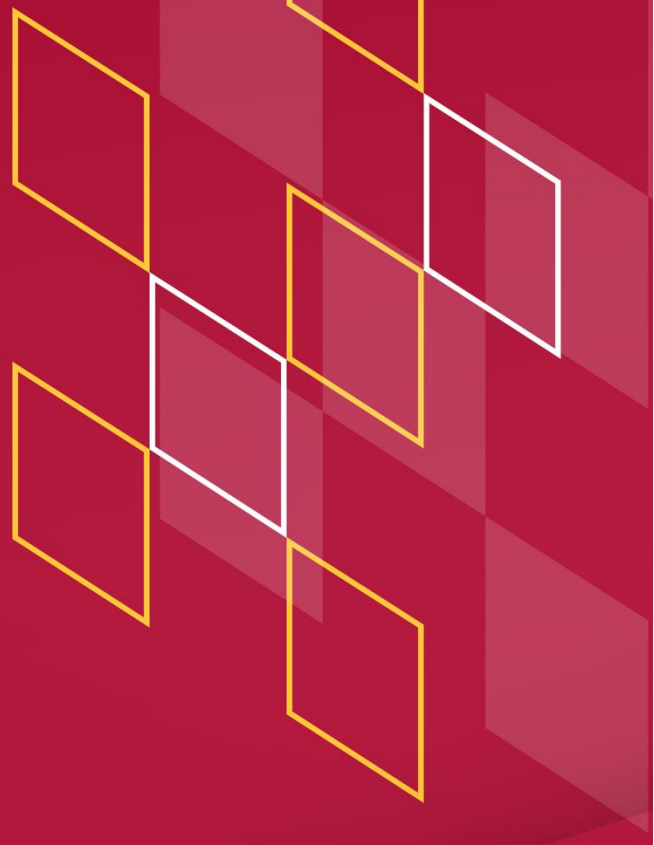




Child Care Subsidy (Scholarship) Monthly Report

Educational Article, Section 9.5-112

Division of Early Childhood

May 1, 2026



MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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May 1, 2026

The Honorable Guy J. Guzzone
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Ben Barnes
House Appropriations Committee
121 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: MSAR #11930_MSDE_Child Care Subsidy (Scholarship), Education Article 9.5-112 (May 1, 2026)

Dear Senator Guzzone and Delegate Barnes,

In response to the Legislature's request to receive monthly reports on the participation and expenditures of the Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program, please find attached the report for May 1, 2026.

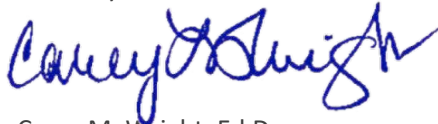
The data used in the Unduplicated Count of Children Participating and the Unduplicated Count of Families Participating Reports are generated using the most current data available. To allow for financial reconciliation, the data included in the Actual Expenditure report also uses the most current data available and reflect invoices paid to child care providers during each month.

Eligible families have up to 60 days to redeem the Child Care Scholarship from the date of issuance, and child care providers have an additional 60 days to submit appropriate documentation supporting the payment for the scholarship. Therefore, please note that the enrollment and expenditure data included in this report may change as more data is collected; the previous month's information has been updated since the last submission.

MSDE continues to closely monitor enrollment and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026. Due to the Program reaching its maximum budget capacity, the CCS Program continues to operate with a partial enrollment freeze (waitlist). Families not subject to the waitlist are those families currently receiving CCS benefits who add a new child to their existing case and families that receive Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Key data on the CCS Program waitlist, including the number of children by county, income, and demographic group are included in the report, in addition to information on the number of new scholarships that have been issued during the freeze to children exempt from the waitlist. MSDE will follow the appropriate notification process to communicate changes to the General Assembly, as required by the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Laurel Cratsley, Interim Executive Director, Governmental Affairs, Education Policy, and External Relations, by email at Laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov or by telephone at 443-571-5461.

Sincerely,



Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Schools

c: Sarah Albert, Mandated Reports Specialist, Department of Legislative Services (five copies)

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Introduction

Pursuant to Educational Article, Section 9.5-112, the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) respectfully submits the following monthly report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, providing Child Care Scholarship (CCS) Program expenditures and participation as specified in the legislative directive.

