



Mohammed Choudhury
State Superintendent of Schools

TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Mohammed Choudhury, State Superintendent of Schools
DATE: May 24, 2022
SUBJECT: Blueprint Deep Dive: Early Childhood Education, Part 2

PURPOSE:

To provide Part 2 of the briefing to the Board on early childhood programs and initiatives in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (HB-1300). This is a continuation from the April 26, 2022 State Board of Education meeting.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The presentation will include a discussion on early childhood education through four sections:

1. Recap of April 26, 2022 Board Presentation
2. Early Childhood Implementation in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future
3. Programs and Initiatives in Support of Early Childhood in the Blueprint
4. Stabilizing and Rebuilding Maryland's Child Care System

At the April 26, 2022 Board meeting the first three early childhood education themes from the Blueprint for Maryland's Future were discussed: 1). Mixed-delivery Prekindergarten; 2). Program Quality; and 3). Workforce. At this meeting, the remaining two themes will be explored:

- Expanded Support Programs
- R4K Assessment System

Additional programs and initiatives in support of early childhood in the law will be discussed along with efforts to stabilize and rebuild Maryland's child care system.

ACTION:

No action is required; this information is for discussion only.

ATTACHMENTS:

- None

DIVISION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, OFFICE OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Blueprint Deep Dive: Early Childhood Education Part 2

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION | May 24, 2022

Presented By | Dr. Deann Collins, Deputy
Steven Hicks, Assistant Superintendent



Presentation Highlights

- Recap of April 2022 Board Presentation
- Early Childhood Implementation in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future
- Programs and Initiatives in Support of Early Childhood in the Blueprint
- Stabilizing and Rebuilding Maryland's Child Care System

Review of April 26, 2022 Board Meeting – Part 1

- Laying the Foundation
 - Review of [Maryland Ready: Maryland's Path to School Readiness and Success](#)
 - Acknowledging Pre-Blueprint Investments in Early Childhood Education in FY2021 and FY2022
 - Overview of [Blueprint for Maryland's Future: Prekindergarten Implementation Planning Legislative Report](#)
- Early Childhood Implementation in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future
 - Mixed-delivery Prekindergarten
 - Program Quality
 - Workforce

- ✓ Mixed-delivery Prekindergarten
- ✓ Program Quality
- ✓ Workforce
 - Expanded Support Programs
 - R4K Assessment System

Early Childhood Implementation in the Blueprint for Maryland's Future

An Historic Investment in Early Childhood Education

1. Mixed-Delivery PreK

- Prekindergarten Expansion Grant
- Maryland State Prekindergarten Program

2. Program Quality

- Maryland EXCELS
- Child Care Accreditation Support Fund
- Child Care Incentive Grant Program

3. Workforce

- Maryland Child Care Credential Program
- Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund

4. Expanded Support Programs

- Ulysses Currie Head Start State Supplemental Grants
- Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program
- Judy Centers
- Patty Centers (Family Support Centers)

5. R4K Assessment System

- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment
- Ready for Kindergarten (R4K) Grants

4. Expanded Support Programs

Program	Description	Funding	Eligible Applicants
Ulysses Currie Head Start State Supplemental Grants §5-231	Funding is made to Federal Head Start grantees to supplement the programs in enhancing the school readiness of children, ages birth to five.	The FY2023 budget includes \$3 million. Grantees receive funding by per pupil formula.	Current Head Start grantees
Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program §8-416	The Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP) provides provide a statewide, community-based interagency system of comprehensive early intervention services to eligible infants and toddlers , from birth until the beginning of the school year following a child’s 4th birthday, and their families.	The FY2023 budget includes \$14,673,430. Funding will increase each year until FY2030, with increases for inflation thereafter.	Local Education Agencies
Judy Centers Grants §5-230	Using a multigenerational approach for families and children , and providing professional development for early childhood educators, Judy Centers promote school readiness for children ages birth through five.	The FY2023 budget includes \$24,936,380. Judy Centers are funded at \$330,000 each. FY2023-FY25: 9 per year. FY2026-FY2030: 18 per year	Local Education Agencies
Family Support Centers (Patty Centers) Grants §9.5-1002	Family Support Centers (Patty Centers) provide parents and their children with a two-generation approach that improve parenting skills, develop the family as a functioning unit, and promote the growth and development of their children.	The FY2023 budget includes \$9,209,217. Family Support Centers (Patty Centers) are funded at \$330,000 each. FY2023-FY2030: 3 per year	Entities wishing to open a Patty Center

4. Expanded Support Programs

Head Start Supplemental Grants

- The program enhances school readiness of Head Start children, ages birth to five who meet income guidelines.
- Funding is used to –
 - extend the day for children who would otherwise participate in a 3.5 hour day; and/or
 - extend the year for children to participate in a six to eight week summer programming.

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/head-start-program-information-reports-collaboration-and-program-improvement-branch>

4. Expanded Support Programs

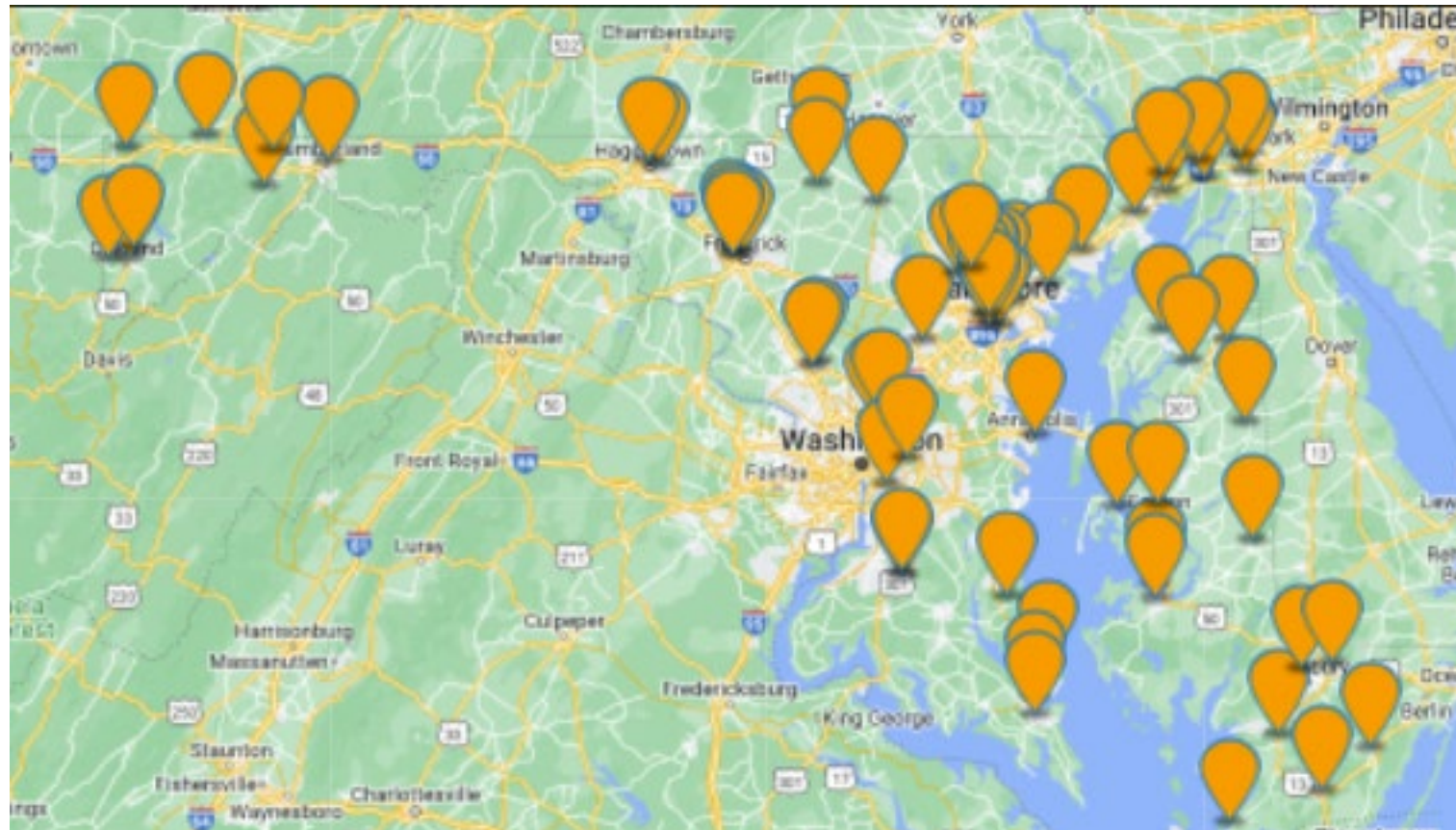
Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program

