Child Care Subsidy (Scholarship) Monthly Report

Educational Article, Section 9.5-112

Division of Early Childhood

September 1, 2026

Maryland
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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September 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 (September 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 September 1, 2026. This report includes preliminary data for the entirety of Fiscal Year 2026 and the first month for Fiscal Year 2027.

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 use 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.

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 partial freeze to children exempt from the waitlist.

While CCS enrollment has declined substantially since the waitlist was initiated in May 2025, the CCS Program continues to operate with a partial enrollment freeze (waitlist). The program is under a "partial"

enrollment freeze because families are exempt from the enrollment freeze if they are either experiencing homelessness or receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and meet all other eligibility requirements. Siblings of children already receiving a scholarship are also eligible to be added to an existing case.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) began issuing scholarships to children experiencing homelessness on the waitlist per *Child Care Scholarship Program – Freeze in Enrollment – Exceptions and Waitlist, H.B. 849, 2026 Reg. Sess. (Md. ch. 594, 2026)* on July 1, 2026. Families had 30 days to submit additional documentation to confirm continued eligibility for CCS. Due to the time allowed for document submission and verification, data on the number of children experiencing homelessness who have been awarded scholarships since July 1, 2026, will be included in future monthly reports.

Further, as a result of the decline in CCS Program enrollment, new scholarships are currently being offered to all children with income below 10% of state median income (SMI) in alignment with the prioritization criteria established in H.B. 849. MSDE anticipates awarding scholarships to children on the waitlist with income below 20% of SMI soon. Data on both groups of children will be included in future monthly reports.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Laurel Cratsley, 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 2027 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 August 10, 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 in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027. Tables 1a and 1b present the unduplicated number of children who participated in the CCS Program in July 2026 and from July 2025 to June 2026, respectively. Tables 2a and 2b present the unduplicated number of families who participated in the CCS Program in July 2026 and from July 2025 to June 2026, respectively. These numbers are drawn from receipted vouchers for children who were enrolled in the CCS Program during each month. The total number of children enrolled decreased from 45,061 in July 2025 to 38,288 in July 2026 due to the partial enrollment freeze and typical program enrollment patterns. Similarly, the number of families enrolled in the CCS Program across Maryland decreased from 30,194 in July 2025, to 24,499 in July 2026. The number of children and families participating in CCS increased between May and June 2026 due to the increase in children needing care during the summer months. This increase was anticipated based on enrollment patterns in previous years. Summer scheduling changes commonly result in enrollment fluctuations, which likely explain the decline in July 2026. Enrollment is anticipated to stabilize with the start of the school year.

Given the decline in CCS Program enrollment, MSDE has initiated the process to contact families who are currently on the CCS waitlist to offer new child care scholarships. MSDE is offering new scholarships in alignment with the requirements outlined in Child Care Scholarship Program – Freeze in Enrollment – Exceptions and Waitlist, H.B. 849, 2026 Reg. Sess. (Md. ch. 594, 2026).

Table 1a: Unduplicated Count of Children Participating in the CCS Program in SFY27

County of Residence	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Allegany County	262											
Anne Arundel County	2,025											
Baltimore County	7,968											
Calvert County	294											
Caroline County	148											
Carroll County	440											
Cecil County	532											
Charles County	1,479											
Dorchester County	242											

County of Residence	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Frederick County	1,015											
Garrett County	76											
Harford County	1,293											
Howard County	1,454											
Kent County	63											
Montgomery County	5,963											
Prince George's County	6,335											
Queen Anne's County	119											
Saint Mary's County	381											
Somerset County	189											
Talbot County	177											
Washington County	755											
Wicomico County	964											
Worcester County	181											
Baltimore City	5,933											
Total	**38,288**											

Source: Data retrieved from the Child Care Administrative Tracking System (CCATS) on August 10, 2026.