The report includes:

1. The number of children and families participating in the CCS Program to date in fiscal year 2026; see page 4.
2. CCS Program expenditures to date for fiscal year 2026, including total monthly expenditure (when CCS Program-associated payments were made) and enrollment fees paid; see page 7.
3. The number of children and families placed on the CCS Program waitlist and those not subject to the waitlist, disaggregated by income, age, and county, along with comparisons of these groups with those currently enrolled in the CCS Program, see page 12.

The data included in this report were obtained on April 7, 2026. The financial and enrollment situation of the CCS Program may have changed by the time of this report's publication.

1.0 Child Care Scholarship Program Participation

This section presents monthly counts of children and families participating in the CCS Program to date in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026. Tables 1 and 2 present the unduplicated number of children and families who participated in the CCS Program from July 2025 to March 2026. These numbers are drawn from receipted vouchers for children who were enrolled in the CCS Program during each month. Overall, there is a slight decrease in numbers of both children and families participating in the CCS Program across all counties in the state of Maryland. The total number of children enrolled decreased from 45,061 in July 2025 to 40,329 in March 2026. Similarly, the number of families enrolled in the CCS Program across Maryland had a decrease from 30,194 in July 2025 to 26,422 in March 2026.

Table 1: Unduplicated Count of Children Participating in the CCS Program in SFY26

County of Residence	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Allegany County	363	360	313	287	272	262	259	260	251			
Anne Arundel County	2,456	2,545	2,386	2,304	2,258	2,241	2,229	2,200	2,182			
Baltimore County	9,160	9,304	9,117	8,857	8,648	8,579	8,520	8,430	8,438			
Calvert County	329	338	326	324	312	312	316	304	305			
Caroline County	175	173	166	161	156	158	160	154	158			
Carroll County	578	583	552	539	523	513	508	499	500			
Cecil County	627	612	607	583	554	543	551	538	536			
Charles County	1,713	1,753	1,642	1,595	1,555	1,530	1,514	1,514	1,499			
Dorchester County	272	266	262	260	259	253	250	234	236			
Frederick County	1,206	1,250	1,139	1,106	1,078	1,080	1,063	1,057	1,049			
Garrett County	101	101	100	93	86	86	82	78	82			
Harford County	1,510	1,479	1,469	1,421	1,405	1,392	1,388	1,386	1,371			
Howard County	1,816	1,765	1,700	1,649	1,615	1,598	1,582	1,576	1,563			
Kent County	82	88	79	64	64	66	62	61	61			
Montgomery County	7,126	7,147	6,776	6,627	6,479	6,439	6,372	6,303	6,274			

County of Residence	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Prince George's County	7,420	7,571	7,192	7,049	6,886	6,834	6,762	6,716	6,694			
Queen Anne's County	159	169	156	155	147	147	141	143	136			
Saint Mary's County	466	459	436	429	411	406	404	405	405			
Somerset County	225	218	215	202	195	195	195	200	190			
Talbot County	209	215	192	190	188	191	187	183	178			
Washington County	930	960	838	816	791	793	789	792	788			
Wicomico County	1,168	1,146	1,071	1,021	995	969	974	984	978			
Worcester County	264	260	224	213	210	205	202	198	197			
Baltimore City	6,706	6,756	6,660	6,538	6,408	6,362	6,345	6,273	6,258			
Total	45,061	45,518	43,618	42,483	41,495	41,154	40,855	40,488	40,329			

Source: Data retrieved from the Child Care Administrative Tracking System (CCATS) on April 7, 2026.

Table 2: Unduplicated Count of Families Participating in the CCS Program in SFY26

County of Residence	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Allegany County	220	221	196	182	170	163	162	160	155			
Anne Arundel County	1,731	1,766	1,666	1,612	1,578	1,557	1,542	1,523	1,507			
Baltimore County	6,140	6,194	5,993	5,810	5,670	5,631	5,569	5,503	5,478			
Calvert County	221	225	215	214	206	205	205	198	196			
Caroline County	123	120	117	113	107	108	110	106	106			
Carroll County	373	372	359	348	333	327	324	318	318			
Cecil County	411	394	395	377	361	353	354	345	341			
Charles County	1,101	1,111	1,067	1,026	998	982	973	970	953			
Dorchester County	188	184	178	177	176	173	171	163	161			
Frederick County	799	823	764	748	732	727	714	706	702			
Garrett County	68	68	67	63	59	59	57	54	54			
Harford County	988	966	966	928	914	907	905	898	894			

