



MASSACHUSETTS

**Department of
Early Education and Care**

EEC Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3)

August 2026 Survey

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Family Child Care Program Survey

Introduction

Your responses to this survey will help EEC to better understand your program and how the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can continue to support educators, providers, and families. It is important for us to hear from as many programs as possible so that the survey findings represent the range of experiences and perspectives that exist across Massachusetts. You can save your survey responses at any point using the “save” button at the bottom of each section, so that you can return to complete the survey later. However, you will be unable to submit your next grant application until you complete this survey.

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) will use the information gathered from your survey responses to improve our programs and to report to the EEC Board and other key stakeholders on the status of early education and care in the Commonwealth. EEC may share C3 Survey responses with EEC-approved researchers or as required by public disclosure rules. EEC will take measures to protect the confidentiality of any C3 survey response data that is shared outside of EEC.

Section 1: Standard Survey Questions

C3 Expenditure Information

The first section of the survey is about how programs use C3 funds.

This table focuses on how your program has used C3 funds to support operating expenses and investments, such as salaries, benefits, rent, facilities maintenance, and other costs. In this survey we are asking you to report on grant funds used for expenses from **July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**.

Please note: Include yourself in the answer options referring to "educator/staff".

- 1) We understand that programs use funds to support operational expenses and investments. How much of **your C3 funds** have been used to cover the following expenses from **July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**?

<u>Expense Category</u>	<u>Amount Spent from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026</u>
Educator/staff salaries: Please report any funds spent to cover wages for employees. Please include yourself and any other educators/staff.	
Educator/staff benefits (e.g., health insurance, paid time off, etc.). Please include yourself and any other educators/staff.	
One-time payments for existing educators (e.g. stipends, bonuses, hazard pay)	
Incentives to attract or hire new staff (e.g., sign-on bonuses, retention bonuses)	
Mental health supports for staff (e.g. access to counseling or consultation about workplace challenges, peer support groups, organizational wellness initiatives, etc.). Please include yourself and any other educators/staff.	
Training and professional development opportunities for yourself or your assistant	
Mental health or behavioral supports for children (e.g. early screening and assessment resources/services, consultation with specialists, etc.). This should not include salaries for regular full/part-time program staff.	
Curricula or assessment resources	
Supplies or materials (e.g. diapers, cleaning supplies, furniture, toys, kitchen supplies, etc.)	
Food (e.g. snacks or meals for children)	
Transportation (e.g. gas, vehicle maintenance, etc.)	

Facilities maintenance and improvements (ongoing costs for facilities maintenance, not including long-term capital/facilities investments)	
Long term capital/facilities investments (e.g. large one-time costs such as a new roof, a new heating system, etc.)	
Rent or Mortgage Payments	
Utilities (e.g., electricity, phone, internet, software subscription, CCMS, etc.)	
Insurance (e.g., general liability insurance, home insurance, etc.)	
Paying off debt	
Other expenses	
Unspent funds (e.g., savings, funds not yet spent)	

- 2) You indicated above that you spent funds on “other expenses.” Please provide more information below on how you spent these funds.

- 3) You reported that your program used C3 funds for educator and staff salaries between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. Were any of those funds used to raise wages for yourself and/or an assistant?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) I don't know

- 4) You reported that your program used C3 funds for educator and staff benefits between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. Were any of those funds used to improve or expand benefits for yourself and/or an assistant?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) I don't know

Section 2: Additional Questions

Program Curriculum Usage

EEC is interested in learning about curricula your program uses and the associated costs.

- 5) Does your program use a curriculum to provide learning experiences to **infants and/or toddlers** in any of the domains listed below?

Infant/Toddler Domain	We provide learning experiences in this domain using a published and/or self-developed curriculum	We provide learning experiences in this domain but do not use a specific curriculum	We do not provide learning experiences in this domain	I don't know	We do not serve infants and toddlers
Approaches to Learning					
Cognitive Development					
Language and Communication					
Physical Health and Wellbeing					
Social and Emotional Development					

- 6) Does your program use a curriculum to provide formal learning experiences to **preschoolers** in any of the domains listed below?

