

FACT SHEET

Child Care

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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) offers financial assistance to eligible parents to pay for child care while they engage in work or approved school or training activities. The agency also is responsible for regulating home-based child care settings and for licensing and inspecting child care facilities. Every day in Ohio, more than 250,000 children under age 6 are cared for in settings outside the home that are certified or licensed by ODJFS.

Publicly Funded Child Care

Of those children in regulated child care, approximately 103,000 each month receive financial assistance. Publicly funded child care not only allows low-income parents to find and keep jobs, but it ensures that their children still have access to the early care and education programs they need to succeed in school. Ohio's 88 county departments of job and family services determine families' eligibility for publicly funded child care services. ODJFS then makes payments to providers for the costs of that care, based on a local market rate survey.

Who can get child care assistance?

To be eligible for publicly funded child care initially, a family's income must not exceed 125 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). After that, families may remain eligible until their income exceeds 200 percent of the FPL. Families can be eligible for all or part of their monthly child care expenses.

How often is eligibility determined?

The county departments of job and family services conduct case reviews every 12 months to assess income changes or other changes that may impact eligibility.

Where is child care provided?

Child care services are provided in licensed child care centers, licensed homes and certified homes. ODJFS inspects and licenses child care centers and private homes caring for seven or more children. Private homes caring for six or fewer children are certified by the county departments of job and family services.

Administration and Licensing

The Ohio Administrative Code contains specific regulations governing the licensing and operation of child care programs, to ensure that children are cared for in safe, healthy and developmentally appropriate environments. Licensing staff investigate complaints of noncompliance, certification and licensing, and provide training and consultation regarding quality improvement. ODJFS provides technical assistance and support to child care professionals and partners. It allocates funds for quality initiatives, monitors community programs for fiscal and operational compliance, and tracks utilization and cost factors associated with publicly funded child care services.

Child Care Automation (CCIDS)

CCIDS (pronounced "Kids") stands for Child Care Information and Data System. This is a statewide automated child care system launched in March 2010. It helps county caseworkers determine families' eligibility for publicly funded child care services; authorizes individual children to specific providers; and issues direct deposit payments to providers. The Time and Attendance module, scheduled for release in late 2011, will track children's time and attendance with a swipe card system. For more information, call the CCIDS Help Desk at 1-877-302-2347, option 2.