Table 1b: 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	250	249	261
Anne Arundel County	2,456	2,545	2,386	2,304	2,258	2,241	2,232	2,203	2,187	2,146	2,125	2,185
Baltimore County	9,160	9,304	9,117	8,857	8,647	8,578	8,519	8,428	8,452	8,379	8,263	8,417
Calvert County	329	338	326	324	312	312	316	304	305	306	302	308
Caroline County	175	173	166	161	156	158	160	154	158	153	153	155
Carroll County	578	583	552	539	523	513	508	499	500	498	484	495

Cecil County	627	612	607	583	554	543	551	538	539	551	533	554
Charles County	1,713	1,753	1,642	1,595	1,555	1,530	1,514	1,514	1,500	1,491	1,467	1,499
Dorchester County	272	266	262	260	259	253	250	234	236	232	227	235
Frederick County	1,206	1,250	1,139	1,106	1,078	1,080	1,063	1,056	1,051	1,051	1,044	1,088
Garrett County	101	101	100	93	86	86	82	78	82	84	85	80
Harford County	1,510	1,479	1,469	1,421	1,405	1,392	1,388	1,384	1,372	1,377	1,344	1,396
Howard County	1,816	1,765	1,700	1,649	1,615	1,598	1,584	1,580	1,568	1,552	1,518	1,531
Kent County	82	88	79	64	64	66	62	61	61	61	61	69
Montgomery County	7,126	7,147	6,776	6,627	6,479	6,439	6,375	6,307	6,286	6,229	6,118	6,263
Prince George's County	7,420	7,571	7,192	7,049	6,886	6,834	6,762	6,713	6,702	6,631	6,511	6,559
Queen Anne's County	159	169	156	155	147	147	141	143	137	133	127	128
Saint Mary's County	466	459	436	429	411	406	404	405	410	407	396	389
Somerset County	225	218	215	202	195	195	195	200	191	181	185	191
Talbot County	209	215	192	190	188	191	187	183	178	178	176	176
Washington County	930	960	838	816	792	794	790	793	789	790	787	836
Wicomico County	1,168	1,146	1,072	1,024	998	972	977	987	985	996	977	998
Worcester County	264	260	224	213	210	205	202	198	197	193	188	189
Baltimore City	6,706	6,756	6,662	6,542	6,413	6,368	6,351	6,282	6,276	6,288	6,131	6,220
Total	**45,061**	**45,518**	**43,621**	**42,490**	**41,503**	**41,163**	**40,872**	**40,504**	**40,413**	**40,157**	**39,451**	**40,222**

Source: Data retrieved from the Child Care Administrative Tracking System (CCATS) on August 10, 2026.

Table 2a: Unduplicated Count of Families Participating in the CCS Program in SFY27

County of Residence	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Allegany County	159											
Anne Arundel County	1,379											
Baltimore County	5,077											
Calvert County	184											

County of Residence	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Caroline County	97											
Carroll County	267											
Cecil County	325											
Charles County	916											
Dorchester County	159											
Frederick County	642											
Garrett County	48											
Harford County	812											
Howard County	952											
Kent County	39											
Montgomery County	3,733											
Prince George's County	4,130											
Queen Anne's County	75											
Saint Mary's County	223											
Somerset County	112											
Talbot County	130											
Washington County	480											
Wicomico County	598											
Worcester County	110											
Baltimore City	3,852											
Total	**24,499**											

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on August 10, 2026.

