

# Office of Child Care

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<p><b>What are the responsibilities of the Office of Child Care?</b></p>	<p>The Office of Child Care is responsible for licensing and monitoring all child care centers and family child care providers in Maryland. The Office of Child Care administers Maryland's subsidized child care program for working families and administers Maryland's Child Care Credentialing System. The Office of Child Care is comprised of three branches: Licensing, Child Care Subsidy, and Credentialing.</p>
<p><b>What does the Child Care Licensing Branch do?</b></p>	<p>The Licensing Branch oversees 13 Regional and two Field Offices throughout the State. The Branch is responsible for ensuring that all child care centers, family child care homes, and nursery schools meet and comply with State regulation and policy. The Licensing Branch, through the Regional Offices, provides information to applicants, providers, and parents on State licensing requirements, complaint procedures, and enforcement activities. Each child care facility in Maryland is inspected at least one time per year by a Regional Licensing Office representative to determine compliance.</p>
<p><b>What does the Child Care Subsidy Branch do?</b></p>	<p>The Child Care Subsidy Branch oversees the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) Program whose purpose is to provide financial assistance with child care costs to eligible working families through each local Department of Social Services. The CCS Program issues vouchers to eligible families who need help with child care costs. To receive assistance, families must meet certain eligibility requirements. In addition, families can receive help locating a licensed child care provider.</p>
<p><b>What does the Child Care Credentialing Branch do?</b></p>	<p>The Credentialing Branch is responsible for the Maryland Child Care Credential Program, Tiered Reimbursement, Training Vouchers/Reimbursement, Accreditation Support Awards, Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund, and Training Approvals. The Maryland Child Care Credential Program is a voluntary program that recognizes child care providers who go beyond the requirements of State licensing and registration regulations. Tiered Reimbursement is a voluntary program recognizing child care facilities that exceed the licensing and registration requirements. Facilities participating at Level Two or higher receive a paid differential based on Child Care Subsidy vouchers. Accreditation Support is available to any registered or licensed facility in Maryland to pay for the cost of program accreditation application fee for a national accreditation organization. The Credentialing Branch is responsible for approving individuals and organizations to offer training to Maryland's child care provider community. The Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund (CCCPDF) are available to child care providers who are participating in the Credentialing Program. Funding is available through the CCCPDF to pursue a college degree in early childhood education, education for children, child development, family studies, or related disciplines.</p>
<p><b>Need more information?</b></p>	<p>Contact the Office of Child Care by telephone at 410-767-7128 or visit the website at <a href="http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/child_care.htm">http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child_care/child_care.htm</a>.</p>