Preschool Domain	We provide learning experiences in this domain using a published and/or self-developed curriculum	We provide learning experiences in this domain but do not use a specific curriculum	We do not provide learning experiences in this domain	I don't know	We do not serve preschoolers
Arts					
Language Development					
Literacy Development					
Health (including Physical Development)					
History and Social Science					
Mathematics					
Science					
Technology and Engineering					

Social and Emotional Development (including Approaches to Play and Learning)					
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7) Which of the following curricula does your program use? Select all that apply.

	Used with Infants	Used with Toddlers	Used with Preschoolers
My program does not serve this age group			
No formal curriculum			
Curriculum designed by own program/staff			
Creative Curriculum			
Emergent Curriculum			
Experience Curriculum			
Frog Street			
Great First Eight			
High Scope			
Lillio Learning (Funshine)			
Montessori			
Reggio Emilia			
Neighborhood Villages Learning Through Exploration: A Play-Based Toddler Curriculum			
Appletree (Every Child Ready)			
Boston Focus on Early Learning			
Bridges			
Building Blocks			
Choose Love			
Core Knowledge			

Language Arts (Amplify CKLA)			
Eureka Math			
Everyday Math			
Handwriting without Tears			
Heggerty			
Learning without Tears			
Letterland			
Lively Letters			
Math in Action			
OWL			
PATHS Social Emotional			
Sadlier Faith Development Program			
Second Step			
Three Cheers for Pre-K			
Tools of the Mind			
World of Wonders			
Young Mathematicians			
Zones of Regulation			
Other			

- 8) Approximately, what were the upfront costs across all the curricula you selected in the above question (e.g. initial purchasing cost, initial curriculum-specific materials cost, etc.)?
- a) \$_____
 - b) I don't know
- 9) Excluding upfront costs, what are your program's estimated annual curriculum-related costs (yearly subscriptions, replenishing curriculum-specific activities or training materials, etc.)?
- a) \$_____
 - b) I don't know

Program Enrollment

EEC is interested in learning about your program's current enrollment.

- 10) Is your program currently enrolling its desired number of children?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
- 11) What are the **primary** reasons your program is not meeting its desired enrollment level? Select up to two that best apply. *[If respondent selected "No" in previous question]*
- a) Limited demand from families
 - b) Unfilled educator/staff positions
 - c) Facility limitations preventing full use of existing program space
 - d) We intentionally enroll fewer children because it's more manageable based on children's needs
 - e) Insufficient funding or financial resources to operate at desired enrollment level
 - f) Other (please specify):
- 12) What is your understanding of the most common reasons why there is limited demand from families in your community? Select up to two that best apply. *[If respondent selected "Limited demand from families" in previous question]*
- a) Families have more child care options due to more programs opening in your community
 - b) More families are enrolling children in public school-run programs
 - c) There is a declining or low child population in the community
 - d) My program's hours or schedule do not align with some families' needs
 - e) Some families are facing transportation barriers
 - f) The cost of this program is out of reach for some families
 - g) Families cannot access CCFA to help pay for this program
 - h) Other (please specify):
 - i) I don't know
- 13) Does your program currently have a waitlist for enrollment?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
- 14) Approximately how many children are on your program's waitlist for enrollment?

Age Group	Number of Children on your Waitlist for Enrollment
Infants	
Toddlers	
Preschoolers	
School Age Children	

Program Operations & Supports

EEC is interested in better understanding your program's operations, challenges your program may be facing, and supports that could be helpful to your program.

- 15) How confident are you that your program will continue operating over the next 12 months?
- a) Very confident
 - b) Somewhat confident
 - c) Not very confident
 - d) Not at all confident
- 16) Which of the following financial challenges is your program currently facing, if any? Select all that apply.
- a) My program is not currently facing any financial challenges
 - b) Difficulty covering payroll
 - c) Difficulty paying rent or mortgage
 - d) Carrying significant debt
 - e) Relying on reserves/savings or one-time funds to cover ongoing expenses
 - f) Lack of savings/reserves
 - g) Operating at a financial loss
 - h) I don't know
 - i) Other (please specify):
- 17) What areas would you **most** like technical assistance in, if any, to support running your program? Select up to three that best apply.
- a) No additional support needed
 - b) Recruiting and hiring staff
 - c) Staff training and professional development
 - d) Curriculum and activity planning
 - e) Marketing and outreach to families
 - f) applying for or managing child care financial assistance (e.g. CCFA vouchers/contracts)
 - g) Meeting licensing and regulatory requirements
 - h) Applying for EEC grant programs or other funding opportunities
 - i) Budgeting and financial management
 - j) Tax preparation and filing
 - k) Record-keeping and administrative tasks
 - l) Facilities, maintenance, or space-related needs
 - m) Other (please specify):
- 18) Does your program regularly provide meals and/or snacks for enrolled children? *Note: The responses below have been pre-populated using the information from your Child Care Profile in LEAD. Please review and update your responses if any information has changed. Any updates you make will be reflected in LEAD and will also appear on your program's profile in EEC's Child Care Search tool, which families may use to find formal care.*
- a) Yes
 - b) No
- 19) Describe the meal arrangements provided by the program.
- a) Program provides breakfast
 - b) Program provides lunch
 - c) Program provides snack
 - d) Parent provides lunch

