



State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council (SECDCC)

May 31, 2023

Agenda

- Welcome
- Restart of Medicaid Program
- Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Budget Update
- Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund
- Urban Institute: Parents' Child Care Searches and Child Care Experiences During the Pandemic
- Announcements and Public Comment
- Wrap Up and Next Steps



Restart of Medicaid Program



Restarting Medicaid Renewals: DHCF Update

SECDCC Meeting

Department of Health Care Finance

May 31, 2023



Reminder: Medicaid Beneficiaries Will Have to Renew Their Coverage for the First Time in 3+ Years



- In March 2020, CMS temporarily waived the need to renew Medicaid coverage and states received a 6.2% financial boost to accommodate the increased enrollment.
- Medicaid enrollment has increased 20% since the start of the public health emergency – just over 300,000 District residents are now enrolled in Medicaid.
- At the end of 2022, Congress passed legislation ending the continuous eligibility requirement on March 31, 2023.
- The District restarted Medicaid eligibility **renewals beginning April 1, 2023**. (Alliance and Immigrant Children’s Program renewals started in July 2022), with the first group (of 12) **required to renew coverage before May 31, 2023** (today!)



Medicaid Renewal Is Not the Only Thing That Changed on April 1st – New Managed Care Contracts Also Started



- New Medicaid / Alliance managed care contracts started on April 1st
 - One new managed care plan - Amerigroup DC - joins AmeriHealth Caritas and MedStar Family Choice
 - Beneficiaries enrolled in CareFirst Community Health Plan transitioned to Amerigroup DC
- Beneficiaries received postcard and letters between February and March
- Questions about managed care plan enrollment: dchealthyfamilies.com or call 202-639-4030
- Enrolling into a managed care plan is not renewing Medicaid eligibility





Renewals Have 60/90 Days - But Can Also Be Completed in a 90 Day Grace Period for Coverage to be Reinstated



- ▶ There is a 90-day grace period for individuals who do not renew Medicaid ahead of their cert end date
- ▶ The grace period allows additional time for individuals who fail to recertify timely to submit their renewal
- ▶ If the beneficiary is determined eligible for continued coverage, coverage will retroactively go back to the certification end date.
 - If a provider provides care in this period they will be reimbursed, as long as individuals recertify within the grace period
- ▶ Individuals can recertify their coverage in District Direct; mail; service center; fax, etc. by submitting their renewal form or completing a renewal online up to 90 days after their recertification end date
- ▶ **Individuals attempting to recertify their coverage after 90 days following their recertification end date will be required to submit a new application**
 - **The grace period for the May cohort ends on 8/30; From 9/1/23 and forward this cohort will be required to submit a new application to reactivate their benefits.**



UPDATE SINCE LAST MEETING: DHCF Eligibility Monitoring Dashboard Is Online



- Dashboard includes Unwinding Data Report* information submitted by DHCF to the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), along with other key metrics for monitoring the restart of Medicaid eligibility redeterminations.
 - DHCF is making unwinding data available to the public before it is due to CMS.
 - For example, outcomes of renewals due in May are reported to CMS in June. However, DHCF's dashboard already includes the outcomes known to date for all renewals that have been initiated.
 - Similarly, the dashboard includes renewals initiated in May and associated outcomes before the information is reported to CMS in June and beyond.
- Direct link is <https://dhcf.dc.gov/eligibilitydashboard>; also linked at <https://dhcf.dc.gov/> and <https://dhcf.dc.gov/medicaid-renewal>.
- Latest update reflects data as of May 19.

DC Department of Health Care Finance Eligibility Monitoring Dashboard

Enrollment Trends and Current Population Recertification Dates

Medicaid Unwinding Report and Related Data

* <https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/unwinding-data-reporting/index.htm>



What Can Stakeholders Say to Beneficiaries? *Don't Wait to Update!* *Then Check Mail for Important Information!*



What Beneficiaries Can Do Right Now

- Don't Wait to Update!: Update your contact information by logging into District Direct. If DHCF does not have the proper contact information, you will not receive notice of the need to renew your coverage through the mail or other means!
- Check Your Mail: DHCF will mail you a letter about your Medicaid, Alliance, or ICP coverage. This letter will also let you know when it's time to complete your renewal.

What To Do After Receiving Your Renewal Notice

- Complete your renewal by using districtdirect.dc.gov or fill out the form and mail/fax/drop at Service Center immediately to help avoid a gap in your coverage.



