



Care 4 Kids

Care 4 Kids Program

The Care 4 Kids program is a state and federally funded subsidy program that has been providing child care assistance to low to moderate income families in Connecticut for more than 40 years. Participating families receive a Care 4 Kids certificate to cover certain child care costs, which is funded by a federal and state partnership program. The program requires families to meet certain eligibility requirements to receive subsidies, and subsidies are generally available until children reach age 13. Providers receiving reimbursement from Care 4 Kids must complete a one-time orientation and meet annual training requirements specific to the provider type. Trainings must focus on improving children's health development, safety, and school readiness in child care settings for children from birth through age 12. (This report does not address program changes made by the administering [agency](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

How is Care 4 Kids Funded?

The primary funding source for the Care 4 Kids program is the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) federal block grant administered by the federal Office of Child Care. The CCDF is a federal and state partnership program authorized under the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act and is administered by states to provide financial assistance to low-income families for child care so the parents or guardians can work, attend job training, or attend school. In Connecticut, the Care 4 Kids program is administered by the state Office of Early Childhood.

Estimated Care 4 Kids Subsidies

The table below shows the estimated amount that Connecticut has spent on child care subsidies under the program for the past six fiscal years.

Fiscal Year	\$ Millions
FY 15	109.3
FY 16	115.4
FY 17	115.9
FY 18	76.0
FY 19	89.0
FY 20	60.9

Source: Office of Fiscal Analysis, CORE-CT

Care 4 Kids Eligibility



Eligible Families

In order to qualify to receive benefits under the Care 4 Kids program, families must meet the following criteria:

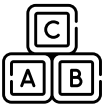
- Reside in Connecticut
- be employed or attending a Jobs First approved education or training activity, and meet income requirements



Income Requirements

Families must meet the following income limits when applying or reapplying for the Care 4 Kids program:

- less than 50% of the State Median Income (SMI) for initial applications received on or after October 1, 2020
- less than 65% of the SMI for reapplication after October 1, 2020



Eligible Providers

To receive reimbursement from Care 4 Kids, providers must be

- a close relative in the child's home or in the close relative's home;
- an Office of Early Childhood licensed day care center, family day care home, or a group day care home; or
- a public or private school-based child care program that passes a health and safety inspection by the OEC Licensing Program



Reporting Changes to Maintain Eligibility

Families must report income over 85% of the SMI, loss of employment or approved training activity, if a child receiving Care 4 Kids benefits is no longer in the home, or a change of phone number or address.

Care 4 Kids Provider Count

The table below lists the number of Care 4 Kids providers in the state that provide care to children ages 0 to 12.

Care 4 Kids Provider Count (June 2020)	
Licensed and regulated centers	1,131
Licensed family homes	920
Unlicensed relative care	2,616

Source: [Care 4 Kids](#)

Care 4 Kids Program Enrollment

The following table lists the number of children in the state receiving Care 4 Kids program services. (Counts for some towns are suppressed due to small size.)

Month	Total Number of Children Receiving Services
March	17,643
April	16,562
May	16,858
June	17,362
July	14,835
August	14,989

Source: [Care 4 Kids](#)

Care 4 Kids Payment Determination

The Care 4 Kids program considers certain factors in determining the certificate amount issued to families.

Care 4 Kids considers the following program factors:

- the provider's location in the state
- the type of provider
- if the provider is accredited through a state or national accrediting agency recognized by the OEC commissioner

Care 4 Kids considers the following family factors:

- the parents' work or training schedule
- the child's age
- the hours of care a child needs
- if the child has special needs
- the family's income

Care 4 Kids may not cover all child care charges, and a family is responsible for the Family Fee (set by Care 4 Kids) and other charges not covered by the program.

Learn
More

[Care 4 Kids](#)

CT Office of Early Childhood CCDF [Plan Updates](#) (2019-2021)

Office of Child Care [CCDF Fact Sheet](#)



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