



State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council (SECDCC)

Aug. 20, 2025

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Swearing In of New/Reappointed Members
- Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund
- Back to School
- District Compulsory Education
- DC Child Care Subsidy Program Waitlist Policy Discussion Draft
- Announcement and Public Comments
- Wrap Up



Welcome and Introductions



**Swearing In of
New/Reappointed Members**

Mayor appointments/reappointments to SECDCC

Appointments

- Chelsea Coffin, Representative of additional category identified by council as necessary
- Maria Cristina Encinas, Representative of a community-based organization
- Bridget Hall, Representative of the business community
- Colleen Sonosky, Representative of additional category identified by council as necessary

Reappointments

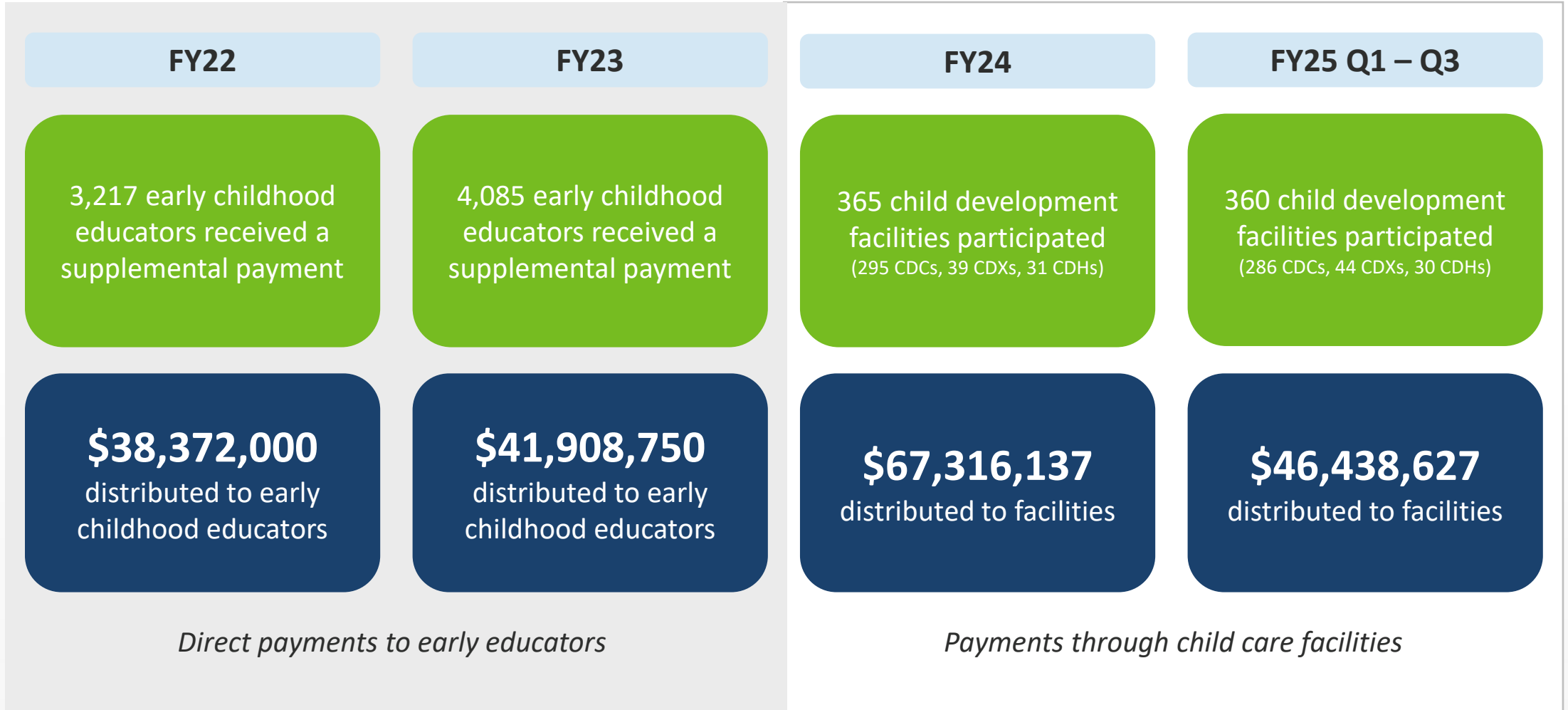
- Ruqiyah Abu-Anbar, Representative of early childhood advocacy organization
- Sean Compagnucci, Representative of a public school
- Syrita Robinson, Representative of Head Start
- Cynthia Davis, Representative of additional category identified by council as necessary
- Amaya Garcia, Representative of families whose children are receiving or have received pre-K education services
- Jack McCarthy, Representative of a public charter school support organization
- Linda Moore, Representative of a public charter school