What Can You Do to Support DC Residents in Renewing Coverage?



- **DHCF outreach on Medicaid Renewal is ongoing** and includes media (radio, TV, bus advertisements), health/wellness fairs, targeted outreach (texting, robocalls); data sharing with managed care plans; external stakeholder meetings, and more!

What Can You Do to Support Residents in Renewing Coverage?

- *Providers:* Check on patient / beneficiary renewal dates through the provider portal (www.dc-medicaid.com) and work with beneficiaries needing to renew
- *Community Partners:* Make fliers, etc. available onsite at your organizations; include information in newsletters and other outreach to District residents; connect beneficiaries to assistance as needed; raise issues to DHCF (medicaid.renewal@dc.gov).
- *Beneficiaries:* Don't wait to update your contact information and look in the mail for the District envelope with the green bar. If you're in doubt about what to do, reach out!
- *Everyone:* Share what you know about Medicaid Renewal to friends, family, and neighbors!



Stakeholder Toolkit Assists Stakeholders with Messaging and Further Details



- DHC's website has a **Stakeholder Toolkit** on Medicaid Renewal.
- The **Stakeholder Toolkit** contains:
 - Background
 - Key Messages
 - Downloadable fliers to print, post, and share
 - Draft social media posts and messaging
 - Drop In Article to put in your agency newsletter or bulletin board
 - Email and Website Text
 - Phone Call Scripts including information on District Direct registration
 - FAQs

End of Medicaid Continuous Enrollment
A COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Social Media Posts

Post #4
Have you moved since you signed up for health insurance coverage? Remember to update your address at districtdirect.dc.gov. If you need additional assistance, you may call the Public Benefits Call Center at 202-727-5355 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. We will mail you information when it is time to renew your coverage.

Post #5
We want you to keep your health coverage! To make sure you do not miss important information and renew your coverage, please be sure that DHC has your current contact info. Take a minute to update your address, phone number, and email address at districtdirect.dc.gov. If you need additional assistance, you may call the Public Benefits Call Center at 202-727-5355 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. We will mail you information when it is time to renew your coverage.

Post #6
A message for people with Medicaid! Renewals were stopped due to COVID-19; however, they're coming back. Make sure DHC knows where to send your Medicaid renewal letter. If you moved, update your information at districtdirect.dc.gov. If you need additional assistance, you may call the Public Benefits Call Center at 202-727-5355 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. We will mail you information when it is time to renew your coverage.

Don't Wait to Update!
All DC residents with Medicaid must renew their coverage this year. Update your contact info at districtdirect.dc.gov.

Email Messages

Subject Line:
Don't Miss Out on Important Updates
If you have Medicaid... Take a minute today to update your contact