Fiscal Year	Program Funding
FY2023	\$14,673,430
FY2024	\$15,815,593
FY2025	\$16,957,756
FY2026	\$18,099,919
FY2027	\$19,242,082
FY2028	\$20,384,245
FY2029	\$21,526,408
FY2030	\$22,668,571
Subsequent Years	The prior fiscal year increased by the inflation adjustment.

<https://referral.mditp.org/>

4. Expanded Support Programs

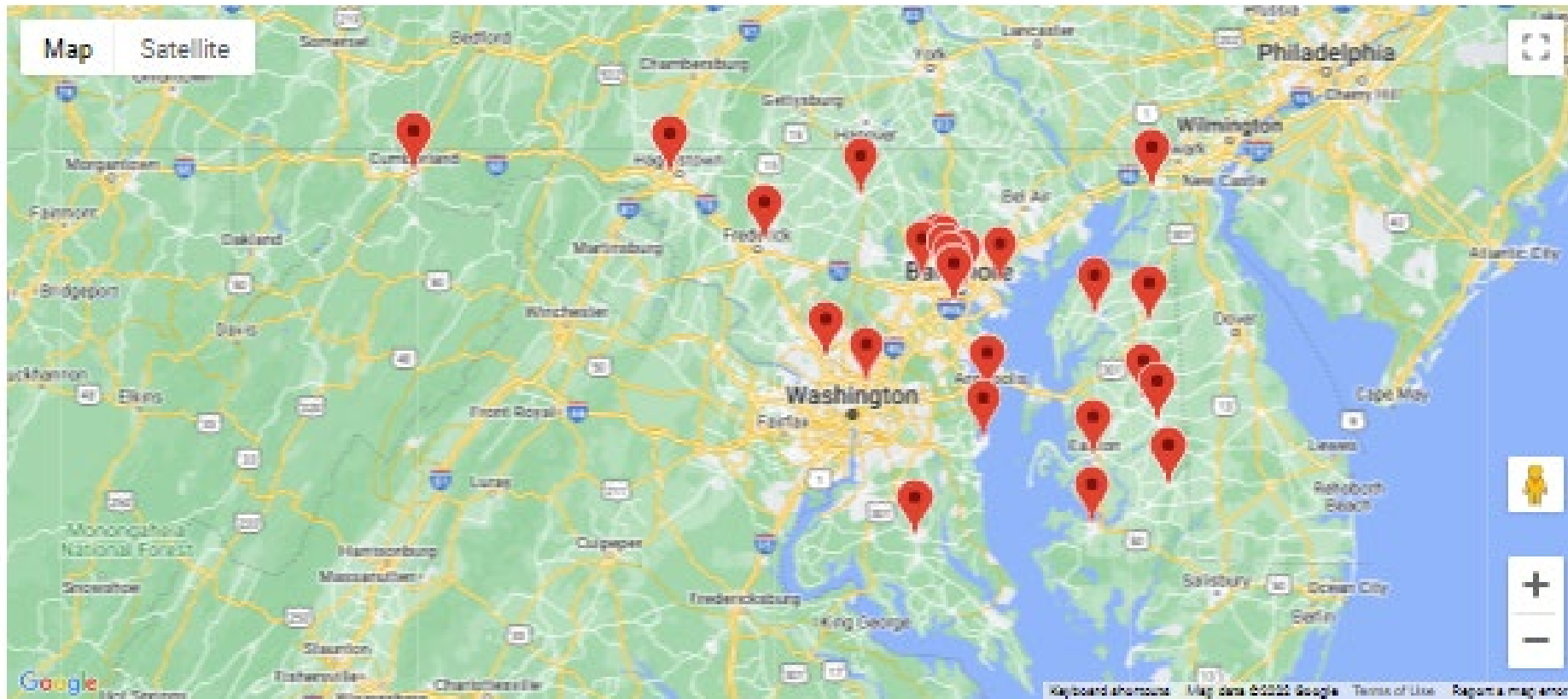
69 Judy Centers and Growing



<https://marylandfamiliesengage.org/judy-center-hubs-map/>

4. Expanded Support Programs

20 Family Support Centers (Patty Centers) and Growing



<https://www.marylandfamilynetwork.org/for-parents-extra/find-your-family-support-center>

Questions & Comments

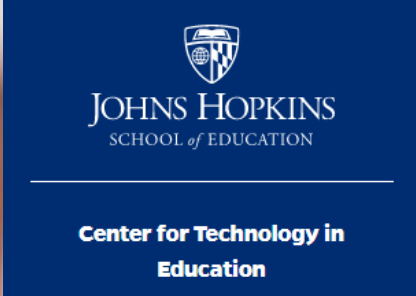
5. R4K Assessment System

Supporting the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment and the Early Learning Assessment

Program	Description	Funding	Eligible Applicants
Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) §5-230	All entering kindergarteners will be assessed beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.	\$946,150 in Assessment Funds.	Not Applicable
Ready for Kindergarten (R4K) Grants §5-230	These formula grants provide funds to school systems for implementing the Ready For Kindergarten (R4K) Assessment program which includes the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) and the Early Learning Assessment (ELA) .	Approximately \$1 million per year	Local Education Agencies

5. R4K Assessment System

Providing Critical Information about the Knowledge, Skills, and Behaviors of Entering Kindergarteners



2021-22 Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Report: <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/kindergarten-readiness-report>

Questions & Comments



Programs and Initiatives in Support of Early Childhood in the Blueprint

1. Increasing Access to Safe Child Care
2. Helping Parents Pay for the Cost of Child Care
3. Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant Project
4. State & Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils
5. Maryland Families Engaged

All young children and their families will thrive.