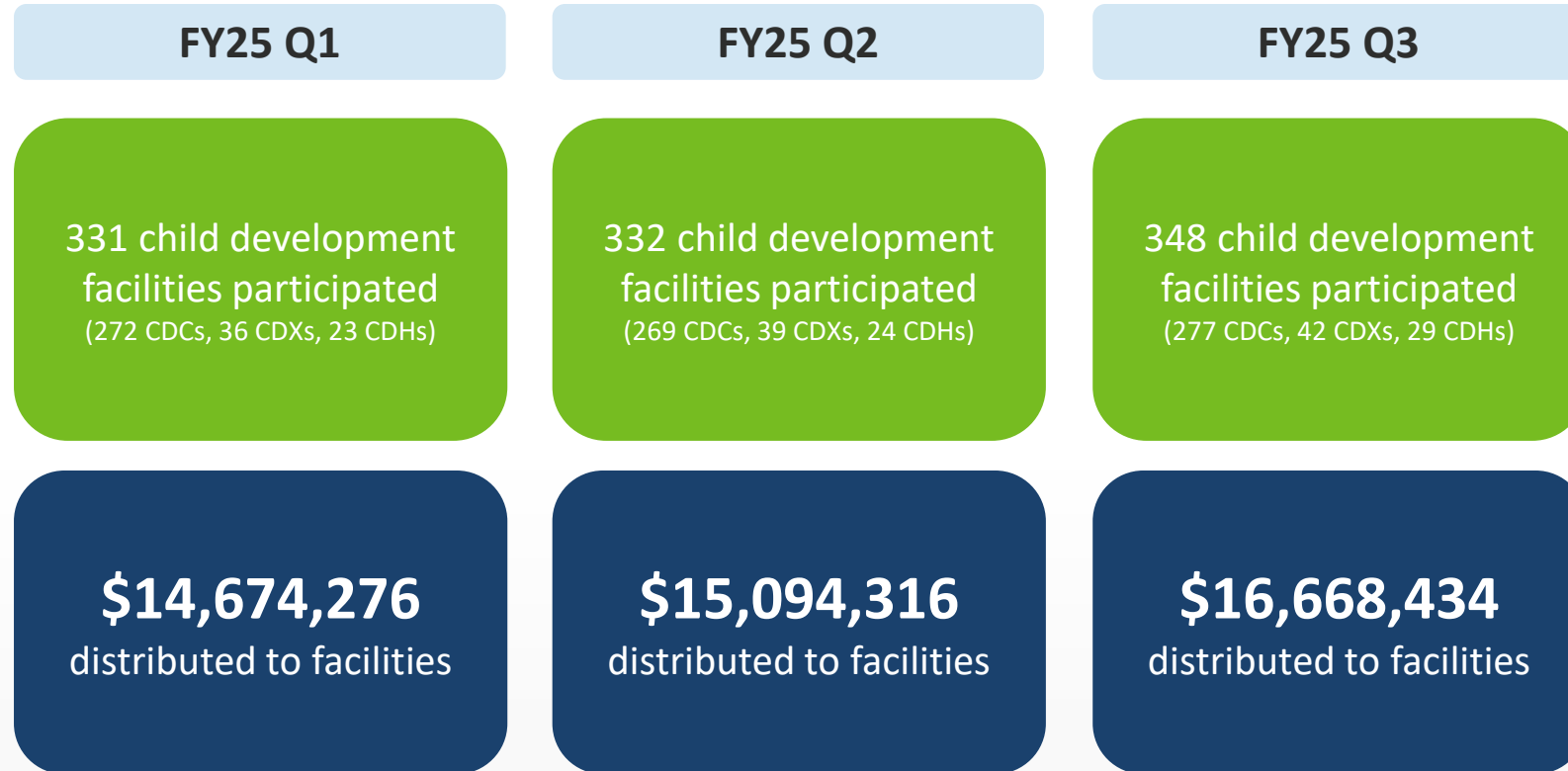
Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund

FY25 Quarter 3 (Q3) Data Summary

To date, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) has distributed more than \$194 million to boost early educator pay