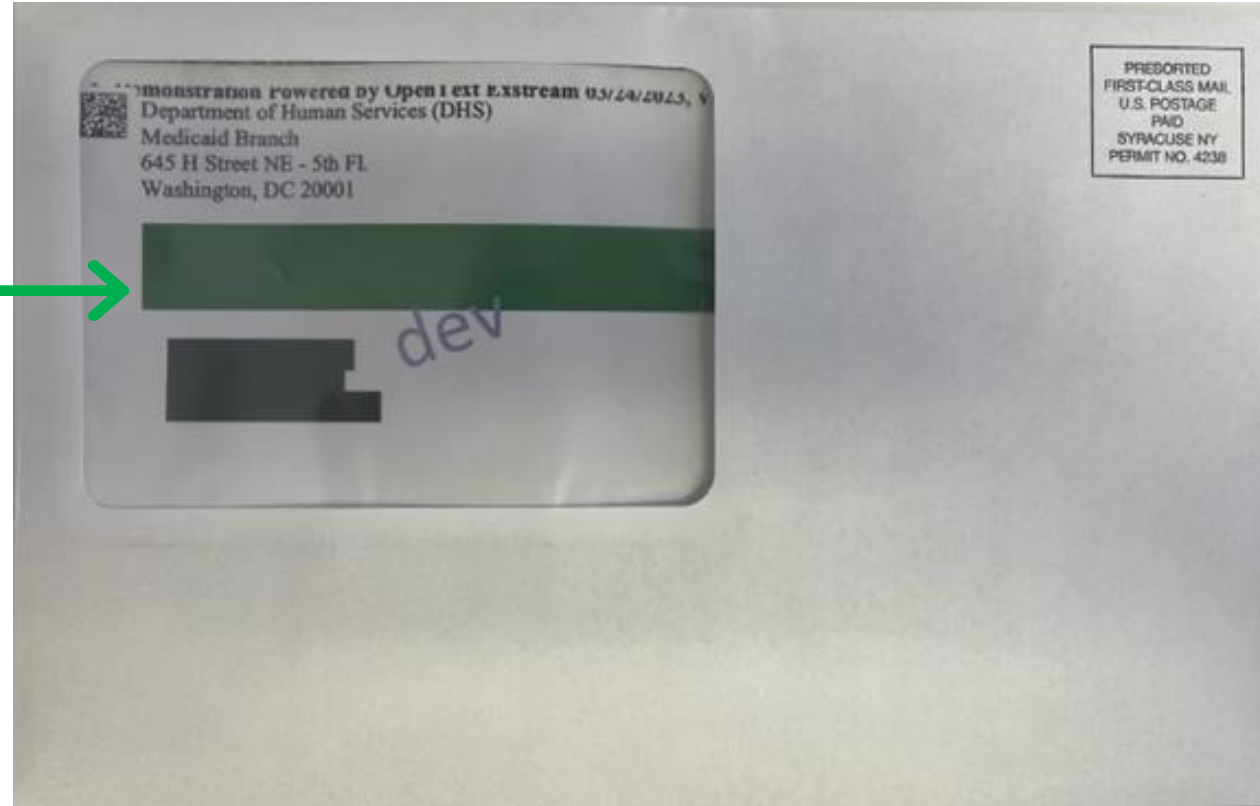
Website Text
We want you to keep your health coverage! To make sure that you don't miss any important information, please be sure that DHC has your current address, phone number, and email address so that DHC knows where



Look Out For An Envelope that Looks Like This!



Look for the green line here







Look Out For These Renewal Documents in the Mail!



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



SAMPLE NOTICE: Non-MAGI Renewal Form

Renewal Form for Medical Assistance

It is time to renew your **Aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD)** medical assistance coverage. You must renew your medical assistance coverage at least once a year. You must complete and return this renewal form and copies of all required documents by **6/30/2023** to keep your medical assistance coverage. As you complete this form, please tell us any changes that have occurred.

If there is a change in your benefits, you will get

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SAMPLE NOTICE: Long Term Care Renewal Form

Notice Date: 04/01/2023 Account ID: 999999999

JOHN DOE
441 4TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Subject: Important Message About Determining Your Medical Assistance Coverage

Dear JOHN DOE:

It is time to renew your **long term care** medical assistance coverage. You must renew your medical assistance coverage at least once a year. You must complete and return the attached renewal form and copies of all required documents by **6/30/2023** to keep your long term care medical assistance coverage.

Please return this page in the enclosed envelope

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Medical Assistance Renewal Form D2

April 1, 2023

John Doe
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Integrated Case #: 99999

It is time to renew your health coverage. Please respond by **<Date Field>** to avoid gaps in your coverage.

You can renew your Health Coverage in any one of these

- **By mail:** Complete this form and mail it in the enclosed envelope to:
Attention:
Department of Human Services
Economic Security Administration
Outstation/Medicaid Renewal Unit



Communication on Medicaid Renewal– Outreach to Beneficiaries

- DHCF will send Renewal Packets to beneficiaries who cannot passively renew coverage.
- The District will text the cell numbers of beneficiaries to ask beneficiaries to update their address and/or complete their renewal packet.
- The District will conduct automated phone calls to ask beneficiaries to update their contact information and/or complete their renewal packet.
- The District will send emails to beneficiaries with the appropriate information to let them know about Medicaid Renewal and the need to update their address and renew their coverage.
- The District will send push notifications to beneficiaries who have downloaded the District Direct mobile app
- DHCF is training groups on how to update contact information and renew Medicaid



Communication on Medicaid Renewal–External Outreach




- The District wants to join meetings of key stakeholders to explain Medicaid Renewal
 - DHCF staff would attend meetings hosted by your stakeholder group -or that you know about –*send invites to us via email at Medicaid.renewal@dc.gov.*
- The District is providing ~monthly Stakeholder Trainings to guide stakeholders through the District Direct enrollment process, updating addresses, and renewing Medicaid –next is **an evening in late June**
- The District created a website with information on Medicaid Renewal and the End of the Public Health Emergency that hosts the FAQ, Intro Video, Unwinding Plan, Stakeholder Toolkit, meeting info, etc.
- The District is hosting regular Community Stakeholder meetings such as this every other week - continuing every-other-Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. -**next is on Wednesday, June 7th**
 - *Please email Medicaid.renewal@dc.gov to join the meetings and related mailing list if not on it already*
- The District has hired a contractor that is placing visual and audio Advertisements for Medicaid Renewal around the District =continuing throughout 2023.