County of Residence	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Howard County	1,236	1,182	1,147	1,109	1,081	1,076	1,064	1,053	1,047			
Kent County	55	57	52	44	44	45	41	41	41			
Montgomery County	4,624	4,602	4,422	4,330	4,218	4,181	4,138	4,081	4,042			
Prince George's County	5,088	5,153	4,904	4,769	4,661	4,612	4,547	4,496	4,456			
Queen Anne's County	107	110	102	104	98	97	95	96	91			
Saint Mary's County	289	285	275	269	261	257	257	256	254			
Somerset County	144	138	135	128	122	121	122	124	119			
Talbot County	164	168	149	146	141	142	138	135	131			
Washington County	636	647	585	567	549	548	541	541	533			
Wicomico County	771	754	711	676	656	646	639	640	637			
Worcester County	169	166	146	138	135	131	126	124	124			
Baltimore City	4,548	4,557	4,451	4,350	4,244	4,191	4,162	4,106	4,082			
Total	30,194	30,263	29,062	28,228	27,514	27,239	26,956	26,637	26,422			

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on April 7, 2026.

2.0 Child Care Scholarship Expenditures

The tables presented in this section (Tables 3 and 4) pertain to expenditures for Direct Services in the CCS Program. Table 3 presents the total payments made during SFY26, including Advance Payments for care received in the next month and True-Ups as processed. True-Ups are payment corrections based on change of services from prior periods. They are either a credit for a child being enrolled at midpoint or a debit for a child being withdrawn at midpoint. This in turn shows the complete expenditure total that is reflected in the Financial Management Information System (FMIS) system for CCS Program Direct Services.

Table 4 presents the total registration fees paid during each month of SFY26.¹ Registration fees represent a one-time payment made by MSDE to a child care provider for each child at the time of initial enrollment. The fee is paid once per provider per child in the amount of \$100. If a child transfers to a different provider, the new provider may receive the \$100 registration fee; however, if the child later returns to the original provider, the registration fee is not paid again. The payment of registration fees is allowable under federal guidance, which permits Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) subsidies to cover reasonable provider charges, including registration or enrollment fees. Specifically, 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §98.45(m)(3)–(4) directs Lead Agencies to adopt payment practices reflecting those in the private market, including: “pay for reasonable mandatory registration fees that the provider charges to private-paying parents.”

Table 3: CCS Total Expenditure in SFY26 (\$)

Provider County	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Total
Allegany County	375,885	215,977	185,571	162,456	174,374	171,988	158,542	81,071	268,091				1,793,956
Anne Arundel County	3,544,833	2,221,252	1,931,855	1,919,852	1,904,309	1,928,311	1,806,943	909,999	3,052,415				19,219,769
Baltimore County	16,931,813	10,438,447	9,167,611	9,265,431	8,811,528	9,307,268	8,468,071	4,494,143	14,898,973				91,783,285

¹ In previous versions of this report, there was a table titled “Child Care Expenditure for Participation in a Specific Month in SFY26 (\$)”. This table, formerly Table 3, has been removed to alleviate misunderstanding of accounting practices. The currently presented Table 3 is reflective of actual expenditures in the time listed. The removed table can be provided upon request. All tables number have been updated in accordance with this change.

