payment. You will be required to pay for a portion of your child care expenses, based on your income (known as a co-payment or parent fee).

FAMILY TAX CREDITS

Earned Income Tax Credit, also known as EITC 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 here:

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/individuals/earned-income-tax-credit>.

Federal and Ohio Child Care and Dependent Tax Credits can add money you paid out of pocket for child care expenses into your income tax refund. More information can be found here:

<http://nwlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/ohio-tcofler2016-1.pdf>

HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START is a national program that promotes school readiness for children by enhancing their social and cognitive development. Programs provide education, health, nutrition, social and other support services to enrolled children and their 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.

*Current income eligibility guidelines, by family size are:

Family Size	Maximum Gross Income, Monthly	Maximum Gross Income, Yearly
2	\$1,335	\$16,020
3	\$1,680	\$20,160
4	\$2,025	\$24,300
5	\$2,370	\$28,440
6	\$2,715	\$32,580

*Income guidelines are based on 2016 federal poverty guidelines.

Your local child care resource and referral agency (https://cdn.occrra.org/documents/CCRR_Agency_List.pdf) can connect you to Head Start programs in your area. Most programs offer part-day schedules, but some full day options may be available.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE) GRANT is an Ohio Department of Education (ODE) state-funded program for income eligible families with preschool children, ages 4 and 5. These funds are available to children who are not receiving publicly funded preschool services from Head Start, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, or local funds. This program may be free or have a small monthly fee, depending on your income.

*Current income eligibility guidelines, by family size are:

Family Size	Maximum Gross Income, Monthly	Maximum Gross Income, Yearly
2	\$2,670	\$32,040
3	\$3,360	\$40,320
4	\$4,050	\$48,600
5	\$4,740	\$56,880
6	\$5,430	\$65,160

*Income guidelines are based on 2016 federal poverty guidelines.

Your local child care resource and referral agency (https://cdn.occrra.org/documents/CCRR_Agency_List.pdf) can connect you to programs offering ECE funds in your area. Most programs offer part-day schedules, but some full day options may be available.