Increasing Access to Safe Child Care

Licensed and Regulated Child Care Programs in Maryland

The MSDE Office of Child Care's **Licensing Branch** at MSDE oversees all child care licensing activities in Maryland, including:

- **Licensing and re-licensing** child care facilities
- **Monitoring programs** to make sure they follow child care regulations
- **Investigating complaints** of any reported violations of regulations or illegal child care
- **Taking enforcement action** against programs that have serious violations of child care regulations
- Helping child care programs **meet the standards of all regulations**

There are **thirteen Regional Licensing Offices** that operate within the Licensing Branch to keep all children in care safe and healthy.

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing>

Increasing Access to Safe Child Care

Legal Child Care is Safe Child Care

- *Informal child care* is when a friend, relative, or nanny
 - cares for a child in the family home or in his or her own home,
 - receives **no compensation of any kind** for providing care, or
 - provides care for **less than 20 hours per month**.
- *Formal child care* includes child care centers and family child care homes and must be licensed or registered.
- Providers who are not licensed or registered are offering **illegal and potentially dangerous child care**.
- Parents can go to [Marylandchild.org](https://marylandchild.org) or [LOCATE: Child Care](#) to find [safe, licensed care](#).

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing>

Increasing Access to Safe Child Care

Building the Supply of Family Child Care Homes

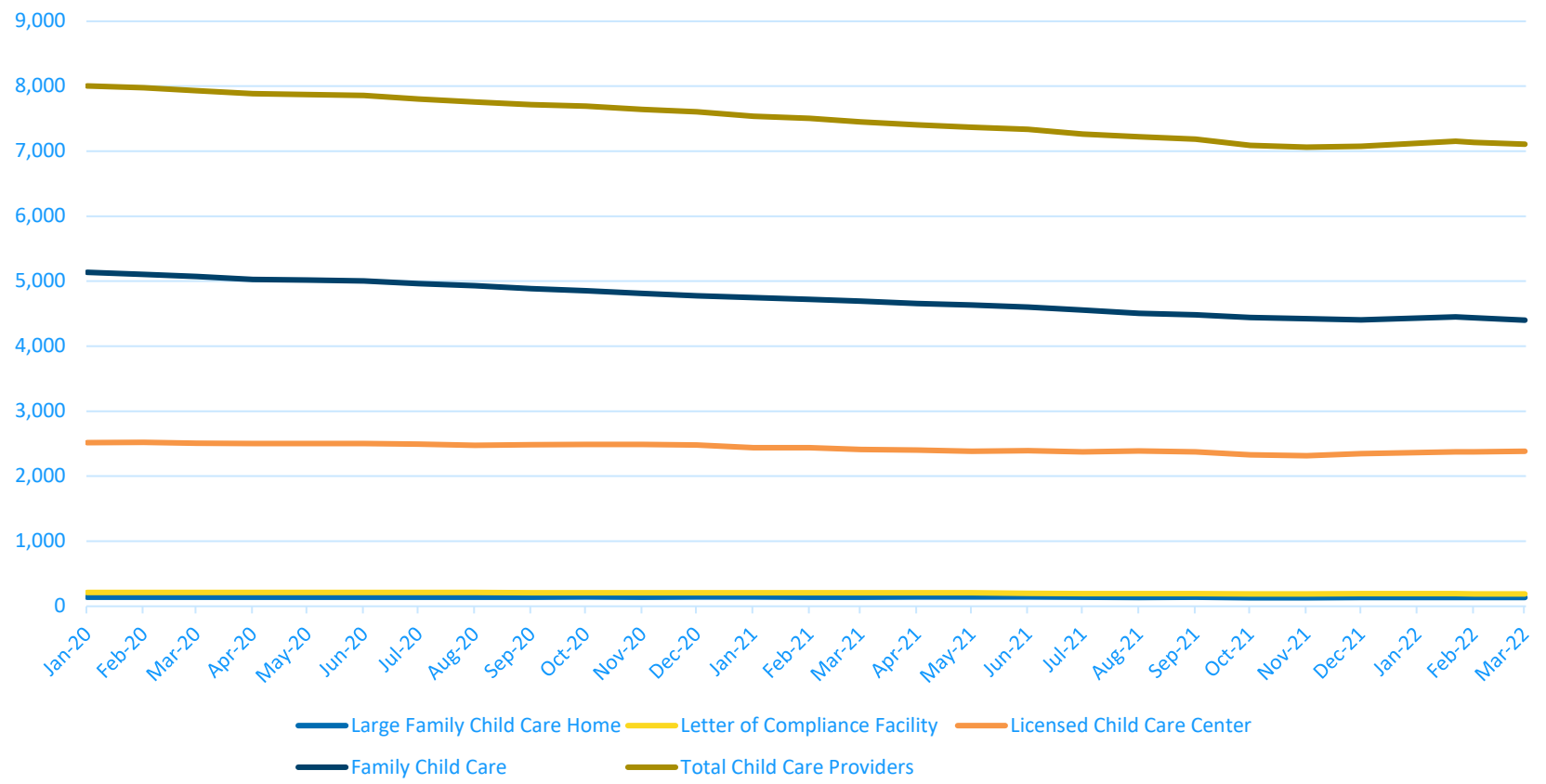
- GO FCC – Growing Opportunities in Family Child Care
 - Planning and Implementation Grants
- Grants to cover start-up costs
- [Licensing specialists to guide potential providers](#) through the process



English video: <https://vimeo.com/516740070> Spanish video: <https://vimeo.com/516740281>

