Child Care Subsidy & Financial Assistance

Child care financial assistance varies and also has different qualifications; for example income level, employment status, or residency. Options for assistance in Georgia include:

**Subsidized Child Care**

The Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program is operated by Bright From the Start GA Department of Early Care and Learning and helps very low income families afford quality child care. The program is available in all 159 counties statewide, and is based on the availability of funding. Subsidized care is available for children with ages ranging from birth to 13 years. This can be extended to age 18 if the child has special needs.

Parents or guardians may qualify to receive subsidized care if they:
- have limited income; and
- need child care to work, attend school, or attend training

State-approved Activities
- Employment for at least 30 hours per week for each adult parent in the household
- Enrolled full time: middle school, high school or GED program (parents under 18 years only)
- Enrolled full time in a job training program (12 month time limit)

Note: Grandparents receiving SSI or Social Security Disability Insurance or who are 60 years or older are exempt from activity requirement.

The Boost tuition assistance program is managed by Quality Care for Children. This is a privately funded program designed to support families who are no longer eligible for CAPS.

Parents or guardians may qualify for Boost if the following requirements are met:
- Parent or Guardian has been terminated from Georgia CAPS due to increase of income
- Parent or Guardian is currently employed
- Child is enrolled in a Quality Rated program or program that is Participating in Quality Rated
- Child is not enrolled in Georgia Pre-K and is not yet eligible for enrollment in Georgia Pre-K
- Parent and child are residents of Georgia
The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program is operated by the Department of Family and Children Services. Subsidized care is available for children ages birth to 13 years. This can be extended to age 18 if the child has special needs.

Work Requirements
- All adult recipients have a work requirement, and are required to participate in work activities and training for at least 30 hours weekly. These work activities help recipients gain the experience needed to find a job and become self-sufficient.

Families that qualify for CAPS or TANF can choose their own child care providers. The child care fee is based on the number of children needing child care and the individual needs of the family. The fee is paid directly to the provider.

Funds Availability - Child care funds are distributed by the federal government. There is a pre-set determination for the amount each state receives.

Apply
- For CAPS: Apply online at www.compass.ga.gov
- For TANF: Apply online at www.compass.ga.gov or contact the Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) in the county where you live. A staff member at the county DFCS office will know if funds are available and can describe the program requirements in more detail.

Georgia Pre-K
The Georgia Pre-K program was established in 1993 and is funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education. Children four years of age on September 1 of the current school year whose parents are Georgia residents are eligible. Participation in the program is voluntary and there is NO COST for core day enrollment. Some Georgia Pre-K programs utilize the lottery method of enrollment when space in the program does not accommodate all eligible children.

Head Start and Early Head Start
Head Start (3 to 5-year olds) and Early Head Start (Birth to 3-years olds) are federally-funded and comprehensive child development programs that serve children from birth to five, pregnant women, and their families. They are child-focused programs and have the overall goal of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families. The core day for this program is offered at NO COST for eligible families. Children receive free medical and dental care, have healthy meals and snacks, and enjoy playing.

Multi-Child Discount, Sliding Scale, or Scholarships
Ask child care providers if they provide any discounts for multiple children, sliding scale, or scholarships.
Employer/College Support
Does your employer (or college, if you are a student) provide child care scholarships, discounts to certain programs, or on-site child care at reduced rates?

Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
You may be able to lower your taxes and even get up to several thousands dollars back if you qualify for the EITC. To qualify you must be working full-time or part-time and earn less than a certain amount based upon family size. You don’t have to owe any taxes to get the EITC.

Federal Child Tax Credit
If you have a dependent child under the age 17, you may be eligible for the Child Tax Credit, which can be worth hundreds of dollars per child. The income limit for the CTC is much higher than for the Earned Income Tax Credit, and you may qualify even if you did not pay federal taxes.

Federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
If you have a child under 13, and owe federal income taxes, this tax credit can help cover a portion or all of the taxes you owe if you qualify. To learn more visit the IRS official website: www.irs.gov

Family, Friend and Neighbor Care
Many children are now being cared for by family, friends, and neighbors in home settings. Family, friend, and neighbor care is also known as "kith and kin" care or "informal care," as opposed to the care provided in more formal and professional center-based and family child care markets. An informal provider may care for a limit of 2 children without registering with the state. Quality Care for Children does not provide referrals for this type of care.

For further assistance in determining the best option for your family, call us at 877-ALL-GA-KIDS (877-255-4254).