



Fiscal Year 2026 Commonwealth Cares for Children (C3) Formula

Effective November 1, 2025

Base Rate		Equity Adjustment	
Licensed Capacity (Adjusted by enrollment*)	Standardized Base Rate (Based on youngest age group served, differentiated for part time programs)		
	Center Based Care	Family Child Care	
	$\times$ \$100 if serve infants (\$80 if open part time)	\$80 if Full Time Assistant (\$60 if open part time)	
	\$80 if serve toddler (\$60 if open part time)	\$60 if Part Time Assistant	
	\$70 x if serve preschool (\$50 if open part time)	(\$40 if open part time)	
	\$50 if only serve school age (including K)	\$50 if No Assistant (\$30 if open part time)	
		$\times$	
			Tier 1
			- Serves 25% or more children receiving EEC CCFA, or - is a Head Start Program, or - is located in a very low opportunity area
			$\times 3$
			Tier 2
			- Serves 1-24% children receiving CCFA, or - Serves at least 25% of children with non-CCFA scholarship that covers at least 50% of tuition
			$\times 2.5$
			Tier 3
			- Does not qualify for tier 1 or tier 2, or - CEO compensation ratio equals or exceeds 30:1
			$\times 1$

Pursuant to MGL Ch. 15D, Section 20, this formula is used to calculate C3 monthly payments to all eligible providers. Payment amounts are calculated based on program data available in November and are paid out monthly at the same rate (pending submitted recertifications) for a year. Eligible providers include all EEC-licensed and funded programs in Massachusetts that demonstrate a willingness to accept children with child care financial assistance (CCFA). For more C3 information see the [website](#).

*Average annual enrollment is used to calculate a percentage of licensed capacity. If this percentage is less than 75%, the licensed capacity used in the formula is prorated by that percentage.



Notes and Definitions

Licensed Capacity and Enrollment Adjustment

- Licensed capacity as reported in LEAD for all programs > 10, 10 for those with capacity of 10 and below.
- Annual average enrollment calculated based on enrollment reporting from November 2024 to October 2025.
- Licensed capacity is prorated in calculations for programs not fully enrolled - for all center-based programs with <75% of capacity filled and for family child care programs with less than 3 children this number is based on actual enrollment reported.

Hours of Operation

- Less than 25 hours per week considered part-time, all others full time.

Youngest Age Served for Center-based Programs (center based)

- Based on the youngest child reported enrolled and existence of a licensed classroom to serve children that age.

Family Child Care Staffing (FCC)

- Reported assistant coverage of less than 30 hours per week is considered part-time and 30 or more hours per week is considered full-time.

CCFA Enrollment

- Highest total number of children receiving CCFA enrolled between November 2024 and October 2025.

Non-CCFA Scholarship Enrollment

- Highest total number of children enrolled paying less than 50% of the program tuition reported as of May 2025 and November 2025.

Program Location: Child Opportunity Index (COI)

- The Child Opportunity Index (COI) is a composite index of neighborhood opportunity as defined by diversitydatakids.org.

Educator: CEO Compensation Ratio

- The ratio of the highest paid executive of a for-profit umbrella organization to the lowest paid educator.