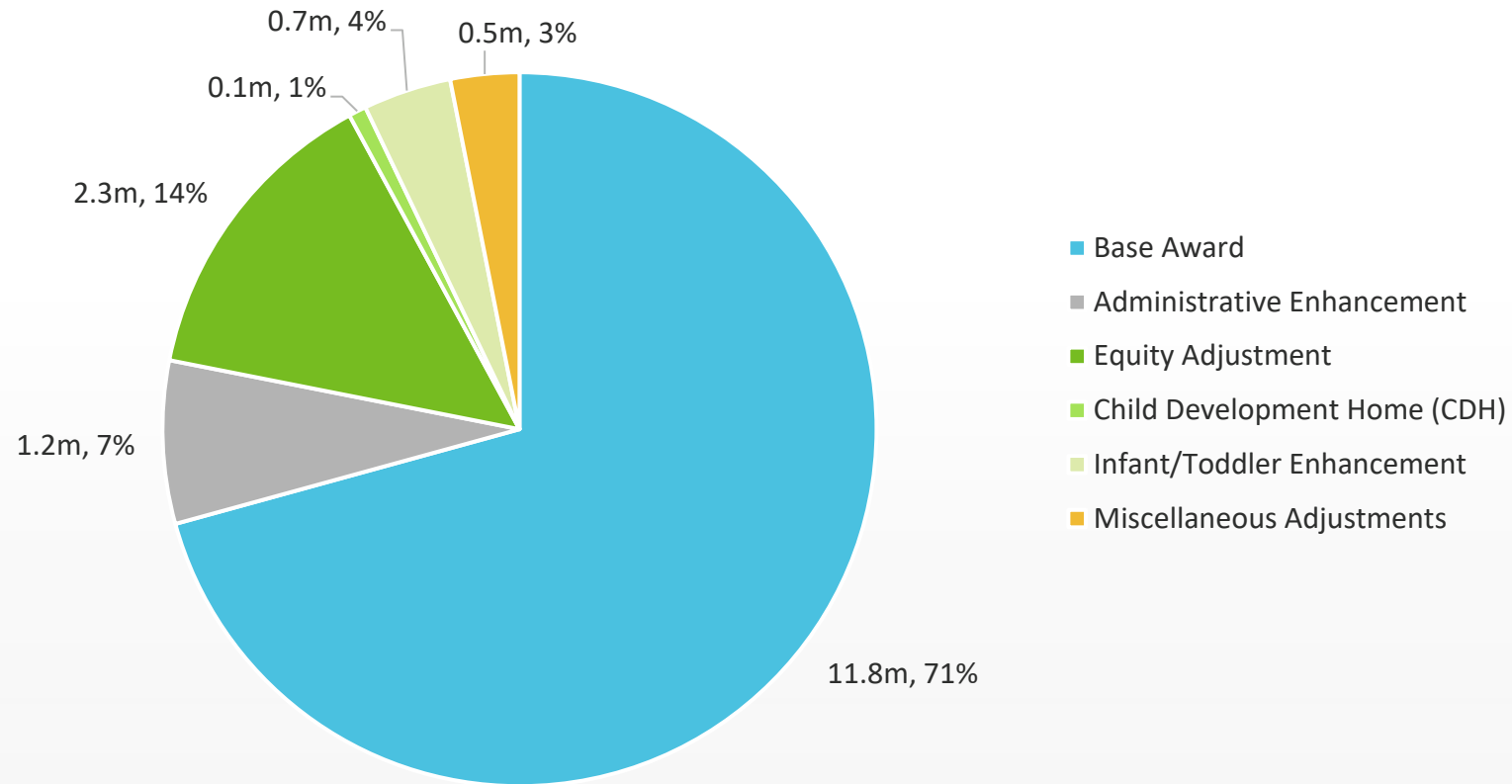


In FY25 to date, OSSE has distributed more than \$46 million to child development facilities



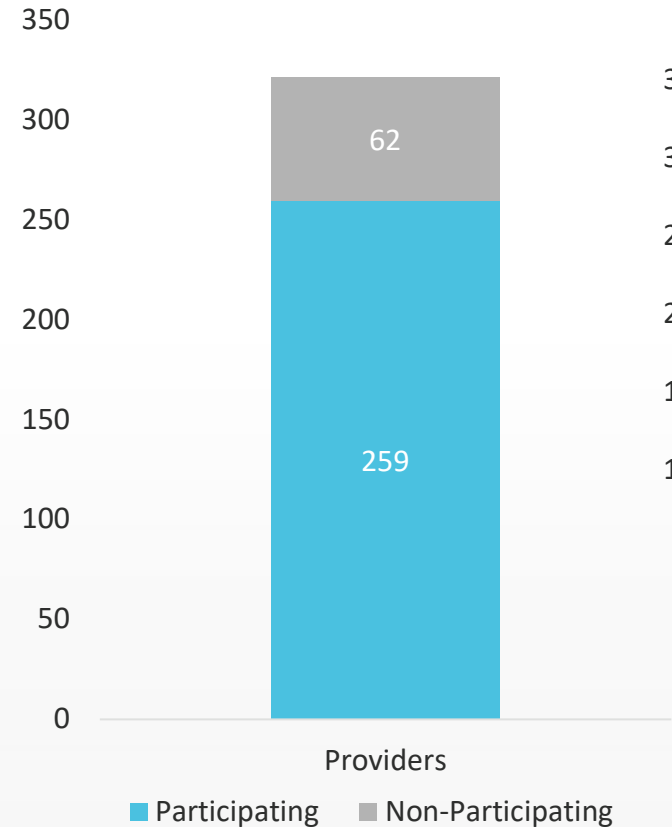
In June 2025, OSSE distributed \$16,668,434 to child development facilities