Table 2b: 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	155	152	157
Anne Arundel County	1,731	1,766	1,666	1,612	1,578	1,557	1,544	1,524	1,508	1,478	1,458	1,476

Baltimore County	6,140	6,194	5,993	5,810	5,669	5,630	5,568	5,501	5,485	5,403	5,301	5,332
Calvert County	221	225	215	214	206	205	205	198	196	194	188	190
Caroline County	123	120	117	113	107	108	110	106	106	104	103	102
Carroll County	373	372	359	348	333	327	324	318	318	315	304	301
Cecil County	411	394	395	377	361	353	354	345	342	344	335	339
Charles County	1,101	1,111	1,067	1,026	998	982	973	970	953	942	922	933
Dorchester County	188	184	178	177	176	173	171	163	161	159	156	156
Frederick County	799	823	764	748	732	727	714	705	703	700	686	699
Garrett County	68	68	67	63	59	59	57	54	54	54	54	51
Harford County	988	966	966	928	914	907	905	897	895	896	864	875
Howard County	1,236	1,182	1,147	1,109	1,081	1,076	1,064	1,055	1,050	1,039	1,011	1,005
Kent County	55	57	52	44	44	45	41	41	41	40	41	42
Montgomery County	4,624	4,602	4,422	4,330	4,218	4,181	4,140	4,084	4,050	3,994	3,917	3,926
Prince George's County	5,088	5,153	4,904	4,769	4,661	4,612	4,547	4,495	4,460	4,405	4,290	4,284
Queen Anne's County	107	110	102	104	98	97	95	96	92	86	83	81
Saint Mary's County	289	285	275	269	261	257	257	256	255	248	242	232
Somerset County	144	138	135	128	122	121	122	124	119	111	111	113
Talbot County	164	168	149	146	141	142	138	135	131	131	129	129
Washington County	636	647	585	567	550	549	542	542	534	531	523	535
Wicomico County	771	754	711	677	657	647	640	641	641	639	624	624
Worcester County	169	166	146	138	135	131	126	124	124	120	115	115
Baltimore City	4,548	4,557	4,452	4,352	4,246	4,194	4,165	4,112	4,095	4,083	3,993	4,012
Total	**30,194**	**30,263**	**29,063**	**28,231**	**27,517**	**27,243**	**26,964**	**26,646**	**26,468**	**26,171**	**25,602**	**25,709**

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on August 10, 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 3a presents total payments made during SFY27 while Tables 3b and 3c present 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 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.

Tables 4a and 4b present the total registration fees paid during each month of SFY27[1] and SFY26, respectively. 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 3a: CCS Total Expenditure in SFY27 ($), July 2026 – December 2026

Provider County	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Fiscal Year Total
Allegany County	337,618						**337,618**
Anne Arundel County	3,315,349						**3,315,349**
Baltimore County	16,967,206						**16,967,206**
Calvert County	487,280						**487,280**

[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.

Caroline County	126,880						**126,880**
Carroll County	950,172						**950,172**
Cecil County	874,115						**874,115**
Charles County	2,840,704						**2,840,704**
Dorchester County	274,093						**274,093**
Frederick County	2,301,269						**2,301,269**
Garrett County	97,222						**97,222**
Harford County	2,532,329						**2,532,329**
Howard County	4,773,339						**4,773,339**
Kent County	69,650						**69,650**
Montgomery County	18,177,895						**18,177,895**
Prince George's County	12,601,025						**12,601,025**
Queen Anne's County	217,708						**217,708**
Saint Mary's County	515,405						**515,405**
Somerset County	142,990						**142,990**
Talbot County	381,760						**381,760**
Washington County	1,238,453						**1,238,453**
Wicomico County	1,417,107						**1,417,107**
Worcester County	348,848						**348,848**
Baltimore City	10,495,974						**10,495,974**
Refund of Expenditures	2,700						**2,700**
Total	**81,487,090**						**81,487,090**

Source: Data retrieved from FMIS on August 10, 2026.