Visual Advertisements – Don't Wait to Update!






Did you know all DC residents with Medicaid, Alliance, or the Immigrant Children's Program must start renewing their coverage again?




Don't miss out on important information. If you haven't already, take time today to update your address, phone number, and/or email address at districtdirect.dc.gov so that DHCF knows where to send your Medicaid renewal letter.



Then check your mail for info on how to renew. If you need help, please call us at **202-727-5355**.





Don't Wait to Update!



All DC residents with **Medicaid** must renew their coverage this year.

Update your contact info at districtdirect.dc.gov.





Medicaid Renewal: Next Steps



- Advertisements and outreach are ongoing. Look for our messaging on advertisements and fliers throughout the community.
- Automated Calls and Text started last week and conclude this week.
- DHCF will host ~monthly trainings on District Direct and how to complete Medicaid renewal form. The next monthly training will be in an evening in mid-to-late June.
- The next Community Meeting on Medicaid Renewal will be June 7, 2023 @ 2:30 PM and continue every 2 weeks.
- Please contact Medicaid.renewal@dc.gov for more information, initiate a meeting or training, or to get connected to the meetings and trainings.



Questions and Comments



Learn more about DC Medicaid Renewals:

<https://dhcf.dc.gov/medicaid-renewal>

Medicaid Renewal

Medicaid.Renewal@dc.gov



Appendix A



Many Types of Documents are Acceptable Verifications of Income

The following types of documents can be used to verify income:

1. Recent pay stubs (four weekly, two bi-weekly, or one monthly);
2. Completed employer verification form;
3. Statement showing retirement income, disability income, workers compensation income or pension statement;
4. Bank/Checking account statement;
5. Paper, electronic, or telephonic documentation;
6. A written statement which explains the discrepancy if other documentation is not available.



Appendix B: Acceptable Verifications (Residency)



The following types of documents can be used to verify residency:

- An active lease agreement, certified deed, or mortgage statement with a District and their name;
- Phone or Utility bill within the past 2 months;
- D.C. Voter Registration Card;
- Non-expired D.C. motor vehicle registration or D.C. DMV identification card;
- Cancelled check or receipt of mortgage or rental payments within the past 2 months;
- Utility bills and payment receipts with a D.C. address within the past 2 months;
- Non-expired automobile insurance statement with a D.C. residency address;
- D.C. One Card; or
- Completed and signed proof of D.C. Residency Form



Eligibility Categories are Based on Federal Poverty Limits



Parent Caretaker 2023 FPL

The District covers this population with household income up to 216% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)

Category	Parent/Caretaker/Relative
Threshold in FPL	216% + 5% disregard
1 person household, monthly	\$2,685
2 person household, monthly	\$3,632
3 person household, monthly	\$4,578
4 person household, monthly	\$5,525
5 person household, monthly	\$6,472
6 person household, monthly	\$7,418
7 person household, monthly	\$8,365
8 person household, monthly	\$9,311

Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Infants and Children 2023 FPL

The District covers this population with household income up to 319% and 216% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)

Category	Children (0-18), 319%	Children (19-20), 216%
Threshold in FPL	319% + 5% disregard*	216% + 5% disregard*
1 person household, monthly	\$3,937	\$2,685
2 person household, monthly	\$5,324	\$3,632
3 person household, monthly	\$6,712	\$4,578
4 person household, monthly	\$8,100	\$5,525
5 person household, monthly	\$9,488	\$6,472
6 person household, monthly	\$10,876	\$7,418
7 person household, monthly	\$12,263	\$8,365
8 person household, monthly	\$13,651	\$9,311

Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Eligibility Categories are Based on Federal Poverty Limits



Pregnant 2023 FPL	
<i>The District covers this population with household income up to 319% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)</i>	
Category	Pregnant Individual
Threshold in FPL	319% + 5% disregard
2 person household, monthly	\$5,324
3 person household, monthly	\$6,712
4 person household, monthly	\$8,100
5 person household, monthly	\$9,488
6 person household, monthly	\$10,876
7 person household, monthly	\$12,263
8 person household, monthly	\$13,651
Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	

