



## Procedure Letter 36

**TO:** Early Care and Education Stakeholders

**FROM:** Kara B. Wente, Director

**DATE:** October 29, 2025

**SUBJECT:** 2025 Updates to the Child Care Choice Voucher Program

### **Background**

The Child Care Choice Voucher Program (CCVP) launched in April 2024 to help families pay for child care when they earn too much to qualify for regular child care assistance through Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC). CCVP offers financial support to families whose income is between 146-200% of the federal poverty level (based on family size), helping ensure that parents can remain in the workforce or continue their education without losing access to quality early learning options.

### **Implementation**

As the program moves into its second year of implementation, the Department of Children and Youth (DCY) is updating operational guidance and payment rates, starting on **November 1, 2025** to align with federal poverty guidelines, streamline processes for families and providers, and strengthen consistency with PFCC policies.

### **For Families**

- Families in all 88 counties can access CCVP and the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grant, if eligible, but not at the same program. Attendance hours between programs cannot overlap.
- Only one payment per child for the CCVP will be issued in a month. Families may have only one CCVP authorization per child per calendar month. If the family switches to a different program within the month, the family may have to privately pay a portion of the tuition for the second program.
- Families are required to report the following information to their county department of job and family services within 10 calendar days:
  1. Long-term changes in caretaker participation in a qualifying activity (Example: loss of employment, no longer enrolled in school or training).



2. Address changes.

- Families are not required, but can report the following that may help the county process changes quickly:
  - Decreases in family income.
  - Changes in household composition.
  - Requests to switch to a different CCVP program.

**For Programs**

- Programs must have an active provider agreement and be in “**Open**” status as verified in the **Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS)**, and serving children are eligible. *Please note: DCY is developing a system enhancement that will allow providers to indicate they accept CCVP via the OCLQS Portal. The timing and instructions for those changes will be shared ahead of any release.*
- In-home aide providers, child day camps, and programs in a temporarily closed status are not eligible to participate in the CCVP.
- Enrollment payments will only be paid to programs once there is complete attendance entered with a payment after denial (PAD) or CCVP authorization.
- Programs will be paid an initial enrollment payment upon authorization and 12 monthly payments as long as the child is enrolled and attending.
  - No more than three enrollment payments will be paid per child within the eligibility year.
  - Monthly attendance payments will be paid to one program, per child, each month through the Time, Attendance, and Payment (TAP) system.
- The charts below show the new monthly voucher payment amounts that will be in effect for enrollment and attendance provided on or after **November 1, 2025**.

**Voucher Payment Rates**

• **Centers and School-Based Programs**

| Age                                                      | Total Voucher | Initial Enrollment Payment | Monthly Payments |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Infant</b><br><i>Birth to less than 18 months old</i> | \$11,700      | \$900                      | \$900            |
| <b>Toddler</b>                                           | \$10,400      | \$800                      | \$800            |



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |         |       |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| <i>At least 18 months old to less than 3 years old</i>                                                                                                                                                                         |         |       |       |
| <b>Preschool</b><br><i>At least 3 or 4 years old and not enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten</i>                                                                                                            | \$9,750 | \$750 | \$750 |
| <b>School Age</b><br><i>Enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten or above and less than 15 years old, or, in the case of a child who is receiving special needs child care, is less than eighteen years old.</i> | \$4,875 | \$375 | \$375 |

• **Type A and Type B Family Child Care Homes**

| <b>Age</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Total Voucher</b> | <b>Initial Enrollment Payment</b> | <b>Monthly Payments</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Infant</b><br><i>Birth to less than 18 months old</i>                                                                                                                                                                       | \$7,800              | \$600                             | \$600                   |
| <b>Toddler</b><br><i>At least 18 months old to less than 3 years old</i>                                                                                                                                                       | \$7,150              | \$550                             | \$550                   |
| <b>Preschool</b><br><i>At least 3 or 4 years old and not enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten</i>                                                                                                            | \$6,500              | \$500                             | \$500                   |
| <b>School Age</b><br><i>Enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten or above and less than 15 years old, or, in the case of a child who is receiving special needs child care, is less than eighteen years old.</i> | \$3,900              | \$300                             | \$300                   |

**What is CCVP, and which families are eligible?**

The CCVP provides financial assistance to families working or attending school whose income is 146-200% of the federal poverty level, based on family size. Families will need to meet all other PFCC eligibility requirements (except income). Current income guidelines are found [here](#), and information on PFCC is available [here](#).



Families eligible for PFCC are **not** eligible for CCVP. Additionally, individuals not complying with a PFCC repayment agreement or who have committed prior caretaker fraud are also ineligible. Eligibility determinations for CCVP are **not** subject to state hearing rights and cannot be appealed.

### Will parents have a cost with CCVP?

Families may pay a portion of the child care costs directly to the program. If the CCVP payment does not cover the full cost, programs are encouraged to charge the families no more than 9% of their monthly gross income for the remaining tuition. The combined total (CCVP payment + family portion) may not exceed the provider's private rate.

### How can families apply for the CCVP?

Families apply for CCVP by completing a JFS 07200 Application for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Cash Assistance, Medical and/or Child Care Assistance.

- [Paper Application](#): Submit by fax, email, mail, or in person to the local county job and family services agency.
- [Ohio Benefits Self-Service Portal](#): Complete an online application, upload verifications, and submit electronically through <https://benefits.ohio.gov>.

Families inquiring about how their eligibility was determined for CCVP may contact their local county job and family services agency.

### Questions

Family and Customer Support Center

Phone: 1-844-234-5437

Email: [childcarepolicy@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov](mailto:childcarepolicy@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov)

### Rules/Forms

The chart indicates the impacted Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rules and/or required forms.

| OAC Rules | DCY Forms |
|-----------|-----------|
| N/A       | N/A       |