Increasing Access to Safe Child Care

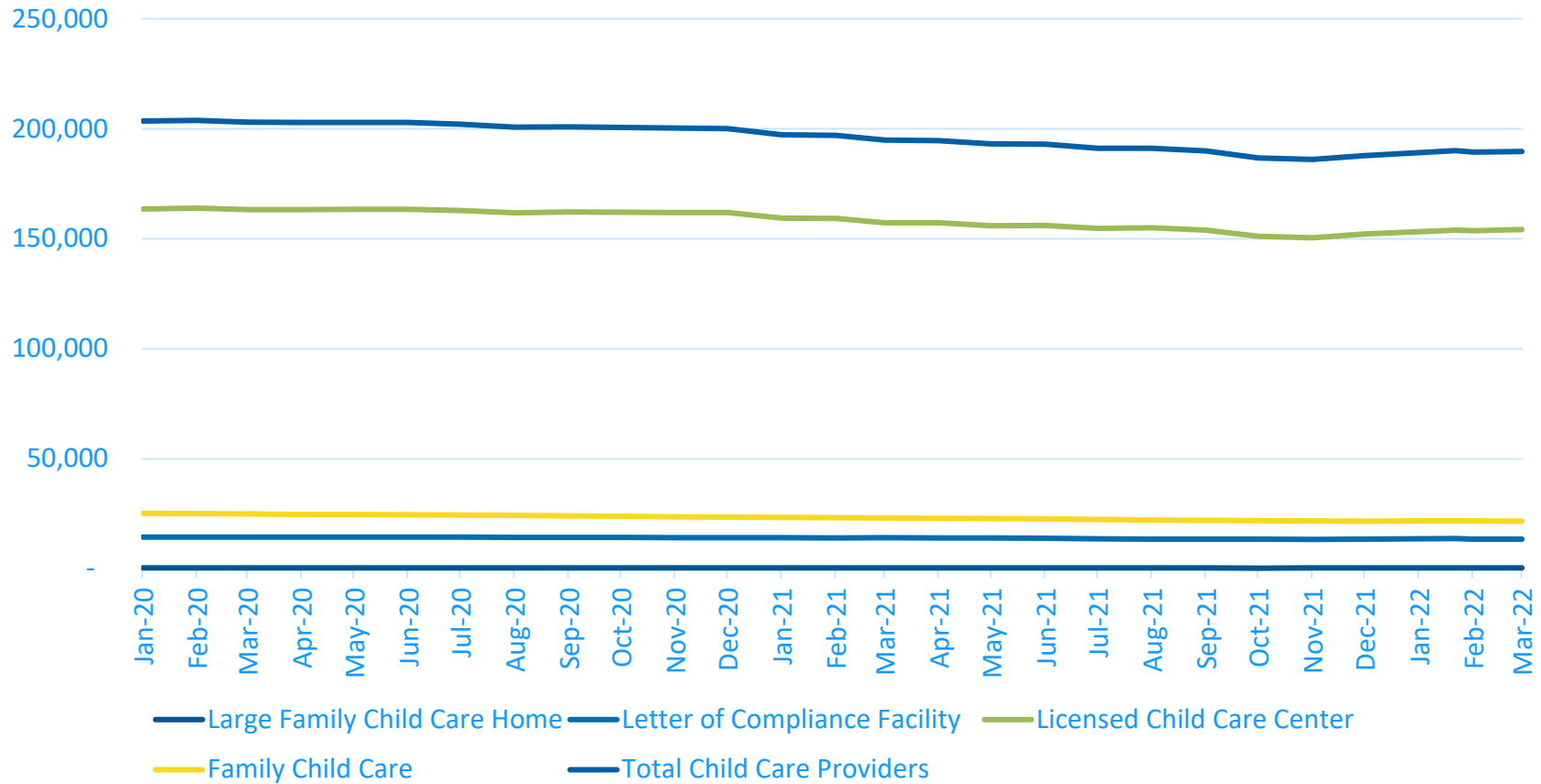
7,109 Licensed Child Care Programs



<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing>

Increasing Access to Safe Child Care

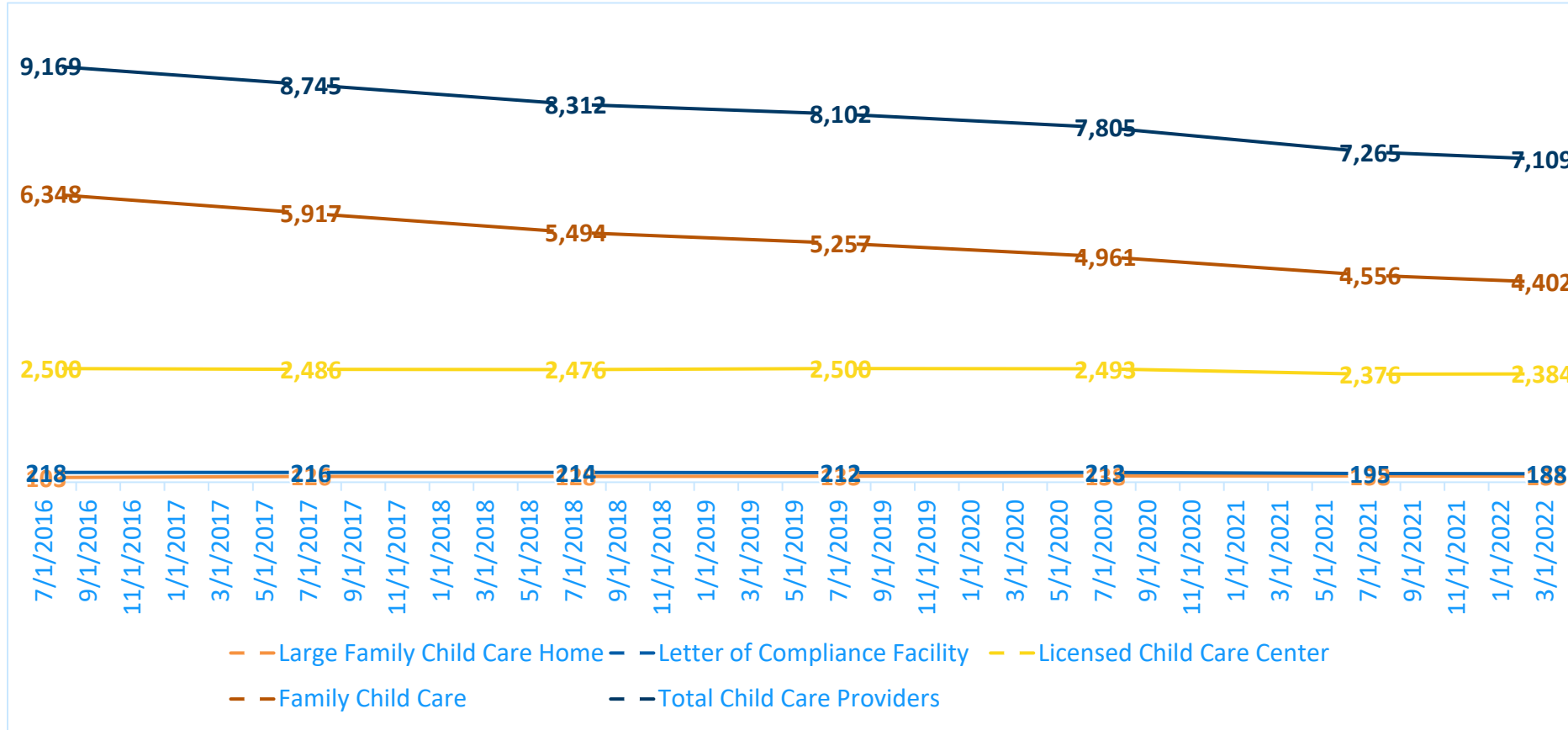
Licensed Capacity for 189,608 infants, toddlers and children