Table 3b: CCS Total Expenditure in SFY26 ($), July 2025 – December 2025

Provider County	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Fiscal Year Total
Allegany County	375,885	215,977	185,571	162,456	174,374	171,988	**2,276,447**
Anne Arundel County	3,544,833	2,221,252	1,931,855	1,919,852	1,904,309	1,928,311	**24,560,482**
Baltimore County	16,931,813	10,438,447	9,167,611	9,265,431	8,811,528	9,307,268	**116,989,656**
Calvert County	493,180	288,933	281,362	260,238	253,704	300,346	**3,399,991**
Caroline County	143,004	100,173	68,699	59,266	62,612	74,983	**905,601**
Carroll County	1,084,346	644,260	547,878	523,651	518,376	544,264	**6,840,916**
Cecil County	851,754	541,088	461,883	455,168	414,853	467,971	**5,776,481**
Charles County	2,853,118	1,724,933	1,534,027	1,533,786	1,476,856	1,559,848	**19,337,023**
Dorchester County	253,150	146,736	151,818	139,137	140,560	137,759	**1,808,750**
Frederick County	2,469,853	1,543,490	1,256,409	1,238,561	1,207,664	1,268,391	**16,171,698**
Garrett County	125,196	75,686	69,975	64,283	54,748	68,323	**777,047**
Harford County	2,580,698	1,575,854	1,311,221	1,357,693	1,314,591	1,439,963	**17,845,139**
Howard County	5,025,597	3,078,578	2,734,264	2,684,572	2,609,942	2,718,350	**34,169,284**
Kent County	78,460	53,215	40,218	34,804	35,728	34,310	**514,995**
Montgomery County	18,998,945	12,040,576	9,398,292	9,331,012	9,415,452	9,956,725	**123,806,742**
Prince George's County	12,600,014	7,619,018	6,946,158	6,727,109	6,696,584	6,911,618	**86,455,507**
Queen Anne's County	217,648	139,379	115,229	106,373	103,519	97,467	**1,394,770**
Saint Mary's County	518,491	304,767	273,206	288,982	262,270	261,373	**3,485,099**
Somerset County	148,786	99,856	71,894	65,716	72,656	70,021	**949,335**
Talbot County	376,103	206,355	173,885	191,550	175,955	204,217	**2,418,028**
Washington County	1,267,731	745,692	598,526	621,747	579,083	623,881	**7,910,295**
Wicomico County	1,420,731	888,972	754,785	698,165	675,691	730,621	**9,332,105**
Worcester County	394,487	238,301	228,497	211,186	198,811	213,169	**2,668,142**
Baltimore City	10,009,494	6,177,402	5,466,560	5,458,722	5,168,927	5,711,762	**71,339,071**

Provider County	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Fiscal Year Total
Refund of Expenditures	(88,935)	(214,776)	(67,529)	(175)	(700)	32,300	**(365,194)**
Total	**82,674,381**	**50,894,164**	**43,702,294**	**43,399,286**	**42,328,092**	**44,835,230**	**560,767,411**

Source: Data retrieved from FMIS on August 10, 2026.

Table 3c: CCS Total Expenditure in SFY26 ($), January 2026 – June 2026

Provider County	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Fiscal Year Total
Allegany County	158,542	81,071	268,091	170,449	192,055	119,988	**2,276,447**
Anne Arundel County	1,806,943	909,999	3,052,415	1,948,295	2,153,615	1,238,804	**24,560,482**
Baltimore County	8,468,071	4,494,143	14,898,973	9,513,697	9,818,923	5,873,751	**116,989,656**
Calvert County	259,462	130,113	411,312	260,609	281,675	179,058	**3,399,991**
Caroline County	63,511	30,844	104,654	67,953	79,987	49,916	**905,601**
Carroll County	506,233	252,326	818,008	505,129	540,139	356,306	**6,840,916**
Cecil County	414,361	223,782	695,381	448,653	493,568	308,018	**5,776,481**
Charles County	1,424,561	703,525	2,411,200	1,537,839	1,610,838	966,492	**19,337,023**
Dorchester County	129,904	74,353	236,318	147,586	146,957	104,472	**1,808,750**
Frederick County	1,127,023	564,203	1,970,382	1,283,989	1,374,385	867,348	**16,171,698**
Garrett County	49,024	30,424	78,304	62,487	62,563	36,034	**777,047**
Harford County	1,279,176	670,610	2,264,130	1,465,243	1,581,282	1,004,678	**17,845,139**
Howard County	2,596,673	1,335,069	4,159,327	2,704,006	2,697,870	1,825,035	**34,169,284**
Kent County	43,124	16,999	64,756	42,413	42,693	28,275	**514,995**
Montgomery County	8,872,316	4,552,063	14,666,680	9,663,116	10,431,407	6,480,159	**123,806,742**
Prince George's County	6,282,523	3,269,795	10,865,466	6,955,847	7,289,446	4,291,928	**86,455,507**
Queen Anne's County	92,180	55,469	165,082	105,004	116,684	80,737	**1,394,770**
Saint Mary's County	260,882	137,085	430,828	276,041	286,349	184,824	**3,485,099**

