

Finding Help to Pay for Child Care in Virginia

Finding and affording child care is challenging, but help is available! Virginia offers a variety of programs designed to support your access to affordable child care, preschool and early childhood education options. This flyer will guide you through the programs that can help ease the financial burden and provide your child with the best start in life.

Financial Assistance Programs in Virginia

→ Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP)

The [Virginia Child Care Subsidy Program \(CCSP\)](#), a program administered by the Virginia Department of Education, helps families pay for child care so parents can work, attend school, or training. The program pays part or all of the cost at approved providers.



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◆ Eligibility

You must be a Virginia resident and meet one of the following criteria:

- Working or searching for a job
- Participating in education or training
- Receiving Child Protective Services (CPS) or experiencing homelessness
- Engaged in VIEW (Virginia Initiative for Education and Work) or SNAPET (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training)

Additionally, you must provide:

- Child's citizenship/legal residency documentation
- Child's immunization records
- Household income documentation that does not exceed the limit of your locality

◆ Application Process

There are two ways to apply CCSP:

- Apply online via [CommonHelp](#) or submit an application to your local department of social services. Find your local department [here](#).

◆ After You Submit Your Application

Your application will be reviewed within 30 days. You may be asked to participate in an interview and provide additional documents. If approved, your local department will authorize child care with a provider of your choice, and a portion of your costs will be paid directly to the provider.

2025 Income Qualifications (85% of State Median Income)	
Household Size	Annual Income
2	\$77,455
3	\$95,680
4	\$113,904
5	\$132,129

Subject to change. Check the VDOE website for more information



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→ Head Start/Early Head Start

Head Start is a federally funded program administered by the Office of Head Start. Head Start programs provide free early learning, health and family support services.

◆ Eligibility

Early Head Start serves pregnant women and children birth to age 3. Head Start Preschool serves children ages 3 to 5, and all programs serve children with disabilities. Families may be eligible if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Family income at or below the federal poverty level. Check the Poverty Guidelines for eligibility.
- Experiencing homelessness
- Child is in foster care
- Family receives public assistance (SNAP, TANF, or SSI)

◆ Application Process

There are many Head Start and Early Head Start programs located throughout Virginia. To find a program near you, visit the Head Start website to locate a program in your area.



→ Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

VPI is a free, high-quality preschool program funded by the Virginia Department of Education.

◆ Eligibility

VPI serves 3 and 4-year-olds who meet one of the following:

- Family income at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines
- Experiencing homelessness
- Parent(s) or guardian(s) did not complete high school
- Child has disabilities or delays eligible for special education under IDEA (regardless of income)
- Some localities may have expanded criteria available

◆ Application Process

VPI is locally administered, typically through public schools or school districts. Each division may have different processes or required documents.

1. Locate your local school division's VPI page or contact information to access application forms.
2. Submit required documents (e.g., birth certificate, proof of residency, income, immunization records, parent ID, custody documents, special education records).
3. Await notification of your application decision.



→ Mixed Delivery

Managed by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, Mixed Delivery provides publicly funded, high-quality early childhood care and education in licensed private centers and family day homes. It serves infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in select localities.

◆ Eligibility

Families must typically reside in Virginia and meet at least one of these:

- Income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Currently experiencing homelessness
- Parent(s) or guardian(s) did not complete high school
- Child has a recognized disability or receives early intervention services
- Other region-specific criteria may apply

◆ Application Process

To learn more, contact your local Ready Region. Click or scan [here](#) for contact information.



Finding Care

Ready to choose a child care program or need additional information? Contact us for an individualized search of child care programs in your area that meet your needs.



866-KIDS TLC

vachildcare.com