<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing>

Increasing Access to Safe Child Care

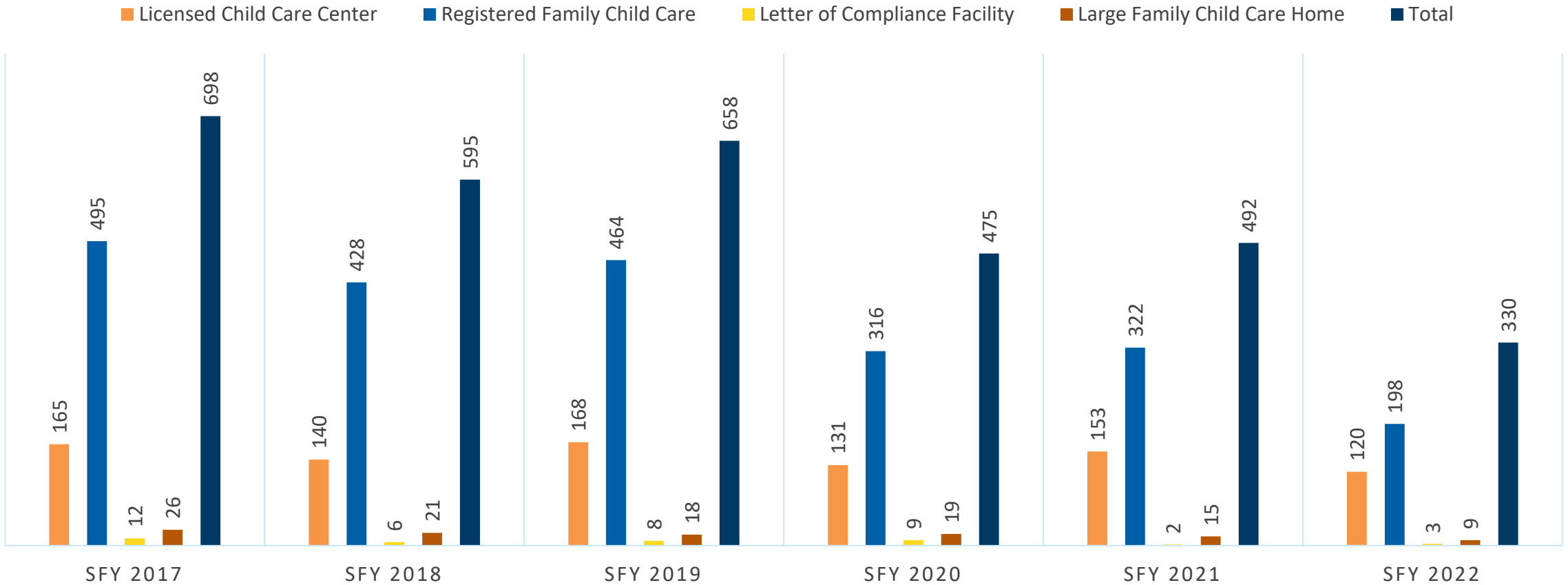
Licensed Child Care Providers Declined by 22% from 2016 to 2022



<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing>

Increasing Access to Safe Child Care

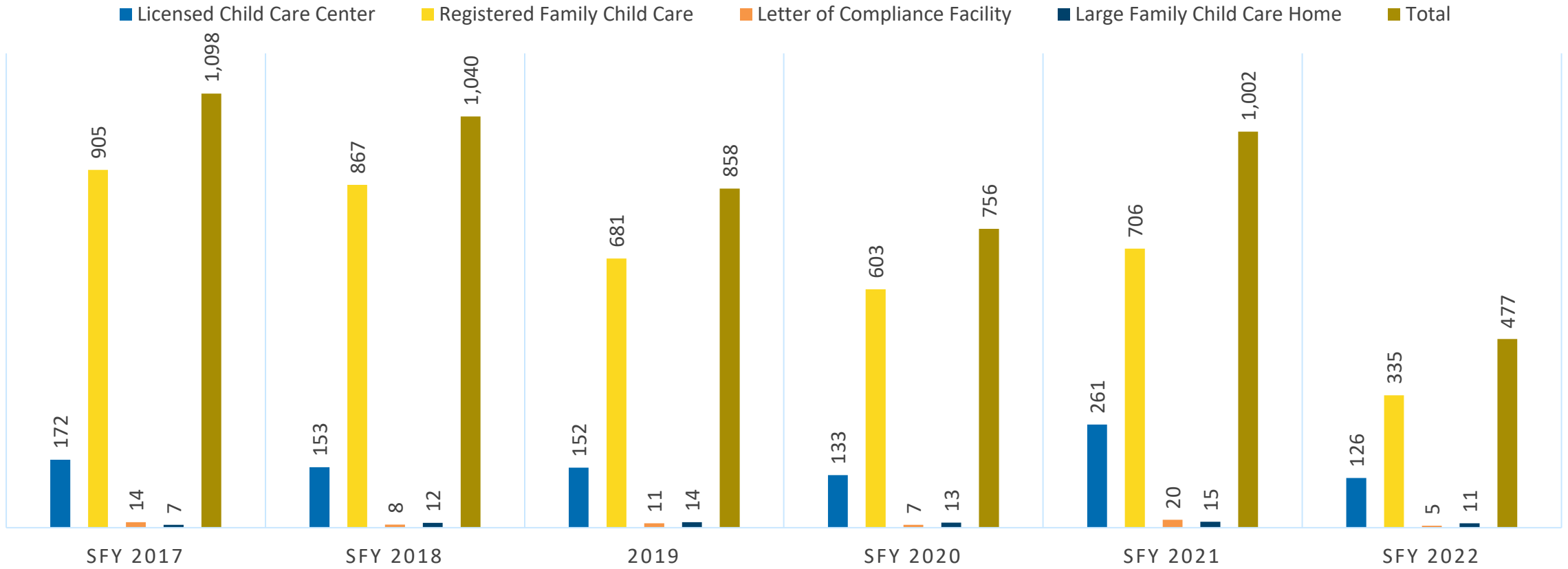
New Licensed Programs



<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing>

Increasing Access to Safe Child Care

Program Closures



<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing>

Increasing Access to Safe Child Care

Program Closures

Reasons for voluntary closure include:

- Retired from field
- Challenges of running a small business
- Increase in requirements
- Ongoing Pandemic
- Moved out of state
- Return to the workforce
- Low enrollment of children

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing>

Increasing Access to Safe Child Care

Customer Service

- Families
 - Personalized assistance through [LOCATE: Child Care](#) referral specialist with language support
 - [LOCATE: Child Care Special Needs Service](#) to find care for children with special needs here
 - Online [intake form](#) and [web-based search](#) feature for child care
 - Assistance with finding child care when a program is temporarily or permanently closed.
 - On-line inspection results for families at <http://www.checkccmd.org/>
- Child Care Providers
 - Monthly Listening Sessions
 - Regional Licensing Office Round Tables
 - Feedback survey after every licensing inspection

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/licensing>

Questions & Comments

Helping Parents Pay for the Cost of Child Care

Child Care Scholarship Program



English Video: <https://vimeo.com/516740469> Spanish Video: <https://vimeo.com/516740682>

Helping Parents Pay for the Cost of Child Care

Child Care Scholarship Program

- MSDE provides **financial assistance for child care costs** to eligible working families in Maryland.
- To be eligible for the Child Care Scholarship Program, you must be:
 - A Maryland resident who is **working/employed**, in an approved training program or attending school, and
 - A **recipient of Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** or
 - **Within CCS income guidelines** - 65% of State Median Income (SMI): \$71,525 for a family of four.
- By July 2022, MSDE will lower the threshold of income eligibility to 75% SMI (\$90,033 for a family of four).
- The value of the scholarships will also increase, and parent co-pays will be reduced or even eliminated for some families.