Provider County	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Fiscal Year Total
Somerset County	60,636	40,992	114,677	82,896	71,642	49,564	**949,335**
Talbot County	183,938	91,186	274,402	199,021	209,941	131,473	**2,418,028**
Washington County	555,840	286,022	938,487	629,218	685,156	378,914	**7,910,295**
Wicomico County	647,335	330,667	1,142,574	735,427	794,994	512,144	**9,332,105**
Worcester County	179,418	101,784	329,902	222,466	213,965	136,156	**2,668,142**
Baltimore City	5,198,154	2,691,883	9,426,535	6,016,819	6,238,627	3,774,188	**71,339,071**
Refund of Expenditures	(838)	(8,015)	(23,694)	(1,037)	(1,530)	9,734	**(365,194)**
Total	**40,658,993**	**21,066,391**	**69,764,191**	**45,043,163**	**47,413,231**	**28,987,995**	**560,767,411**

Source: Data retrieved from FMIS on August 10, 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 4a: Child Care Registration Fees Paid in SFY27 ($)

Provider County	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.*	Mar.*	Apr.	May	Jun.**	Total
Allegany County	1,100												**1,100**
Anne Arundel County	15,100												**15,100**
Baltimore County	85,500												**85,500**
Calvert County	3,100												**3,100**
Caroline County	900												**900**
Carroll County	2,700												**2,700**
Cecil County	2,800												**2,800**
Charles County	10,800												**10,800**

Dorchester County	1,300												**1,300**
Frederick County	14,900												**14,900**
Garrett County	300												**300**
Harford County	11,500												**11,500**
Howard County	20,600												**20,600**
Kent County	-												**-**
Montgomery County	47,300												**47,300**
Prince George's County	51,700												**51,700**
Queen Anne's County	500												**500**
Saint Mary's County	1,200												**1,200**
Somerset County	300												**300**
Talbot County	2,500												**2,500**
Washington County	7,000												**7,000**
Wicomico County	7,800												**7,800**
Worcester County	400												**400**
Baltimore City	54,700												**54,700**
Total	**344,000**												**344,000**

Source: Data retrieved from FMIS on August 10, 2026.