Distribution of FY25 Q3 awards by [CDF Payroll Funding Formula](#) components

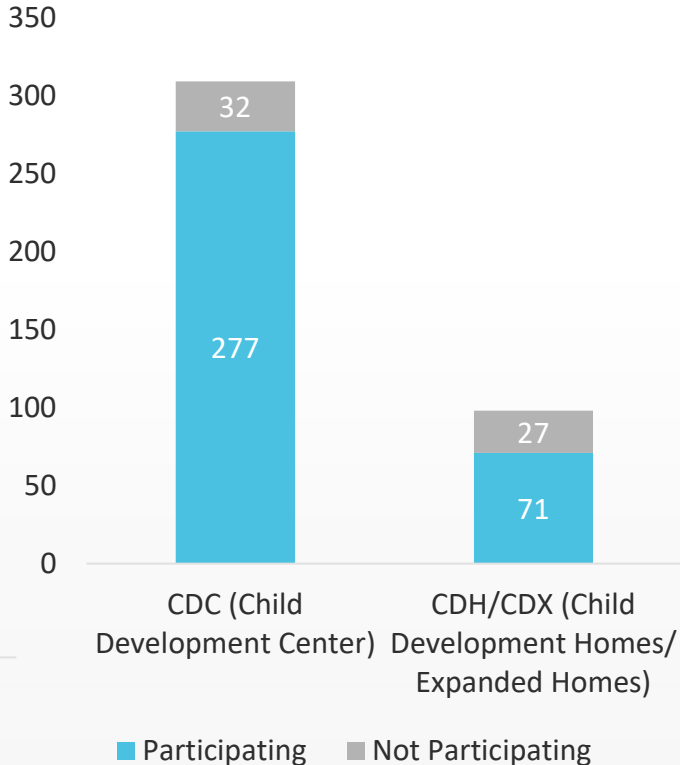


259 child care providers participated in FY25 Q3

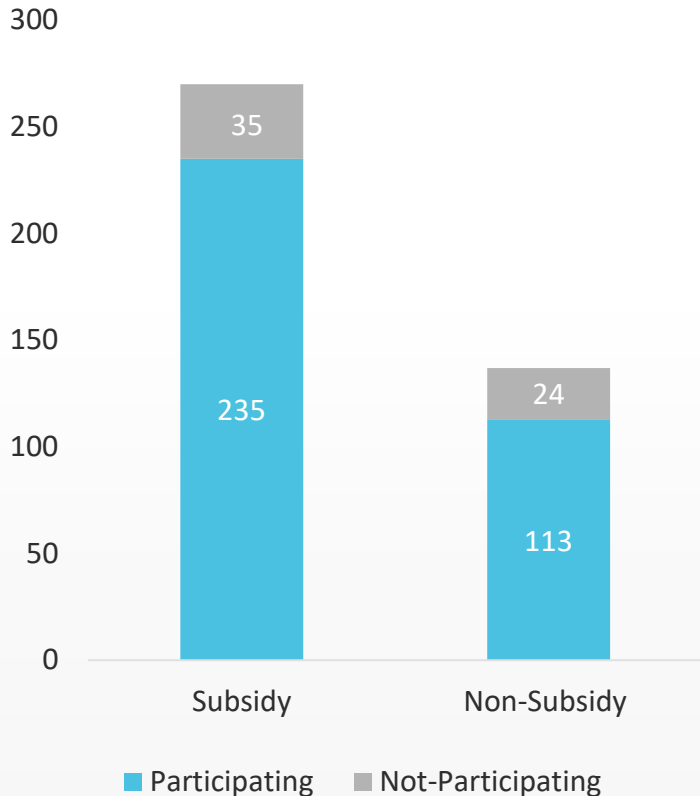
Number of participating vs. non-participating eligible providers in the Pay Equity Fund as of July 20, 2025