Adults without Dependent Children (Childless Adults) 2023 FPL	
<i>The District covers this population with household income up to 210% of the FPL (with an additional 5% disregard)</i>	
Category	Adults Without Dependent Children
Threshold in FPL	210% + 5% disregard*
1 person household, monthly	\$2,612
2 person household, monthly	\$3,533
3 person household, monthly	\$4,454
4 person household, monthly	\$5,375
5 person household, monthly	\$6,296
6 person household, monthly	\$7,217
7 person household, monthly	\$8,138
8 person household, monthly	\$9,059
Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	



Eligibility Category QMB-Federal Poverty Limits



QMB 2023 FPL		
<i>The District covers this population with household income up to 300% of the FPL (with an additional \$20 for QMB Plus)</i>		
Category	QMB	QMB Plus
Threshold in FPL	300% + \$20	100% + \$20
1 person household, monthly	\$3,665	\$1,235
2 person household, monthly	\$4,950	\$1,663
3 person household, monthly	\$6,235	\$2,092
4 person household, monthly	\$7,520	\$2,520
5 person household, monthly	\$8,805	\$2,948
6 person household, monthly	\$10,090	\$3,377
7 person household, monthly	\$11,375	\$3,805
8 person household, monthly	\$12,660	\$4,233
Figures compiled using 2023 FPL numbers distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (+5% income disregard)		



Appendix C: Key Tips to Connect District Direct Accounts to Beneficiaries



- Some individuals recertifying will need to connect their account to their established case profile in District Direct.
 - Note:** This is a result of the District switching from the legacy eligibility processing system (ACEDS) during the PHE
- Primary Applicants can connect their account using their Social Security Number, Medicaid ID Number, or Person Reference Number
- A SSN is **NOT** needed to connect a newly created District Direct account to a primary applicant's case profile
 - Note:** Primary applicants in a household can use their Personal Reference Number instead of an SSN
- Please note that the name used to connect must match what is currently in the system. Names listed on notices reflect what is in the system. For example, if the name in the system is John Doe-Smith, that must be used to connect -instead of John Doe.



FY24 Budget Update



budget.dc.gov

FY 2024 BUDGET OVERVIEW

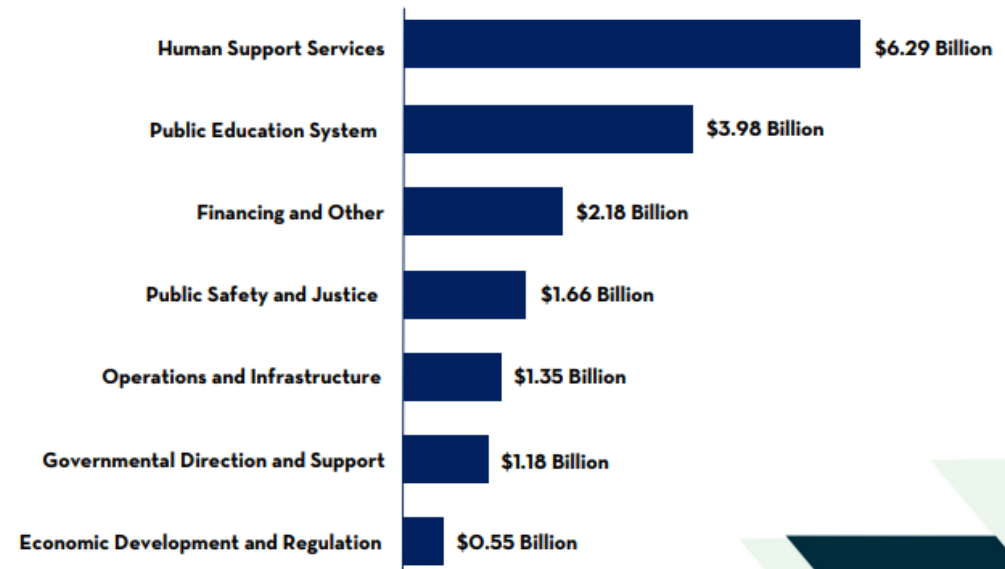
OPERATING BUDGET

- **\$19.7B** gross funds budget
- **\$10.6B** Local Funds budget
- Local Fund resources decrease by **\$110M** or 1% compared to the FY 2023 Approved Budget

MOST SIGNIFICANT INCREASED INVESTMENT

Collective Bargaining Agreements, Retirement Accounts, Schools, Medicaid, Fixed Costs and Facilities Maintenance plus Debt Service to support planned capital investments

FY 2024 OPERATING BUDGET



EDUCATION

What are we doing now?