e) Parent provides snack

Center-Based Child Care Program Survey

Introduction

Your responses to this survey will help EEC to better understand your program and how the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can continue to support educators, providers, and families. It is important for us to hear from as many programs as possible so that the survey findings represent the range of experiences and perspectives that exist across Massachusetts. You can save your survey responses at any point using the “save” button at the bottom of each section, so that you can return to complete the survey later. However, you will be unable to submit your next grant application until you complete this survey.

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One-time payments for existing educators (e.g. stipends, bonuses, hazard pay)	
Incentives to attract or hire new staff (e.g., sign-on bonuses, retention bonuses)	
Mental health supports for staff (e.g. access to counseling or consultation about workplace challenges, peer support groups, organizational wellness initiatives, etc.).	
Training and professional development opportunities for educators, including paid planning time	
Mental health or behavioral supports for children (e.g. early screening and assessment resources/services, consultation with specialists, etc.). This should not include salaries for regular full/part-time program staff.	
Curricula or assessment resources	
Supplies or materials (e.g. diapers, cleaning supplies, furniture, toys, kitchen supplies, etc.)	
Food (e.g. snacks or meals for children)	
Transportation (e.g. gas, vehicle maintenance, etc.)	
Facilities maintenance and improvements (ongoing costs for facilities maintenance, not including long-term capital/facilities investments)	

Long term capital/facilities investments (e.g. large one-time costs such as a new roof, a new heating system, etc.)	
Rent or Mortgage Payments	
Utilities (e.g., electricity, phone, internet, software subscription, CCMS, etc.)	
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Other expenses	
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- 3) You reported that your program used C3 funds for educator and staff salaries between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. Were any of those funds used to raise the wages of educators and/or staff?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) I don’t know

- 4) You reported that your program used C3 funds for educator and staff benefits between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. Were any of those funds used to improve or expand the benefits offered to educators and/or staff?
 - a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) I don’t know

Section 2: Additional Questions

Program Curriculum Usage

EEC is interested in learning about curricula your program uses and the associated costs.

- 5) Does your program use a curriculum to provide learning experiences to **infants and/or toddlers** in any of the domains listed below?

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- 6) Does your program use a curriculum to provide formal learning experiences to **preschoolers** in any of the domains listed below?

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Science				
Technology and Engineering				

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7) Which of the following curricula does your program use? Select all that apply.

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Bridges			
Building Blocks			
Choose Love			
Core Knowledge Language Arts (Amplify CKLA)			
Eureka Math			
Everyday Math			
Handwriting without Tears			
Heggerty			

Learning without Tears			
Letterland			
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Young Mathematicians			
Zones of Regulation			
Other			

- 8) Approximately, what were the upfront costs across all the curricula you selected in the above question (e.g. initial purchasing cost, initial curriculum-specific materials cost, etc.)?
- c) \$_____
 - d) I don't know
- 9) Excluding upfront costs, what are your program's estimated annual curriculum-related costs (yearly subscriptions, replenishing curriculum-specific activities or training materials, etc.)?
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Program Enrollment

EEC is interested in learning about your program's current enrollment.

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- 11) What are the **primary** reasons your program is not meeting its desired enrollment level? Select up to two that best apply. *[If respondent selected "No" in previous question]*
- a) Limited demand from families
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 - c) There is a declining or low child population in the community
 - d) My program's hours or schedule do not align with some families' needs
 - e) Some families are facing transportation barriers
 - f) The cost of this program is out of reach for some families
 - g) Families cannot access CCFA to help pay for this program
 - h) Other (please specify):
 - i) I don't know
- 13) Does your program currently have a waitlist for enrollment?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
- 14) Approximately how many children are on your program's waitlist for enrollment?