Provider County	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Total
Calvert County	493,180	288,933	281,362	260,238	253,704	300,346	259,462	130,113	411,312				2,678,650
Caroline County	143,004	100,173	68,699	59,266	62,612	74,983	63,511	30,844	104,654				707,746
Carroll County	1,084,346	644,260	547,878	523,651	518,376	544,264	506,233	252,326	818,008				5,439,343
Cecil County	851,754	541,088	461,883	455,168	414,853	467,971	414,361	223,782	695,381				4,526,242
Charles County	2,853,118	1,724,933	1,534,027	1,533,786	1,476,856	1,559,848	1,424,561	703,525	2,411,200				15,221,854
Dorchester County	253,150	146,736	151,818	139,137	140,560	137,759	129,904	74,353	236,318				1,409,735
Frederick County	2,469,853	1,543,490	1,256,409	1,238,561	1,207,664	1,268,391	1,127,023	564,203	1,970,382				12,645,977
Garrett County	125,196	75,686	69,975	64,283	54,748	68,323	49,024	30,424	78,304				615,963
Harford County	2,580,698	1,575,854	1,311,221	1,357,693	1,314,591	1,439,963	1,279,176	670,610	2,264,130				13,793,936
Howard County	5,025,597	3,078,578	2,734,264	2,684,572	2,609,942	2,718,350	2,596,673	1,335,069	4,159,327				26,942,373
Kent County	78,460	53,215	40,218	34,804	35,728	34,310	43,124	16,999	64,756				401,613
Montgomery County	18,998,945	12,040,576	9,398,292	9,331,012	9,415,452	9,956,725	8,872,316	4,552,063	14,666,680				97,232,060
Prince George's County	12,600,014	7,619,018	6,946,158	6,727,109	6,696,584	6,911,618	6,282,523	3,269,795	10,865,466				67,918,285
Queen Anne's County	217,648	139,379	115,229	106,373	103,519	97,467	92,180	55,469	165,082				1,092,346
Saint Mary's County	518,491	304,767	273,206	288,982	262,270	261,373	260,882	137,085	430,828				2,737,885
Somerset County	148,786	99,856	71,894	65,716	72,656	70,021	60,636	40,992	114,677				745,234
Talbot County	376,103	206,355	173,885	191,550	175,955	204,217	183,938	91,186	274,402				1,877,593

Provider County	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Total
Washington County	1,267,731	745,692	598,526	621,747	579,083	623,881	555,840	286,022	938,487				6,217,007
Wicomico County	1,420,731	888,972	754,785	698,165	675,691	730,621	647,335	330,667	1,142,574				7,289,540
Worcester County	394,487	238,301	228,497	211,186	198,811	213,169	179,418	101,784	329,902				2,095,555
Baltimore City	10,009,494	6,177,402	5,466,560	5,458,722	5,168,927	5,711,762	5,198,154	2,691,883	9,426,535				55,309,438
Refund of Expenditures	(88,935)	(214,776)	(67,529)	(175)	(700)	32,300	(838)	(8,015)	(23,694)				(372,361)
Total	82,674,381	50,894,164	43,702,294	43,399,286	42,328,092	44,835,230	40,658,993	21,066,391*	69,764,191*				439,323,022

Source: Data retrieved from FMIS on April 7, 2026.

Note: *Expenditures appear artificially low in February 2026 and artificially high in March 2026 because half of the February 2026 expenditures were labeled as paid in March 2026.

Table 4: Child Care Registration Fees Paid in SFY26 (\$)

Provider County	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Total
Allegany County	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,400	-	600	500	-	200				6,600
Anne Arundel County	27,100	16,500	12,300	6,400	8,400	4,300	6,000	-	6,400				87,400
Baltimore County	117,100	66,200	65,100	27,600	32,300	17,500	21,700	-	39,000				386,500
Calvert County	2,100	3,000	1,900	700	500	900	100	-	900				10,100
Caroline County	600	900	200	200	100	200	400	-	400				3,000
Carroll County	6,000	3,500	3,900	1,700	1,100	1,100	800	300	1,600				20,000
Cecil County	3,100	3,600	2,500	400	1,500	1,300	2,700	-	1,500				16,600
Charles County	15,700	9,800	11,100	3,500	4,800	3,500	3,700	100	4,200				56,400
Dorchester County	2,100	1,400	600	700	900	400	700	-	700				7,500
Frederick County	15,300	11,000	5,800	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,000	-	6,500				47,300
Garrett County	200	100	300	-	300	-	-	-	00				1,300
Harford County	15,600	9,400	11,500	5,400	4,600	2,400	5,000	400	7,700				62,000
Howard County	22,400	13,600	11,700	7,000	7,300	6,300	6,700	-	12,600				87,600
Kent County	900	700	600	100	100	-	200	-	100				2,700
Montgomery County	61,600	41,300	38,300	21,200	16,400	10,000	11,200	100	28,100				228,200
Prince George's County	68,300	56,000	51,400	22,900	24,000	13,200	18,600	-	30,600				285,000
Queen Anne's County	1,500	700	800	300	300	-	400	-	400				4,400
Saint Mary's County	2,600	2,600	1,500	1,100	400	500	700	-	2,000				11,400
Somerset County	1,000	100	1,200	300	100	200	100	-	100				3,100

