

Program Name: Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA)

Agency: Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC)

Description: A complex variety of subsidized child care services, such as child care centers, family child care (at someone's home) and informal child care (ex: with a relative) are managed by area Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, including Child Care Choices of Boston.

Website: <https://www.mass.gov/child-care-financial-assistance>

Eligibility:

Families must be below 50% of State Medium Income (SMI) (family of 2=\$37,053; family of 4=\$54,489) when they apply for child care and not go over 85% when they are receiving childcare (family of 2=\$62,989; family of 4=\$92,631). All parents/guardians in the family must also be either: working, seeking employment or enrolled in a training program; retired if over 65; or parent and/or child have documented disability.

Limitations:

- TAFDC recipients automatically receive a childcare voucher for work, education & training, job search and community service activities. Others who receive child care without a wait include: former TAFDC recipients who are now working (if apply w/in 12 months) or finished education & training program (if apply w/in 6 months); homeless in DTA shelter (if apply within 3 months or as long as applicant starts working or enters Education & Training program); teen parents. All others must get on state income eligible waiting list for child care (a long wait).
- Immigrants: EEC does not review immigration status or report to ICE, but does require identifying documentation and proof of work eligibility, etc. for various child care vouchers. However, no child shall be denied child care assistance based solely on applicant's failure to demonstrate citizenship or immigration status without final review by EEC.

Amount:

Child care coverage varies by income, household size and age of child, but there is no maximum cap. Co-pays are based on a sliding scale: families in Tier Level 1 income bracket (=family of 2 earning up to \$971/month) pay \$0. Fees rise in multiple increments up to \$205/week for a family earning 85% SMI or 100% SMI income if child has disability.

How to Apply:

Call 1- 617-542-5437 to apply or email: help@childcarechoicesofboston.org

The "income-eligible" wait list is very long, so get name on it early if not qualified for an immediate child care voucher.

Linked Services? Transportation for children to and from child care can be added to the voucher in certain circumstances.

Right to appeal? Yes, through EEC or DTA, depending on type of voucher. The Resource & Referral Agency will provide an appeal form asking for supportive documentation. Vouchers renew 2 weeks ahead of time in order that any appeals can be processed in a timely fashion. If appeal takes longer

than 2 weeks, then applicant will get an automatic voucher extension. In some cases exceptions can be made—write a formal submittal to EEC to request one.

Retroactive? No, unless couldn't get a voucher renewed in timely manner.