Table 4b: 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	300	900	-	**7,800**
Anne Arundel County	27,100	16,500	12,300	6,400	8,400	4,300	6,000	-	6,400	3,500	9,400	-	**100,300**
Baltimore County	117,100	66,200	65,100	27,600	32,300	17,500	21,700	-	39,000	16,100	38,700	-	**441,300**
Calvert County	2,100	3,000	1,900	700	500	900	100	-	900	500	600	-	**11,200**
Caroline County	600	900	200	200	100	200	400	-	200	100	-	-	**2,900**
Carroll County	6,000	3,500	3,900	1,700	1,100	1,100	800	300	1,600	400	1,700	-	**22,100**
Cecil County	3,100	3,600	2,500	400	1,500	1,300	2,700	-	1,500	1,200	1,300	-	**19,100**
Charles County	15,700	9,800	11,100	3,500	4,800	3,500	3,700	100	4,200	1,600	3,900	200	**62,100**
Dorchester County	2,100	1,400	600	700	900	400	700	-	900	200	400	-	**8,300**
Frederick County	15,300	11,000	5,800	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,000	-	6,500	3,100	8,500	-	**58,900**
Garrett County	200	100	300	-	300	-	-	-	400	-	100	-	**1,400**
Harford County	15,600	9,400	11,500	5,400	4,600	2,400	5,000	400	7,700	4,300	5,500	-	**71,800**
Howard County	22,400	13,600	11,700	7,000	7,300	6,300	6,700	-	12,600	6,800	5,900	-	**100,300**
Kent County	900	700	600	100	100	-	200	-	100	-	200	-	**2,900**
Montgomery County	61,600	41,300	38,300	21,200	16,400	10,000	11,200	100	28,100	12,300	20,600	-	**261,100**
Prince George's County	68,300	56,000	51,400	22,900	24,000	13,200	18,600	-	30,600	12,800	18,600	-	**316,400**
Queen Anne's County	1,500	700	800	300	300	-	400	-	400	800	800	-	**6,000**
Saint Mary's County	2,600	2,600	1,500	1,100	400	500	700	-	2,000	900	500	-	**12,800**
Somerset County	1,000	100	1,200	300	100	200	100	-	100	-	100	-	**3,200**

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	100	200	-	**7,200**
Washington County	13,500	9,300	5,300	1,800	2,300	2,400	900	-	3,000	700	3,500	-	**42,700**
Wicomico County	13,600	5,600	7,100	2,400	3,200	2,100	2,400	-	4,500	2,300	5,000	-	**48,200**
Worcester County	2,300	1,000	800	700	200	100	1,400	-	400	100	-	-	**7,000**
Baltimore City	60,700	42,100	49,900	22,800	19,500	15,100	20,400	-	30,700	15,000	19,500	-	**295,700**
Total	**456,100**	**301,000**	**286,400**	**131,200**	**131,200**	**84,900**	**106,900**	**900**	**182,900**	**83,100**	**145,900**	**200**	**1,910,700**

Source: Data retrieved from FMIS on August 10, 2026.

Note:

*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.

**All the registration fees paid in July 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.

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 have 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 also covers months in SFY 2025. The data begins in May 2025, when the CCS partial enrollment freeze went into effect.

Table 5 presents the number of children on the CCS Program waitlist by county and their State Median Income (SMI) category. Table 5 demonstrates that 74.3% (6,127) of the children on the CCS Program waitlist reside in Prince George's County (1,606 or 19.5%), Baltimore County (1,432 or 17.4%), Montgomery County (1,418 or 17.2%), Baltimore City (1,082 or 13.1%), and Anne Arundel County (588 or 7.1%). 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 children[2].

Overall, 78.2% and 89.0% of the children on the waitlist are from families with incomes below 50% and 60% of the SMI, respectively. The largest number of children, 1,666 (20.2% of the total), are from families with incomes in the 30% to 40% SMI category, closely followed by 1,553 children (18.8%) from families with incomes in the 20% to 30% SMI category, and 1,391 children (16.9%) from the 40% to 50% SMI category.

Table 5: Children on the CCS Program Waitlist as of July 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	-	15	9	5	4	6	6	3	**48**
Anne Arundel County	71	79	103	119	84	66	49	17	**588**
Baltimore City	129	163	220	210	175	106	57	23	**1,083**
Baltimore County	166	157	280	291	260	145	92	41	**1,432**
Calvert County	11	3	8	19	10	7	2	4	**64**
Caroline County	-	3	9	11	5	-	4	-	**32**
Carroll County	12	21	31	27	9	8	7	2	**117**
Cecil County	13	15	26	21	22	8	6	4	**115**
Charles County	27	44	45	53	66	40	26	14	**315**
Dorchester County	3	14	13	7	5	2	2	-	**46**
Frederick County	17	29	54	44	39	19	16	6	**224**
Garrett County	2	-	1	2	2	6	1	-	**14**
Harford County	17	30	50	47	50	20	15	8	**237**
Howard County	23	41	41	75	34	41	26	11	**292**
Kent County	2	3	4	4	1	-	2	-	**16**