Provider County	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Total
Talbot County	1,500	1,300	1,300	300	700	600	300	-	900				6,900
Washington County	13,500	9,300	5,300	1,800	2,300	2,400	900	-	3,000				38,500
Wicomico County	13,600	5,600	7,100	2,400	3,200	2,100	2,400	-	4,500				40,900
Worcester County	2,300	1,000	800	700	200	100	1,400	-	400				6,900
Baltimore City	60,700	42,100	49,900	22,800	19,500	15,100	20,400	-	30,700				261,200
Total	456,100	301,000	286,400	131,200	131,200	84,900	106,900	900*	182,900*				1,681,500

Source: Data retrieved from FMIS on April 7, 2026.

Note: All the registration fees paid in March 2026 may not be available as of the writing of this report and will be updated in the next report. Zero registration fees indicate that there were no new children enrolled in the CCS Program.

*Registration fees appear artificially low in February 2026 and artificially high in March 2026 because half of the February 2026 registration fees were labeled as paid in March 2026.

3.0 Child Care Scholarship Program Waitlist

This section contains multiple tables and figures summarizing the children and families who were placed on CCS Program waitlist as well as data on children who received new scholarships during the partial enrollment freeze because they were not subject to the CCS waitlist. Unlike data presented earlier in this report, data presented here covers months outside of SFY 2026. The data begins in May 2025, when the CCS partial enrollment freeze went into effect.

Table 5 shows the number of children on the CCS Program waitlist by county and their State Median Income (SMI) category. Table 5 demonstrates that 75.4% (4,531) of the children on the CCS Program waitlist reside in Prince George's County (1,217 or 20.2%), Montgomery County (1,075 or 17.9%), Baltimore County (1,029 or 17.1%), Baltimore City (804 or 13.4%), and Anne Arundel County (406 or 6.8%). This is to be expected since these are the five largest jurisdictions in Maryland, in terms of both total population and the number of children aged 0 to 12 and, as a result, have more families applying for child care scholarships. Additionally, these jurisdictions had the highest number of children in poverty in 2024: Baltimore City had 27,868 children; Prince George's County had 26,856 children; Montgomery County had 21,947 children; Baltimore County had 18,443 children; and Anne Arundel County had 10,323 children².

Overall, 80.0% and 89.5% of the children on the waitlist are from families with incomes below 50% and 60% of the SMI, respectively. The largest number of children, 1,188 (19.8% of the total), are from families with incomes in the 30% to 40% SMI category, closely followed by 1,129 children (18.8%) from families with incomes in the 20% to 30% SMI category, and 990 children (16.5%) from the 40% to 50% SMI category.

Table 5: Children on the CCS Program Waitlist as of March 2026 by County and Income Category (% SMI)

County of Residence	Income 0 to 10% SMI	Income 10 to 20% SMI	Income 20 to 30% SMI	Income 30 to 40% SMI	Income 40 to 50% SMI	Income 50 to 60% SMI	Income 60 to 70% SMI	Income 70 to 80% SMI	Total Children
Allegany County	-	13	7	2	1	6	6	3	38
Anne Arundel County	60	49	73	91	61	33	29	10	406
Baltimore City	114	137	153	158	114	71	45	12	804
Baltimore County	143	115	206	213	162	94	68	28	1,029
Calvert County	11	3	8	12	6	3	-	1	44

²[Data source: Children in poverty | KIDS COUNT Data Center](#)