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/child-care-scholarship-program>

Helping Parents Pay for the Cost of Child Care

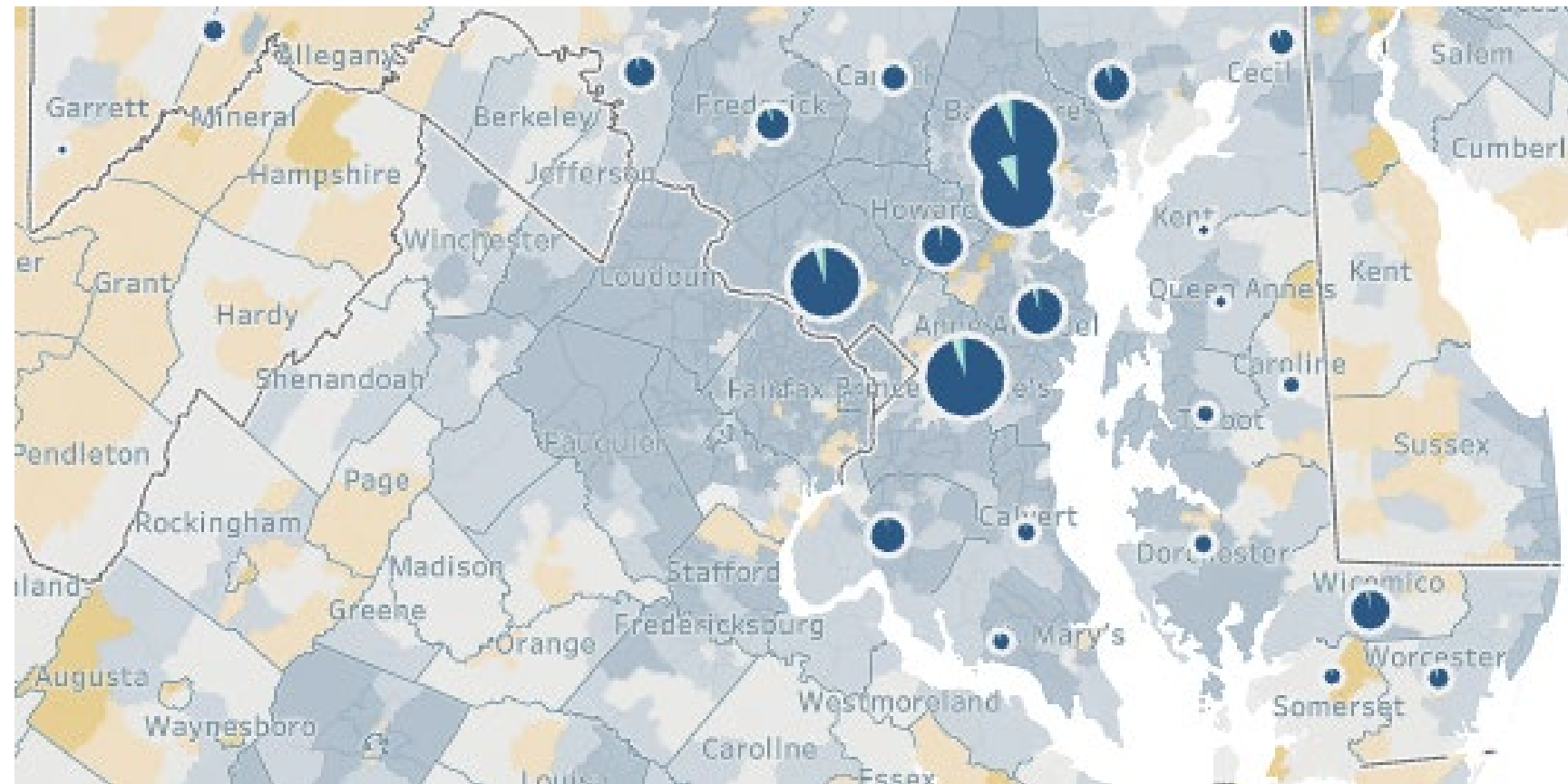
Child Care Scholarship Program

- When income eligibility increases, it is estimated an additional 25,358 families would become eligible (approximately 182,080 eligible families total).
- Of those newly eligible families, it is expected around 6.4 percent to actually enroll in the program (1,623 families).
- The 6.4 percent was calculated based on the historic number of families enrolled compared to the number of families that were eligible at that time.
- Not all parents will choose child care as they have other options: Head Start, school-based PreK, and care by a family member.

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/child-care-scholarship-program>