- **\$2B** in funding from the Uniform Per Student Funding Formula (UPSFF) towards public and public charter schools
- **\$18M** to support schools in weathering the effects of the pandemic through the Mayor's Recovery Fund
- **\$14M** for preventative maintenance of schools' heating and cooling systems

What new investments are we making in FY 2024?

- **\$145M** to support a 5.05% increase to the foundation of the UPSFF
- **\$20M** to continue supporting schools feeling the effects of the pandemic through the Mayor's Recovery Fund
- **\$116M** to support raising the wages of teachers in both public and public charter schools
- **\$5M** to begin planning and implementing "My Afterschool DC," an online central hub for parents to access afterschool opportunities for their children within the District
- **\$1.6M** to begin planning and implementing a Teacher Apprenticeship Program to train future teachers in the District
- **\$6.8M** in the Special Education Enhancement Fund to fund dedicated childcare slots for infants and toddlers with disabilities and out-of-school time slots for children with disabilities and a referral system
- Raising the **eligibility for the childcare subsidy** from 250% of the federal poverty line to 300% of the federal poverty line

FY24 Budget Proposal – Early Learning Programs

- **Child Care Subsidy**
 - Reduces funding by \$4 million.
 - Mayor Bowser’s April 28, 2023, Errata letter asked Council to make a technical correction to restore this funding.
 - Reduces transfer from Department of Human Services (DHS) for child care subsidy by \$9 million.
 - FY23 supplemental budget would cut \$1 million in local funding.
- **Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund**
 - Reduces Fund by \$4 million.
- Maintains current funding levels for many early learning programs.



**Early Childhood Educator
Pay Equity Fund**

FY23 Updates and Reminders

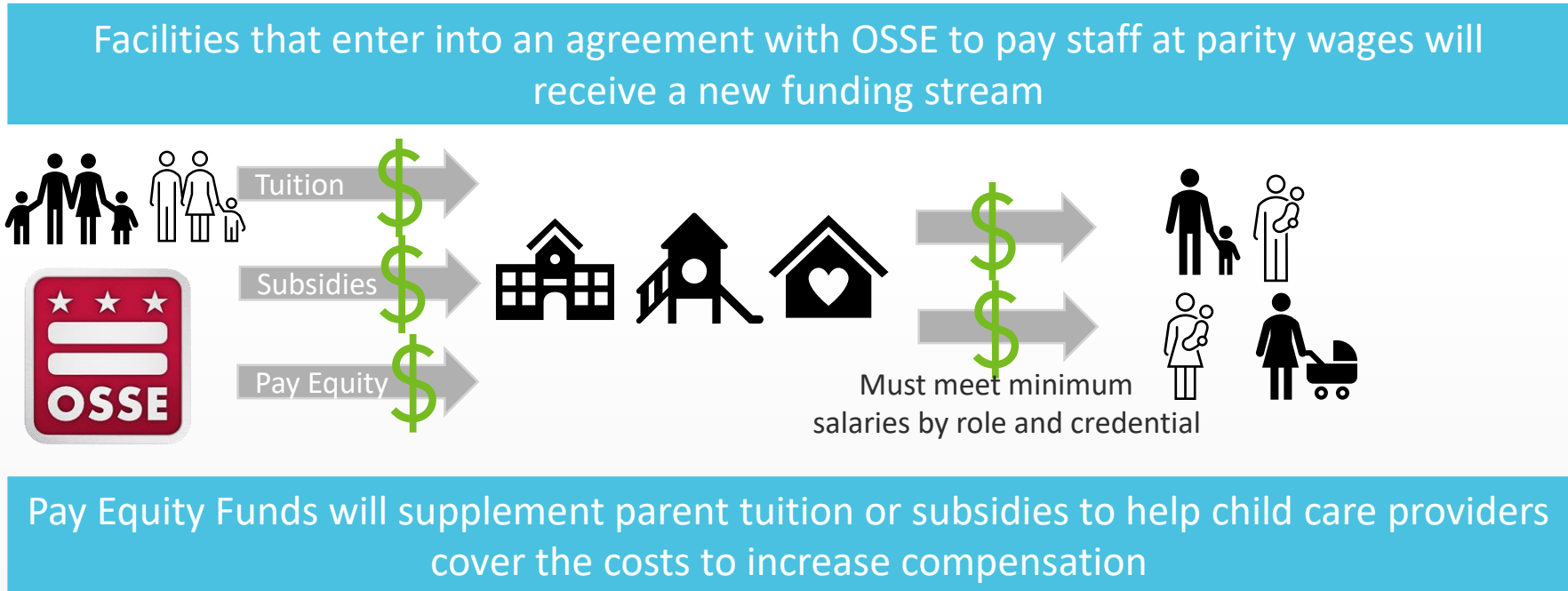
Eligibility Cut-off Dates and Application Deadlines for Quarterly Supplemental Payments			
Quarterly Payment	Distributed Month	Must have a start date on or before	Application Deadline
Quarterly Payment 1	December 2022	Nov. 1, 2022	Nov. 15, 2022
Quarterly Payment 2	March 2023	Feb. 1, 2023	Feb. 15, 2023
Quarterly Payment 3	June 2023	May 1, 2023	May 15, 2023
Quarterly Payment 4	September 2023	Aug. 1, 2023	Aug. 15, 2023