County of Residence	Income 0 to 10% SMI	Income 10 to 20% SMI	Income 20 to 30% SMI	Income 30 to 40% SMI	Income 40 to 50% SMI	Income 50 to 60% SMI	Income 60 to 70% SMI	Income 70 to 80% SMI	Total Children
Caroline County	-	-	9	8	1	-	4	-	22
Carroll County	11	13	28	16	7	5	3	2	85
Cecil County	11	9	21	11	17	4	4	2	79
Charles County	28	25	27	33	52	25	20	8	218
Dorchester County	2	8	7	6	3	-	-	-	26
Frederick County	15	22	37	30	28	11	10	4	157
Garrett County	2	-	1	1	2	2	1	-	9
Harford County	18	21	38	36	27	10	10	3	163
Howard County	21	36	32	53	26	27	21	7	223
Kent County	2	-	3	3	-	-	2	-	10
Montgomery County	131	107	164	194	201	127	99	52	1,075
Prince George's County	149	125	222	236	228	116	93	48	1,217
Queen Anne's County	-	-	4	1	-	1	4	-	10
Saint Mary's County	4	6	28	13	3	5	1	-	60
Somerset County	3	4	5	8	-	-	-	-	20
Talbot County	2	4	6	6	4	-	2	1	25
Washington County	21	15	25	34	24	18	15	2	154
Wicomico County	19	11	18	18	22	14	9	1	112
Worcester County	4	4	7	5	1	1	-	2	24
Total	771	727	1,129	1,188	990	573	446	186	6,010

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on April 7, 2026.

Table 6 presents the number of children on the CCS Program waitlist by county and their age groups, broken down by 0-2, 2-5, and 5 years old and older. These age groups align with CCS provider reimbursement rates. The CCS waitlist includes 1,283 infants and toddlers, 2,387 preschool age children, and finally 2,340 school age children.

Table 6: Children on the CCS Program Waitlist as of March 2026 by County and Age Group

County of Residence	Age Birth to Under 2 Years Old	Ages 2 to 5 Years Old	School Age (5 Years Old and Older)	Total Children
Allegany County	9	12	17	38
Anne Arundel County	91	182	133	406
Baltimore City	203	302	299	804
Baltimore County	241	384	404	1,029
Calvert County	8	11	25	44
Caroline County	6	11	5	22
Carroll County	19	32	34	85
Cecil County	17	35	27	79
Charles County	41	76	101	218
Dorchester County	7	12	7	26
Frederick County	34	55	68	157
Garrett County	2	4	3	9
Harford County	33	57	73	163
Howard County	48	72	103	223
Kent County	4	4	2	10
Montgomery County	176	415	484	1,075
Prince George's County	256	538	423	1,217
Queen Anne's County	4	4	2	10
Saint Mary's County	10	24	26	60
Somerset County	8	9	3	20
Talbot County	2	15	8	25
Washington County	32	74	48	154
Wicomico County	29	45	38	112
Worcester County	3	14	7	24
Total	1,283	2,387	2,340	6,010

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on April 7, 2026.

Table 7 shows the number of children added to the CCS waitlist each month. Since the waitlist was implemented, the number of children added has been increasing and decreasing with no set month-to-month pattern, with the largest number of children (774) added in September while the lowest number of children (396) were added in November.

Table 7: Number of Children Added to the CCS Program Waitlist Each Month, May 2025 - Present

Number of Children	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total
Total	445	717	582	635	774	557	396	464	483	399	558	6,010

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on April 7, 2026.

Table 8 shows the number of children who were enrolled in the CCS Program because they were not subject to the waitlist. Families are exempt from the enrollment freeze if they receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and meet all other eligibility requirements, shown in the table below as “New Applications”. Siblings of children already receiving a scholarship are also eligible to be added to an existing case, shown in the table below as “Interim changes due to eligibility”. In March, there were 190 newly enrolled children who were not subject to the waitlist, most of which were siblings of children with existing cases. Overall, from May 2025 through March 2026, there were 2,964 newly enrolled children who were not subject to the waitlist.

Table 8: New Enrollment by Children Not Subject to the Waitlist During the Enrollment Freeze, and Current Month

Reason for New Enrollment	March 2026 (#)	March 2026 (%)	May 2025 – Present (#)	May 2025 – Present (%)
New Applications	71	37.4%	990	33.4%
Interim Changes Due to Eligibility	119	62.6%	1,974	66.6%
Total Number of New Enrollments	190	100.0%	2,964	100.0%

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on April 7, 2026.