

Learn More About Changes to the Early Childhood Education Grant Program

What is the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grant Program?

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) Grant Program is being updated to make early care and education easier to access in Ohio. This project will improve how the ECE Grant Program works by codifying the program through the creation and implementation of administrative rules. Starting in July 2025, the ECE grant program will be a permanent section in Ohio Revised Code 5104.53 (contingent upon legislature action to enact the biennial budget). It will streamline the process for families and eligibility for their preschool child(ren), all through the Ohio Benefits system.

What is Changing?

Here are some of the important updates and changes:

- **New Screens:** Updating old screens and making new ones to make the system easier to use.
- **Rules and Validations:** Changing old rules, adding new ones, and checking to make sure everything is correct.
- **System Integrations:** Improving the Self-Service Portal (SSP) and Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS) to make things run smoother.
- **Reporting and Notices:** Updating old reports, making new ones, and changing forms and notices to communicate better with everyone.

What are the Benefits of this Change?

The new ECE Grant Program will bring many benefits to make early care and education in Ohio better:

- **Accurate Grant Process:** Improving the grant process to meet the needs of young children.
- **Improved Reporting:** Providing better reporting for more openness and trust.
- **User-Friendly System:** Making it easier for county workers to use, simplifying eligibility and benefit processing.
- **Streamlined Funding Options:** Expanding early care and education services to include the ECE Grant Program along with Child Care Choice Voucher Program and Publicly Funded Child Care (PFCC) to find the best resources for families.



- **Improved Access:** Making it easier for more children to get early care and education along with other family services and supports (SNAP, Medicaid, etc.).
- **High-Quality Education:** Ensuring high-quality education for preschool children in Ohio.
- **Kindergarten Readiness:** Helping improve readiness for kindergarten across the state.

Want to Learn More About Changes to ECE?

For more information about changes to ECE, email EarlyChildhoodEducation@childrenandyouth.ohio.gov, or if you are a county worker, contact your Technical Assistance or Systems Help Desk.