[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
Montgomery County	146	134	217	265	263	181	138	74	**1,418**
Prince George's County	143	184	300	327	272	178	147	55	**1,606**
Queen Anne's County	-	-	5	7	1	1	4	-	**18**
Saint Mary's County	4	7	37	20	7	9	1	1	**86**
Somerset County	5	8	16	9	2	-	-	-	**40**
Talbot County	2	5	6	7	5	2	4	1	**32**
Washington County	24	22	35	47	36	24	18	2	**208**
Wicomico County	18	16	28	38	37	20	11	1	**169**
Worcester County	5	5	15	11	2	2	-	3	**43**
Total	**840**	**998**	**1,553**	**1,666**	**1,391**	**891**	**634**	**270**	**8,243**

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on August 10, 2026.

Table 6 presents the number of families with children on the waitlist, and it shows a pattern like the number of children shown in Table 5.

Table 6: Families on the CCS Program Waitlist as of July 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 Families
Allegany County	0	7	6	2	3	3	4	1	**26**
Anne Arundel County	45	50	79	92	64	49	36	13	**428**
Baltimore City	90	109	166	163	149	86	46	19	**828**
Baltimore County	115	97	188	216	207	116	79	30	**1,048**
Calvert County	7	1	3	13	5	5	1	3	**38**
Caroline County	0	1	6	9	5	0	2	0	**23**
Carroll County	9	12	19	17	9	5	4	2	**77**
Cecil County	10	10	16	15	16	8	5	3	**83**
Charles County	18	30	33	38	41	34	21	13	**228**
Dorchester County	3	10	12	6	4	2	1	0	**38**
Frederick County	13	16	32	30	26	15	13	3	**148**
Garrett County	2	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	**9**
Harford County	11	21	35	36	36	17	12	6	**174**
Howard County	20	28	32	52	22	31	18	8	**211**
Kent County	1	2	3	3	1	0	1	0	**11**
Montgomery County	103	93	153	180	199	133	96	53	**1,010**
Prince George's County	95	134	201	252	206	141	116	41	**1,186**
Queen Anne's County	0	0	5	5	1	1	2	0	**14**
Saint Mary's County	2	3	22	14	6	7	1	1	**56**
Somerset County	4	5	11	7	2	0	0	0	**29**
Talbot County	2	3	5	6	4	2	3	1	**26**
Washington County	16	13	25	36	24	17	12	2	**145**
Wicomico County	13	14	21	29	27	16	10	1	**131**
Worcester County	4	5	10	7	2	2	0	3	**33**
Total	**583**	**664**	**1,084**	**1,230**	**1,060**	**692**	**484**	**203**	**6,000**

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on August 10, 2026.

Table 7 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 1,553 infants and toddlers, 3,306 preschool age children, and 3,384 school age children.

Table 7: Children on the CCS Program Waitlist as of July 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	15	24	**48**
Anne Arundel County	103	259	226	**588**
Baltimore City	246	420	417	**1,083**
Baltimore County	282	519	631	**1,432**
Calvert County	10	19	35	**64**
Caroline County	4	17	11	**32**
Carroll County	20	46	51	**117**
Cecil County	26	47	42	**115**
Charles County	58	123	134	**315**
Dorchester County	12	17	17	**46**
Frederick County	43	80	101	**224**
Garrett County	4	4	6	**14**
Harford County	46	89	102	**237**
Howard County	54	112	126	**292**
Kent County	3	10	3	**16**
Montgomery County	209	556	653	**1,418**
Prince George's County	302	713	591	**1,606**
Queen Anne's County	3	10	5	**18**
Saint Mary's County	12	33	41	**86**
Somerset County	11	21	8	**40**
Talbot County	2	17	13	**32**
Washington County	42	92	74	**208**

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
Wicomico County	42	67	60	**169**
Worcester County	10	20	13	**43**
Total	**1,553**	**3,306**	**3,384**	**8,243**

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on August 10, 2026.