For more information on the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund, please visit osse.dc.gov/ecepayequity.



How will the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund work in FY24?

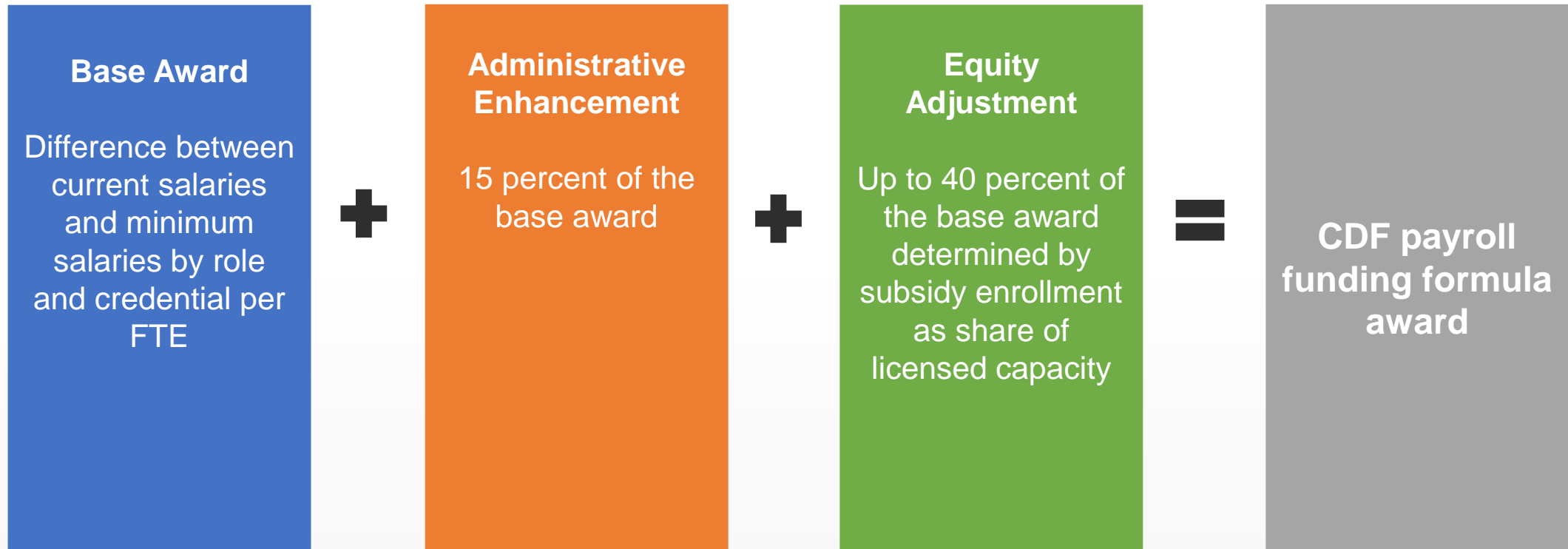
Starting in FY24 (October 2023), OSSE will shift to distributing funds to child development facilities.