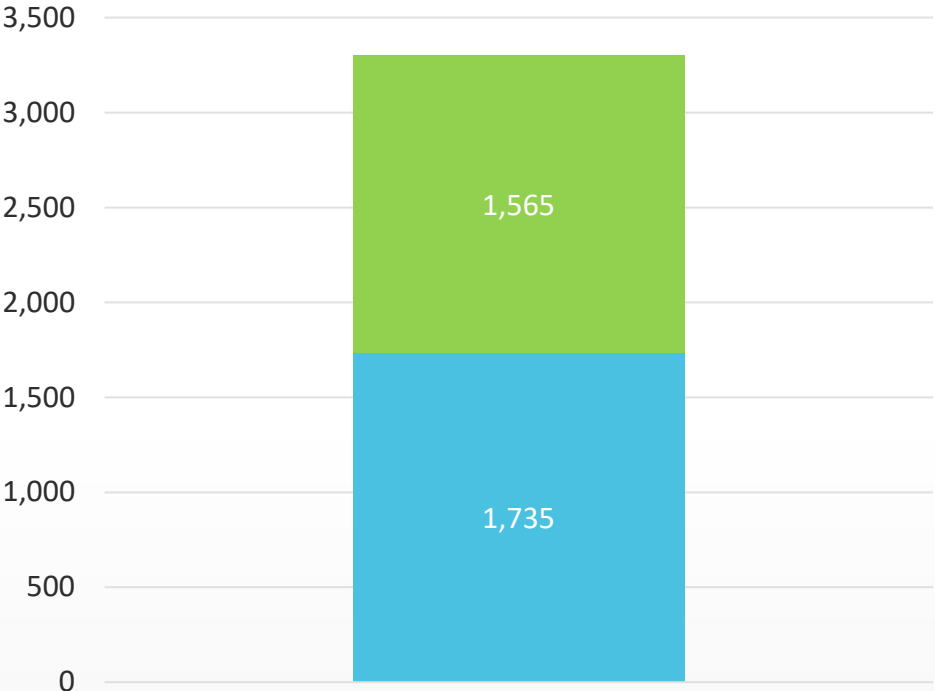
Number of participating vs. non-participating eligible facilities in the Pay Equity Fund by facility type as of July 20, 2025



Number of participating vs. non-participating eligible facilities in the Pay Equity Fund by subsidy status as of July 20, 2025

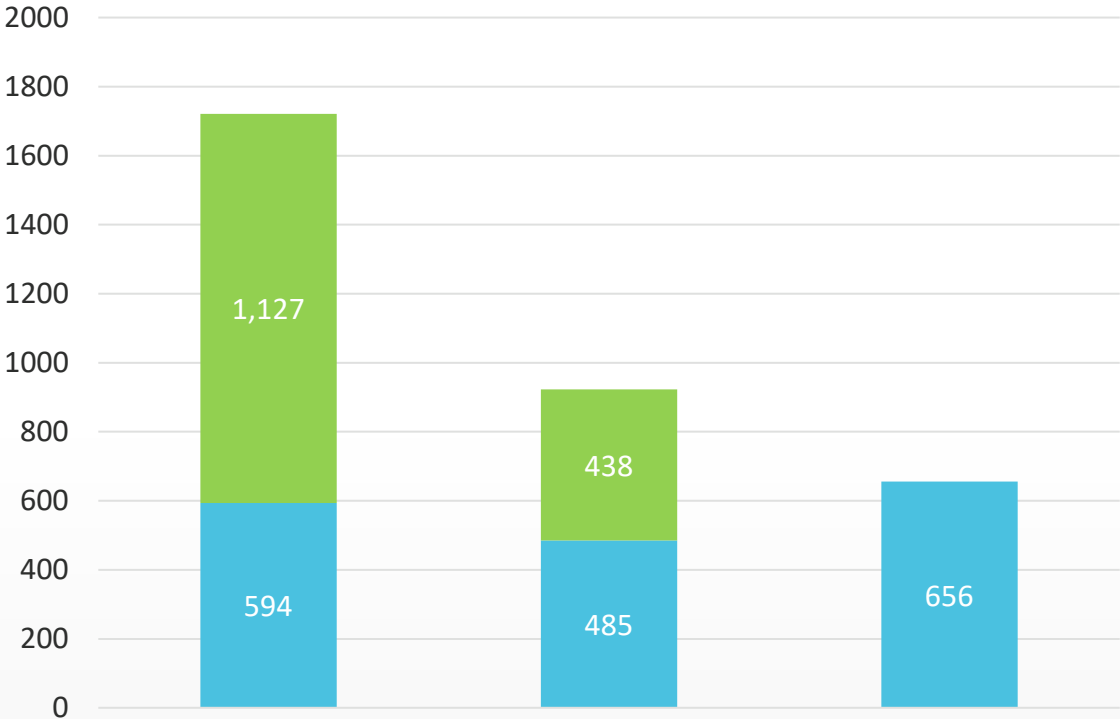


3,300 early educators were included in facility awards in FY25 Q3



Number of Educators

- Assistant Teacher/Associate Home Caregiver
- Lead Teacher/Home Caregiver/Expanded Home Caregiver