Age Group	Number of Children on your Waitlist for Enrollment
Infants	
Toddlers	
Preschoolers	
School Age Children	

Program Operations & Supports

EEC is interested in better understanding your program's operations, challenges your program may be facing, and supports that could be helpful to your program.

EEC offers [Early Education and Out of School Time \(EEOST\) Capital Grants](#), ranging from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. These grants support physical facility improvements for eligible nonprofit early education and out-of-school time programs that serve a significant percentage of children from low-income families.

- 15) Before taking this survey, were you aware of EEOST Capital Grants?
- a) Yes
 - b) No
 - c) I don't know
- 16) What are the reasons, if any, your program has not applied for an EEOST Capital Grant or may be hesitant to apply in the future? Select all that apply.
- a) We have applied for an EEOST Capital Grant and/or plan on applying for an EEOST Capital Grant in the future
 - b) We do not understand the application process or requirements
 - c) We do not have enough staff time to prepare an application
 - d) We do not have enough staff time to manage a construction or renovation project
 - e) We cannot afford the upfront costs needed to apply (such as architectural, engineering, or contractor estimates)
 - f) We are concerned about managing construction or renovations while operating our program.
 - g) We are concerned about reporting, monitoring, or audit requirements
 - h) We lease our facility and may not meet the grant's property requirements
 - i) The grant program does not fit our funding needs (e.g., grant amount is too large or too small)
 - j) We do not serve at least 50% children who are eligible for public subsidy. (Public subsidy means any federal, state, or local public benefit or assistance received by the child /family. Examples of public subsidies include: CCFA, SNAP, SSI, WIC)
 - k) We do not operate full-time and year-round
 - l) I don't know
 - m) Other (please specify):
- 17) What types of application support would make your organization more likely to apply for an EEOST Capital Grant? Select all that apply.
- a) No application support needed
 - b) A plain-language eligibility checklist
 - c) A pre-application eligibility screening
 - d) A webinar explaining the application process
 - e) One-on-one technical assistance for completing the application
 - f) Sample applications or templates
 - g) Help identifying eligible capital projects
 - h) More time to complete the application
 - i) Other (please specify):
- 18) How confident are you that your program will continue operating over the next 12 months?
- a) Very confident
 - b) Somewhat confident
 - c) Not very confident

d) Not at all confident

19) Which of the following financial challenges is your program currently facing, if any? Select all that apply.

- a) My program is not currently facing any financial challenges
- b) Difficulty covering payroll
- c) Difficulty paying rent or mortgage
- d) Carrying significant debt
- e) Relying on reserves/savings or one-time funds to cover ongoing expenses
- f) Lack of savings/reserves
- g) Operating at a financial loss
- h) I don't know
- i) Other (please specify):

20) What areas would you **most** like technical assistance in, if any, to support running your program? Select up to three that best apply.

- a) No additional support needed
- b) Recruiting and hiring staff
- c) Staff training and professional development
- d) Curriculum and activity planning
- e) Marketing and outreach to families
- f) applying for or managing child care financial assistance (e.g. CCFA vouchers/contracts)
- g) Meeting licensing and regulatory requirements
- h) Applying for EEC grant programs or other funding opportunities
- i) Budgeting and financial management
- j) Tax preparation and filing
- k) Record-keeping and administrative tasks
- l) Facilities, maintenance, or space-related needs
- m) Other (please specify):

21) Does your program regularly provide meals and/or snacks for enrolled children? *Note: The responses below have been pre-populated using the information from your Child Care Profile in LEAD. Please review and update your responses if any information has changed. Any updates you make will be reflected in LEAD and will also appear on your program's profile in EEC's Child Care Search tool, which families may use to find formal care.*

- a) Yes
- b) No

22) Describe the meal arrangements provided by the program.

- a) Program provides breakfast
- b) Program provides lunch
- c) Program provides snack
- d) Parent provides lunch
- e) Parent provides snack

23) What type of facility does your out-of-school time (OST) program operate in?

- a) Public K-12 school building
- b) Private K-12 school building
- c) Town/city community center
- d) Building owned by another organization (including a community-based child care facility)
- e) Building owned by your own organization
- f) I don't know

g) Other (please specify):