

Additional Support

The NJ DHS/DFD works with service providers and other state and municipal agencies to help families access other programs and services. These include Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Head Start and Early Head Start, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Medicaid and Early Intervention Services.

You can find information on these programs and more on the DHS website at nj.gov/humanservices or you can visit ChildCareNJ.gov/Resources for links to more support services and resources.

If you have questions about any of the information in this brochure, contact your CCR&R by calling **1-800-332-9227** or at the contact info below:

Programs for Parents
570 Broad Street, 8th Floor
Newark NJ 07102
(973) 297-1114
customerservice@programsforparents.org



There is so much to think about when choosing child care. Balancing location, cost, quality and just feeling good about who is watching your kids makes this a very important decision.

New Jersey's Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Family Development (DFD) provides you with valuable information to help you make those decisions. We also help lower-income families pay for child care through the New Jersey Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).

To give you a sense of whether you might be eligible to receive assistance through CCAP, the maximum yearly income for a family of three (for example, a mom and two kids) is \$51,640 (for 2024).

To check your specific situation and see if you might be eligible, visit ChildCareNJ.gov/Calculator.

Applicant/Co-Applicant Eligibility Requirements

- ☆ Must be a New Jersey resident;
- ☆ Must meet income requirements and not have assets that exceed \$1 million; and
- ☆ Must be working full time (**30 hours** or more a week), attending school full time (**12 credits** or more), in job training (at least **20 hours** a week), or have a full-time equivalent combination of these activities to meet the requirement.

Child(ren) Eligibility Requirements

- ☆ Up to the age of 13, or less than age 19, if mentally or physically incapable of self-care or under protective supervision by the NJ Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P);
- ☆ Must be a U.S. citizen or qualified non-citizen; and
- ☆ Must reside with applicant/co-applicant (parent(s) or individual(s) acting as parent(s) (in loco parentis)).

Eligible Child Care Providers

CCAP can be used at any licensed child care center, registered family child care provider, approved home (in-home and family, friend or neighbor), school-based program (before- and after-care) or summer youth camp that is approved by the state and accepts state payments. Eligible providers must comply with all federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act requirements, including completing numerous health and safety trainings and required criminal background checks.

Completing and Submitting an Application

To get started, you must first complete, sign and submit an application with all the required documents to your Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agency. You can download an application at ChildCareNJ.gov or request one from your CCR&R. To find your local CCR&R, visit ChildCareNJ.gov/CCRR or call **1-800-332-9227**.

The CCR&R will review your application within **10 business days** of receiving it and determine if you are eligible within **30 calendar days**. You will then receive a letter from the CCR&R telling you if you are eligible, not eligible or if additional information is needed.



Selecting a Child Care Program

Once you have been found eligible for CCAP, you must choose a provider. However, you can start looking for an eligible, quality provider before being approved. You can search for child care in your area, view licensing information and inspection reports and find a Grow NJ Kids rated or participating program near you at ChildCareNJ.gov. Once you are approved, you have **60 days** to start using your CCAP benefits.

Grow NJ Kids, NJ's Quality Rating Improvement System, helps raise the quality of child care and early learning across the state. Programs that choose to participate receive resources that help them raise their quality and continuously improve their programs. For parents, Grow NJ Kids helps you choose a quality provider so you can make the most of your child's early learning years.

Child Care Agreements and Payments

Once you've selected a provider your CCR&R will send you some forms that both you and your selected provider must fill out. These must be completed before payment for your child's care can start.

The state has set rates for what it pays for child care assistance. These rates vary depending on the age of the child and the type of provider. Your benefit may cover the entire cost for your child's care. However, if your provider charges more than what the state covers, you are responsible for paying the difference. CCAP payments are made directly to your chosen child care provider. There may be other fees your child care provider charges for specific purposes (e.g., field trips and late fees). You are responsible for paying these fees.

Some families eligible to receive CCAP are required to share the cost of child care. This is known as a copayment or copay. Copay amounts are determined by family income, family size and the hours of care needed. Copays are separate from other fees. If a copay is assessed, you will be made aware of that amount.