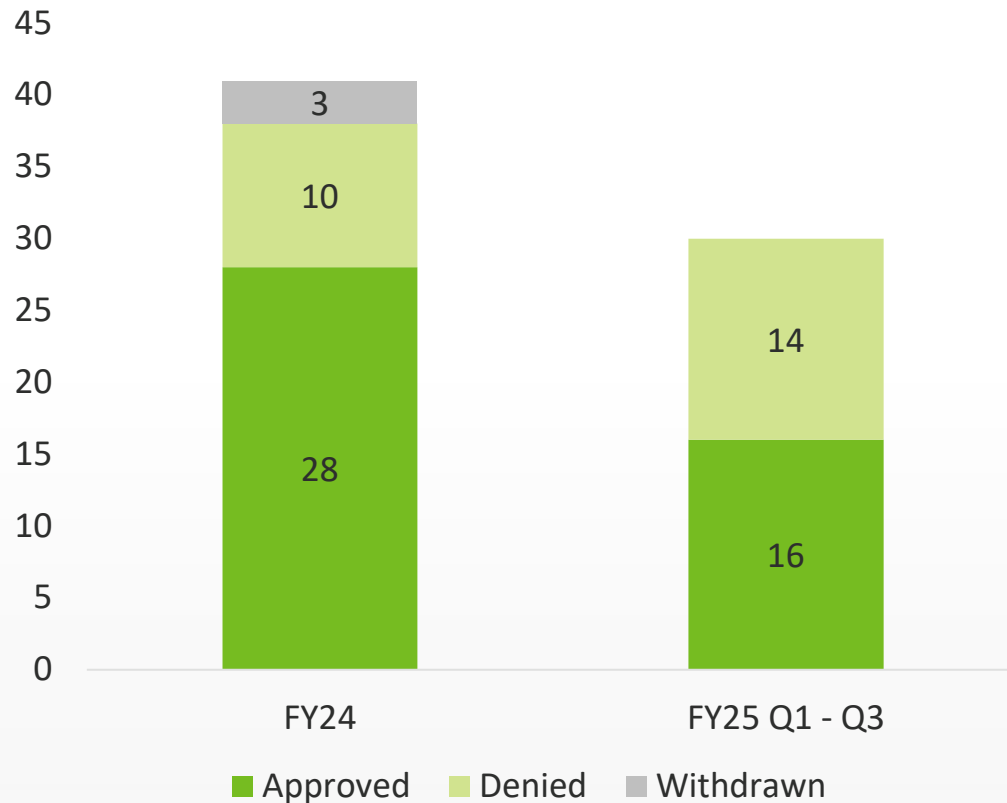
CDA or equivalent AA or equivalent BA in ECE (or higher)

- Assistant Teacher/Associate Home Caregiver
- Lead Teacher/Home Caregiver/Expanded Home Caregiver



