

FACT SHEET

Child Care

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Child care is a stabilizing force contributing to skilled, healthy Ohioans, successful businesses and strong communities. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services is the agency responsible for the administration of the state's publicly-funded child care program and the regulation of out-of-home child care environments. Child care assistance is provided to eligible parents to keep families engaged in work and training efforts, while on the road to self-sufficiency.

Subsidized Child Care

Eligibility for subsidized child care services is determined by county departments of job and family services. Each month, approximately 84,000 children are served by Ohio's subsidized child care programs. Child care assistance reimbursements are made available through county job and family services. Based on the market rate, assistance covers the cost of partial or full child care services for each family enrolled in the programs.

Who can get child care assistance?

Families whose income is at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty guideline can receive payment for all or part of their monthly child care expenses. Childcare providers receive payments from county departments of job and family services so parents may work or attend approved school or training activities. Subsidies can only be used in one of Ohio's regulated child care environments.

How often is eligibility determined?

Ohio's 88 county departments of job and family services determine eligibility and a review is conducted with each family every six months to access any income changes; and every 12 months to verify continued eligibility.

Where is child care provided?

Childcare services are provided in certified homes, licensed child care centers, and licensed homes. County departments of job and family services certify private homes caring for six or fewer children. The Department of Job and Family Services inspects and licenses child care centers, child day camps and private homes caring for seven or more children. Child care licensing regulations and standards are developed and issued by the state in order to assure that children are cared for in safe, healthy and developmentally appropriate environments.

Administration and Licensing

The Ohio Administrative Code contains specific regulations governing the licensing and operation of child care programs. Licensing staff investigate complaints of noncompliance, certification and licensing, and provide training and consultation regarding quality improvement. The Department of Job and Family Services provides technical assistance and support to professionals and partners; allocates funds for quality initiatives; monitors community programs for fiscal and operational compliance; and tracks utilization and cost factors associated with subsidized child care services.

For more information, contact the Office for Children and Families Help Desk at 1-866-886-3537; option 4.