Helping Parents Pay for the Cost of Child Care

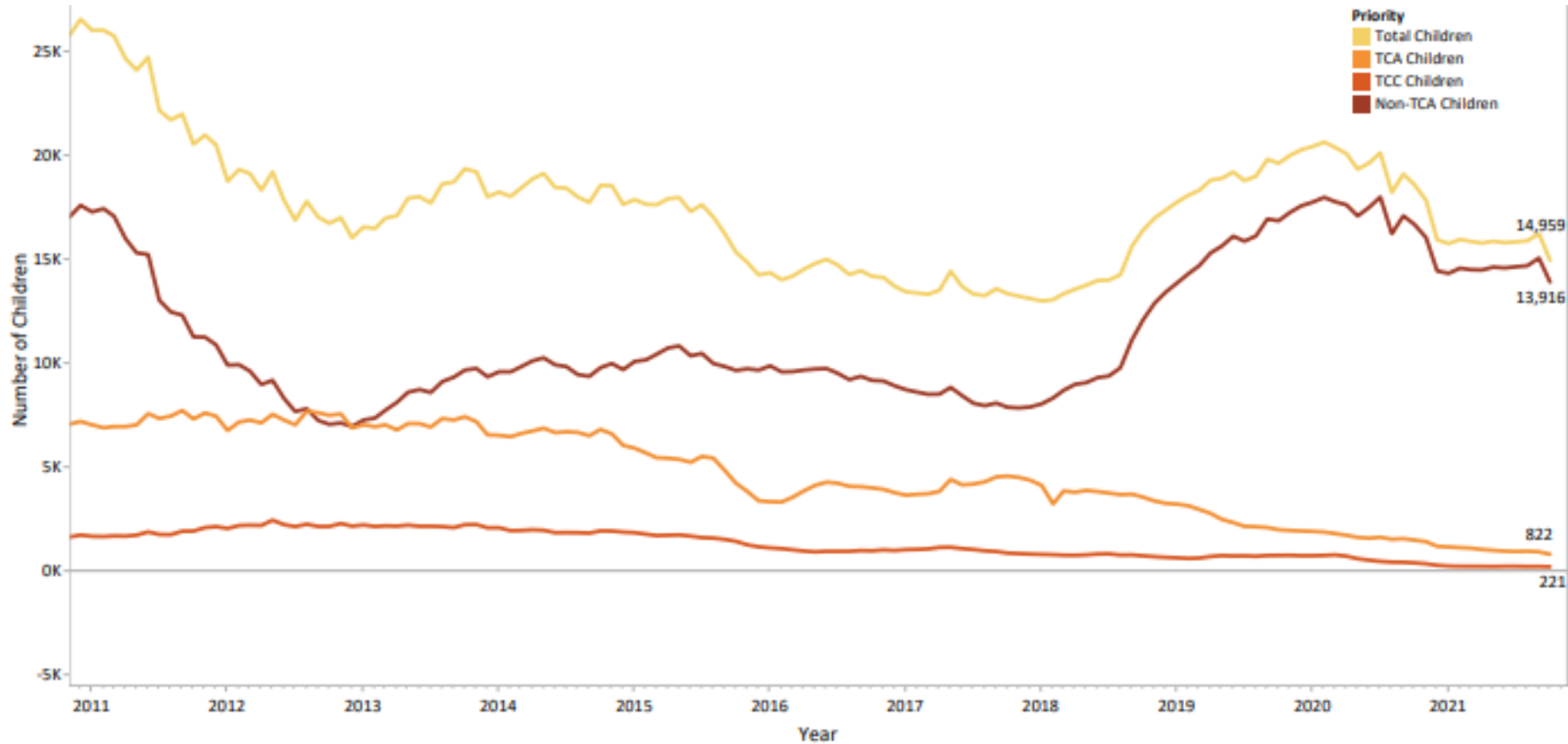
Participating Families in the Child Care Scholarship Program



<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/child-care-scholarship-program>

Helping Parents Pay for the Cost of Child Care

Historic Child Enrollment in the Child Care Scholarship Program



<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/child-care-scholarship-program>

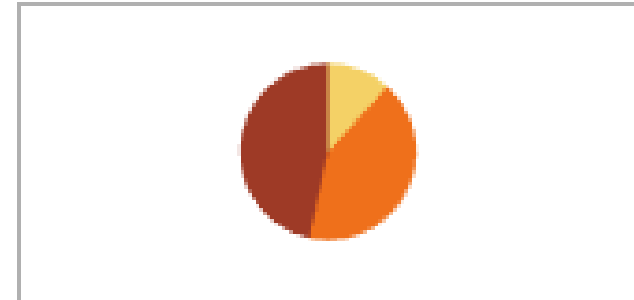
Helping Parents Pay for the Cost of Child Care

Participating Children by Age in the Child Care Scholarship Program

by Age

Infant/Toddler	1,733	11.78%
2 to 4	6,126	41.63%
School Age	6,856	46.59%
Grand Total	14,715	100.00%

Age



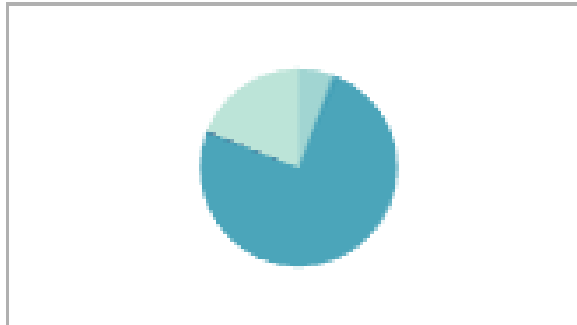
Helping Parents Pay for the Cost of Child Care

Participating Children by Race & Ethnicity in the Child Care Scholarship Program

by Race

Black / African American	10,897	74.05%
White	2,804	19.06%
More than One Race	812	5.52%
Asian	98	0.67%
American Indian / Alaskan Native	79	0.54%
Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	25	0.17%
Grand Total	14,715	100.00%

Race



by Ethnicity

Non-Hispanic	13,721	93.24%
Hispanic	994	6.76%
Grand Total	14,715	100.00%

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/child-care-scholarship-program>

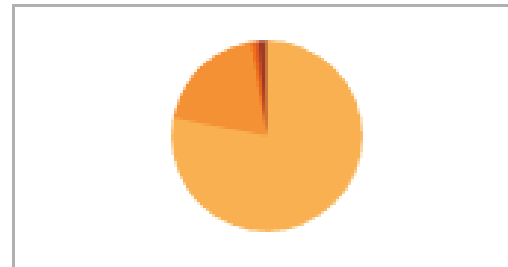
Helping Parents Pay for the Cost of Child Care

Children Served in Various Settings and Quality Levels in the Child Care Scholarship Program

by Provider Type

Licensed Child Care Center	7,333	78.1%
Registered Family Child Care	1,810	19.3%
Large Family Child Care Home	120	1.3%
Letter of Compliance Center	63	0.7%
Informal	60	0.6%
Military Center	1	0.0%
Grand Total	9,387	100.0%

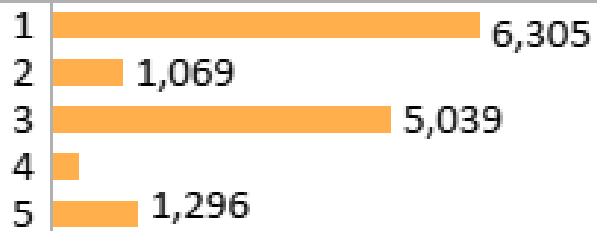
Provider Type



Provider Type

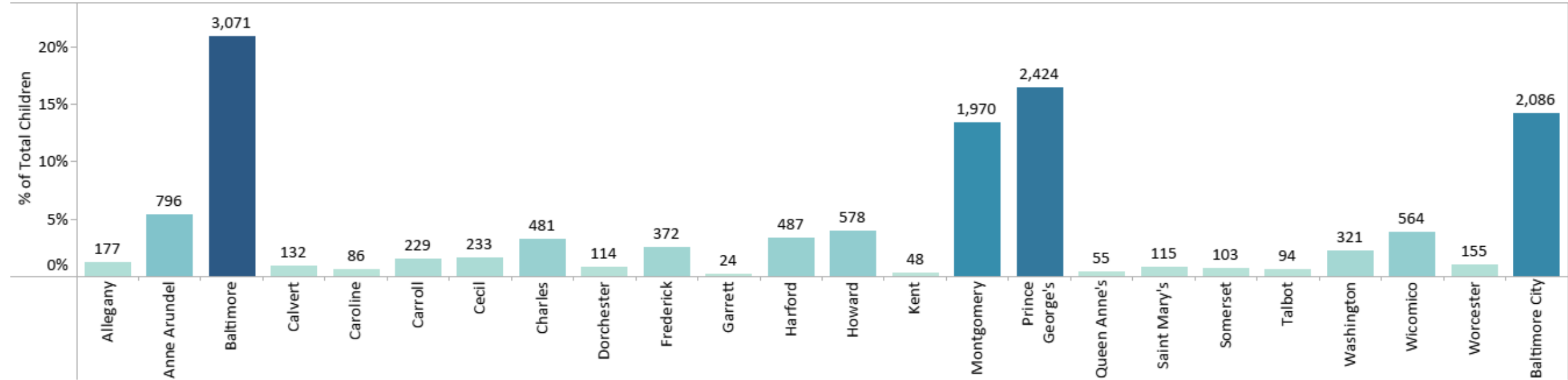


by Quality Level



<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/child-care-scholarship-program>