OSSE received four new waiver applications for FY25 Q3

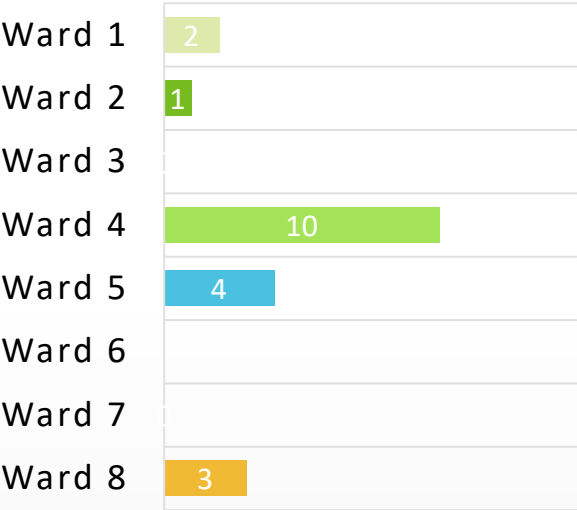
Waiver decisions from FY25 Q1 – Q3



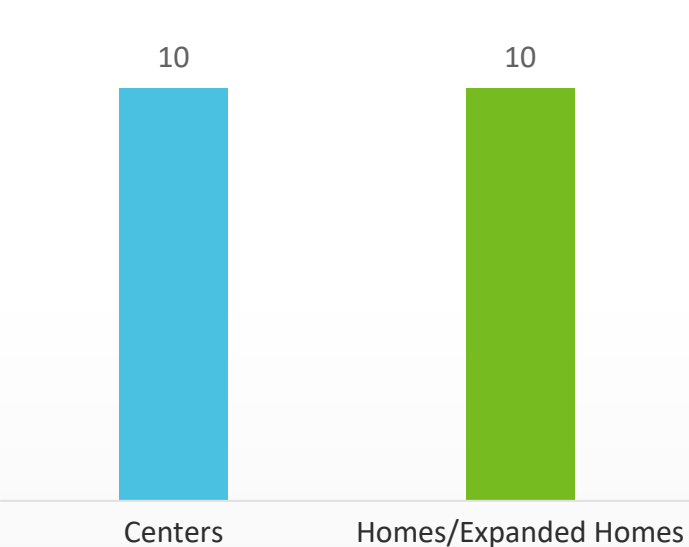
- Providers may apply to waive the minimum salary requirements.
- OSSE made changes to the [waiver criteria](#) for FY25 that narrow eligibility for providers.
- Providers without FY24 waivers, who participated in FY24 of the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund and applied for a waiver for FY25, were required to meet the minimum salary requirements for FY25 until notification of an approved waiver.

Distribution of approved FY25 waivers

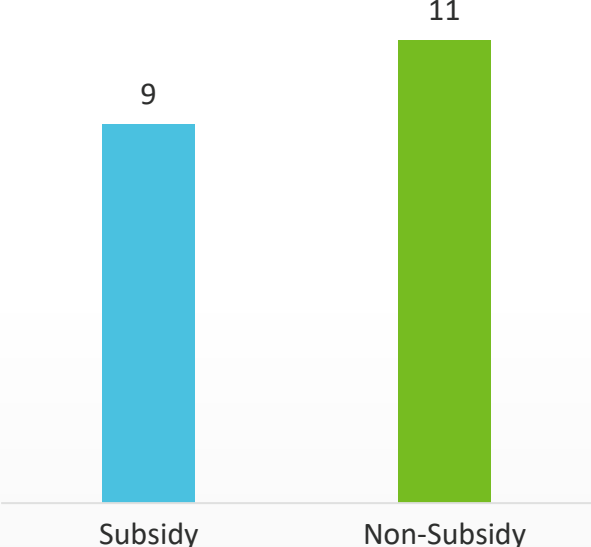
Approved Waivers By Facility Ward



Approved Waivers By Facility Type



Approved Waivers By Subsidy Participation



In FY25, 16 providers had approved waivers covering 20 facilities.





Back to School

School Enrollment

- While families in kindergarten through 12th grade are guaranteed a spot in their DCPS neighborhood school, the My School DC common lottery is a single platform to apply to up to 12 participating schools throughout our public education system of DCPS and public charter schools.
 - Families seeking a spot in free pre-K, a public charter school, a citywide DCPS high school, or an out-of-boundary school must participate in the lottery.
 - Families can still apply for the 2025-26 school year using the post-lottery application at: myschooldc.org
 - Families can apply to the lottery for next school when the lottery application opens on Dec. 15, 2025. The 2026-27 school year lottery deadlines are Feb. 2, 2026 (grades 9-12) and March 2, 2026 (pre-K3-grade 8).
- Support for families navigating school enrollment and the special education process is available at osse.dc.gov/specialeducation

School Lunch

- Many schools participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP), which allows them to provide free meals to all students. To see if a school participates in CEP, visit osse.dc.gov/nslp.
- If the school does not participate in CEP, families must complete the Free and Reduced-Price Meals Application and return it to the school to determine eligibility.

My Out of School Time DC

- The My Out of School Time DC portal is a new online platform designed to make it easier for families to find and register for afterschool and summer programs.
- The portal, available at most.dc.gov/en-US/, serves as a one-stop shop for parents to explore Out of School Time (OST) programs for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

Social, Emotional and Behavioral Supports for Families

- Crisis Services for Children, Youth and Their Families
 - The Department of Behavioral Health operates mobile crisis services teams for children, youth and their families facing a behavioral or mental health crisis, whether in the home, school, or community. Call Children and Adolescent Mobile Psychiatric Service (ChAMPS) at (202) 481-1440 for assistance, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., and the Community Response Team at (202) 673-6495 anytime.
- 211 Warmline
 - The 211 Warmline is an information and referral helpline for health and human services, food and housing assistance, and mental health and childcare resources. Trained professionals are available to provide confidential support. Visit 211warmline.dc.gov for more information.
- Family Success Centers
 - Visit one of the DC Child and Family Services Agency's Family Success Centers to be connected to resources around parenting, workforce development, food security and mental health. Learn more at cfsa.dc.gov/page/families-first-dc.