Table 8a presents the number of children and associated families added to the CCS waitlist each month of SFY 2027, to-date in SFY 2027 and since the enrollment freeze began, while Table 8b presents the number of children and associated families added in SFYs 2025 and 2026. Since the waitlist was implemented, the number of children added has been increasing and decreasing with no set month-to-month pattern through February 2026. However, the number of children added to the waitlist increased each month from March through July. The largest number of children (736) were added to the waitlist in September 2025, while the lowest number of children (348) were added in February 2026. As one would expect, the number of associated families changed similarly. In all, 8,243 children from 6,000 families were added to waitlist since the freeze began. These numbers include 717 children from 517 families who were added in July 2026 and 7,526 children from 5,483 families who were added from May 2025 to June 2026.

Table 8a: Number of Children and Associated Families Added to the CCS Program Waitlist Each Month, July 2026 – Present

Children/Families	Jul. 2026	Aug. 2026	Sep. 2026	Oct. 2026	Nov. 2026	Dec. 2026	Jan. 2027	Feb. 2027	Mar. 2027	Apr. 2027	May 2027	Jun. 2027	Total Jul. 2026 - Present	Total May 2025 - Present
Children	717												**717**	**8,243**
Families	517												**517**	**6,000**

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on August 10, 2026.

Table 8b: Number of Children and Associated Families Added to the CCS Program Waitlist Each Month, May 2025 – June 2026

Children/Families	May 2025	Jun. 2025	Jul. 2025	Aug. 2025	Sep. 2025	Oct. 2025	Nov. 2025	Dec. 2025	Jan. 2026	Feb. 2026	Mar. 2026	Apr. 2026	May 2026	Jun. 2026	Total May 2025 – Jun. 2026
Children	426	676	555	611	736	526	369	430	453	348	492	572	679	653	**7,526**
Families	323	473	396	447	536	382	272	306	325	270	363	426	490	474	**5,483**

Table 9 presents 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 July 2026, there were 234 newly enrolled children who were not subject to the waitlist, most of whom were siblings of children with existing scholarships. Overall, from May 2026 through July 2026, there were 4,226 newly enrolled children who were not subject to the waitlist. This number comprised 670, 3,322 and 234 children who were enrolled in SFY 2025, SFY 2026 and July 2026, respectively. As of July 1, per Child Care Scholarship Program – Freeze in Enrollment – Exceptions and Waitlist, H.B. 849, 2026 Reg. Sess. (Md. ch. 594, 2026), children experiencing homelessness are no longer subject to the waitlist. Given that the process of removing children experiencing homelessness from the wait list began in July and that an enrollment lag is typical following approval, we will include data on the number of children experiencing homelessness that have been awarded scholarships from the waitlist in future versions of this report.

Table 9: New Enrollment by Children Not Subject to the Waitlist During the Enrollment Freeze, and Current Month

Reason for New Enrollment	SFY 2025 (#)	SFY 2025 (%)	SFY 2026 (#)	SFY 2026 (%)	July 2026 (#)	July 2026 (%)	May 2025 – Present (#)	May 2025 – Present (%)
New Applications	144	21.5%	1,302	39.2%	92	39.3%	1,538	36.4%
Interim Changes Due to Eligibility	526	78.5%	2,020	60.8%	142	60.7%	2,688	63.6%
Total Number of New Enrollments	**670**	**100.0%**	**3,322**	**100.0%**	**234**	**100.0%**	**4,226**	**100.0%**

Source: Data retrieved from CCATS on August 10, 2026.