



Policy Advisory

Policy Title: Informal Child Care Financial Assistance Reimbursement Rates

Policy Numbers: CCFA-26-05

Release Date: July 8, 2026

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

OVERVIEW

Informal Child Care (ICC) providers are family members, friends, neighbors, and other license-exempt caregivers who provide care for children whose families receive EEC Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA). Through funding included in the Commonwealth's Fiscal Year 2025 Fair Share Surplus Supplemental Budget, the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is increasing reimbursement rates for ICC providers.

In June 2026, the Board of Early Education and Care (EEC) approved a rate increase plan that moved toward consistent reimbursement rates regardless of whether care is provided in the child's home or a relative's home. As part of this plan, the reimbursement rate for care provided in the child's home is increased to match the rate for care provided in a relative's home, and an across-the-board increase is applied to all informal child care rates. Daily rate increases will range from \$3.00 to \$10.00 per child, depending on the care setting.

The new reimbursement rates take effect on July 1, 2026. The rate increase applies only to eligible services provided on or after July 1, 2026. Services provided before July 1, 2026 will continue to be reimbursed at FY26 rates.

We appreciate your patience as EEC implements these rate increases.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all informal child care providers who provide care for children whose families receive EEC Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFA).

RESOURCES

For more information, please find the rate chart [here](#).

If you or your staff have questions about this policy or need additional support, please contact eeccsubsidymanagement@mass.gov.