Early Learning Resources

- My Child Care DC: mychildcare.dc.gov
 - Families can use My Child Care DC to explore, compare, and connect with licensed child development facilities in the District, including before and after care programs. It's free to use and available in multiple languages.
- DC Child Care Connections: dcchildcareconnections.org
 - DC Child Care Connections is the District's child care resource and referral agency providing resources for families to support their children's development, including how to find and pay for child care and out-of-school time programs. Families can contact DC Child Care Connections at osse.childcareconnections@dc.gov or (202) 829-2500.
- Early Stages: earlystagesdc.org
 - Through its Early Stages program, DC Public Schools (DCPS) offers free evaluations to identify developmental delays and disabilities in children ages 2 years 8 months to 5 years 10 months. Early Stages can evaluate DC children who are homeschooled and non-DC residents if they attend a private school or childcare center in DC. Early Stages is not able to evaluate children enrolled in public charter schools. Find more information and refer a child for a developmental screening at earlystagesdc.org.

Ready for Pre-K

- Ready for Pre-K is a DCPS initiative designed to support families and caregivers before and during pre-K.
- Find the new Family Toolkit and more resources at readyforprek.org.
- In the new Family Toolkit:
 - Getting Ready for Pre-K Guide, featuring frequently asked Pre-K questions
 - Early Literacy Guide, featuring tips for supporting literacy at home
 - Math Guide, featuring information about the math skills your child will be exposed to in pre-K
 - Social-Emotional Learning Guide, featuring tips for building healthy relationships and learning to handle strong emotions



District Compulsory Education

Age 5 Compulsory Education in the District

- DC Code § 38-202 establishes that “Every parent, guardian, or other person, who resides permanently or temporarily in the District during any school year and who has custody or control of a minor who has reached the age of 5 years or will become 5 years of age on or before September 30th of the current school year shall place the minor in regular attendance in an *educational institution* during the period of each year when the public schools of the District are in session.”
 - Under DC Code § 38-202, children who are 5 years of age on or before Sept. 30 and fail to enroll in an educational institution are in violation of compulsory education requirements.
- An “educational institution” means a school in the District of Columbia Public Schools system, a public charter school, an independent school, a private school, a parochial school, or a private instructor (§ 38-201)
 - Licensed child development facilities do not meet the definition of “educational institution” unless they are also recognized as an independent school, a private school or a parochial school.
 - Child development facilities that are licensed to provide care to school-age children may provide out of school time care (before and after care and non-instructional days) to children above the age of compulsory attendance but may not be used to comply with the District’s compulsory education requirement.



**DC Child Care Subsidy
Program Waitlist Policy
Discussion Draft**

OSSE has published a draft waitlist policy for the DC Child Care Subsidy Program

- OSSE is developing a waitlist policy as a proactive measure should a waitlist need to be implemented in the future due to fiscal constraints or unexpected growth in program enrollment.
- The purpose of the draft policy is to enable OSSE to receive input from stakeholders as well as to assist stakeholders in taking into account the potential need for a waitlist when making future plans.

The draft waitlist policy establishes six priority groups for child care subsidies

- The [draft waitlist policy](#) details how families would be prioritized for child care subsidies in the event that funding was insufficient to serve all families eligible for the DC Child Care Subsidy Program.
- The draft waitlist policy:
 - Establishes six priority groups for subsidized child care services based on eligibility classifications listed in the [DC Child Care Subsidy Program Policy Manual](#) and in adherence with federal and local regulations; and
 - Details how eligibility determinations for new families would be conducted should a waitlist be implemented.
- In the event a waitlist was implemented, OSSE could limit enrollment in the DC Child Care Subsidy Program to some priority groups, placing others on the waitlist, or could place all eligible applicants on the waitlist and admit new enrollees to the program based on priority group as spaces become available.
- The waitlist policy would apply to new applicants to the DC Child Care Subsidy Program, and, if implemented, would not affect services for currently enrolled children.

[Click here](#) read the draft waitlist policy ([Español](#) | [Amharic](#)).



Announcements and Public Comment



Wrap Up and Next Steps