Children Receiving Scholarships by Jurisdiction



<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/child-care-scholarship-program>

Helping Parents Pay for the Cost of Child Care

Customer Service

- Families
 - [Child Care Scholarship Customer Inquiry Form](#)
 - [Child Care Scholarship Application Video](#)
 - Transfer of scholarships to another program if temporarily or permanently closed
 - Parents receiving Temporary Cash Assistance may work with their local social service offices for in-person assistance.
- Child Care Providers
 - Child Care Scholarship Customer Inquiry Form
 - [Child Care Scholarship Invoice Video](#)
 - Technical assistance webinars
 - Reduced time for invoice processing

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/child-care-providers/child-care-scholarship-program>

Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Project

The Project's goals are to:

- Promote positive social and emotional wellness practices in early childhood settings;
- Identify and work proactively with children who may have developmental, social, emotional, or behavioral concerns;
- Refer children and families in need of more intensive mental health services to appropriate support and/or clinical programs;
- Help children remain in stable, quality child care arrangements that support their individual needs;
- Increase teacher confidence and competence dealing with challenging behaviors through training, coaching and mentoring, and
- Build close partnerships with local community resources including Judy Centers, Head Start Centers, health departments, Child Find, Maryland Infants & Toddlers Program, preschool special education, and private consultation providers.

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/infant-and-early-childhood-mental-health-iecmmh-consultation-project>

State & Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils

- The State Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) is comprised of early childhood educators, policy makers, and community advocates from across the state.
- The purpose of the ECAC is to coordinate efforts among early care and education programs, conduct needs assessments concerning early childhood education and development programs, and develop a statewide strategic report regarding early childhood education and care.
- 24 Local Early Childhood Advisory Councils work to coordinate efforts within the local jurisdictions.

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/councilsworkgroups/state-early-childhood-advisory-council-ecac>

Maryland Families Engaged

It's Never Too Early to Engage, Connect, And Learn

- The [Maryland Families Engage](#) website is designed to help **build a community of support** for those who care for and work with young children.
- The marylandfamiliesengage.org **database of resources** contains links to child development, family engagement initiatives, news, events, and research.
- Maryland's [Early Childhood Family Engagement Framework](#) is designed to be a **guide for programs and providers** to increase the availability and quality of family engagement for all families with young children in Maryland.
- The [Maryland Family Engagement Toolkit](#) is designed to **support early care and education providers** as they implement the Framework's goals and strategies.

<https://marylandfamiliesengage.org/>



Stabilizing and Rebuilding Maryland's Child Care System

Responding to an Historic Crisis

COVID-19 Hits the Child Care System Hard

Only 29% of Child Care Programs Operating at Start of Pandemic

- March 5, 2020 Governor Hogan declares a State of Emergency.
- March 13, 2020 Governor's Executive Order gives authority to Superintendent to suspend certain child care regulations.
- March 27, 2020 Superintendent closes all child care programs at end of day.
- March 30, 2020 Essential Personnel Child Care (EPCC) and Essential Personnel School Age (EPSA) began providing child care services for essential personnel only.
- May 16, 2020 Parents from businesses newly reopened begin to have access to EPCC and EPSA sites on a tuition basis.
- June 5, 2020 State ceases paying tuition for essential person's child care.
- June 10, 2020 Child Care open to all parents.
- October 1, 2020 Child Care providers return to licensed capacity

Increasing Access to Safe Child Care Reopened and Operating Programs: 98% Statewide

Item	%	Item	%	Item	%
Allegany County	92	Charles County	100	Prince George's County	96
Anne Arundel County	94	Dorchester County	100	Queen Anne's County	99
Baltimore City	98	Frederick County	98	St. Mary's County	96
Baltimore County	98	Garrett County	91	Somerset County	80
Calvert County	100	Harford County	99	Talbot County	97
Caroline County	98	Howard County	99	Washington County	100
Carroll County	100	Kent County	100	Wicomico County	97
Cecil County	100	Montgomery County	99	Worcester County	100

Federal and State Relief

Financial Support

Funding	Amount	Use of Funds	
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act	\$45.8 million	\$31.8 million (childcare for Essential Personnel)	\$7.6 million (\$2,000 grants) \$6.4 million (\$800/\$1,600 grants)
Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act	\$128.8 million	\$49.6 million (childcare for Essential Personnel)	\$60 million (stabilization grants) \$19.2 million (Scholarship Program)
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	\$502 million	\$309 million (stabilization grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round I - \$157 million • Round II – \$125 million) 	\$193 million (Maryland Rebuilds)
State Stabilization Grants	\$50 million	\$50 million (stabilization grants)	

Stabilizing and Rebuilding the Child Care System

Customer Service

- Families
 - In the first year of the pandemic, daily posting of open and operating programs
- Child Care Providers
 - Webinars for various stabilization grant opportunities
 - Streamlined application
 - Customer inquiry form

What's Next?

New Early Childhood Data System

MSDE issued a request for proposals in order to procure the services of a contractor to **modernize** and develop a centralized, interactive Early Childhood Data System that will provide a foundation for rapidly evolving business demands and high expectations of the early childhood community.

- Phases 1 & 2: Architectural Review, Global Design and Enabling Modules
- Phase 3: Licensing
- Phase 4: Child Care Scholarships
- Phase 5: Operations, Maintenance and Enhancements
- Phase 6: Credentialing and Training
- Phase 7: Maryland EXCELS
- Phase 8: Data Management and Reporting
- Phase 9: Child Enrollment and Attendance Reporting, Judy Centers, and Pre-K
- Phase 10: Interagency Early Childhood Data Warehouse and Operational Dashboards

Voices from the Field

Family Child Care Providers

- Ruby Daniels
 - Daniels Family Daycare, Howard County
- Arlene Ennis
 - Little Creation Family Child Care, Prince George's County
- Deena Gutridge
 - DnD Christian Daycare, Baltimore County
- Sonya Odum
 - Sonya's Family Daycare, Anne Arundel County



Thank you

<https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/>