Minimum Salaries for Child Development Facilities Receiving CDF Payroll Funding Formula Awards

Role	Credentials	Minimum Salaries for FY24
Assistant Teacher or Associate Home Caregiver	Less than a Child Development Associate (CDA)	\$43,865
	CDA	\$51,006
	Associate's degree or higher	\$54,262
Lead Teacher, Home Caregiver or Expanded Home Caregiver	CDA	\$54,262
	Associate's degree	\$63,838
	Bachelor's degree or higher	\$75,103

Child Development Facility (CDF) Payroll Funding Formula





Urban Institute



What Were Parents' Experiences Searching for and Using Child Care In the Wake of the Pandemic?

Briefing to the District of Columbia State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council



Acknowledgements

- The DC Child Care Policy Research Partnership is fully funded with grants from the US Department of Health and Human Services
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- Partnership between the Urban Institute and OSSE's Division of Early Learning

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Access to a Supply of Quality Care in the District of Columbia

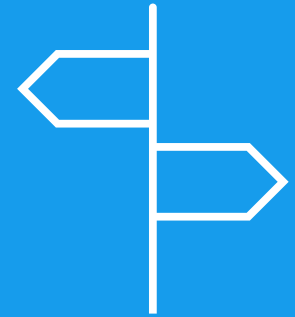
2022 Parent Study



- ❖ What are parents' experiences looking for child care?
- ❖ What sources of information do they use?
- ❖ How long does it take to find care?



- ❖ What factors are most important to parents as they look for and select a provider?
- ❖ How do parents rate their providers' quality?



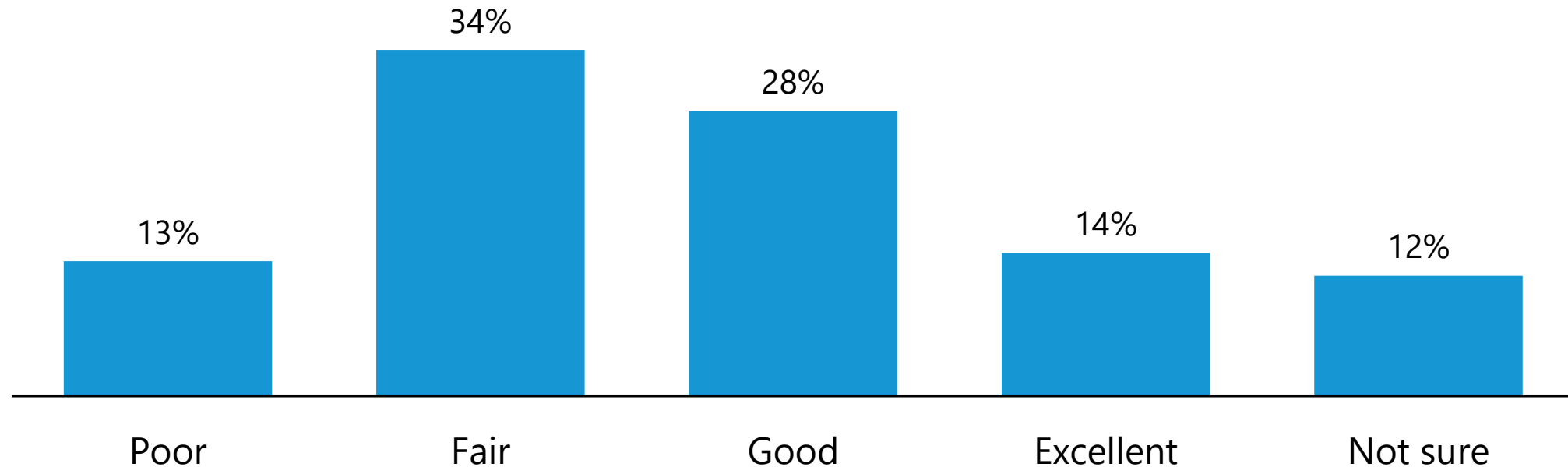
- ❖ What are parents' perceptions of local care supply?
- ❖ Do parents feel they have good care choices?

Parent Study Methods

- 30-minute telephone interviews with 137 parents and guardians using licensed DC child care in April-June 2022
 - All 8 Wards represented
 - Similar to DC adult population in race, ethnicity, and educational attainment
 - 40% of survey participants received a subsidy voucher
- Virtual focus groups with a subset of 39 parents in fall 2022

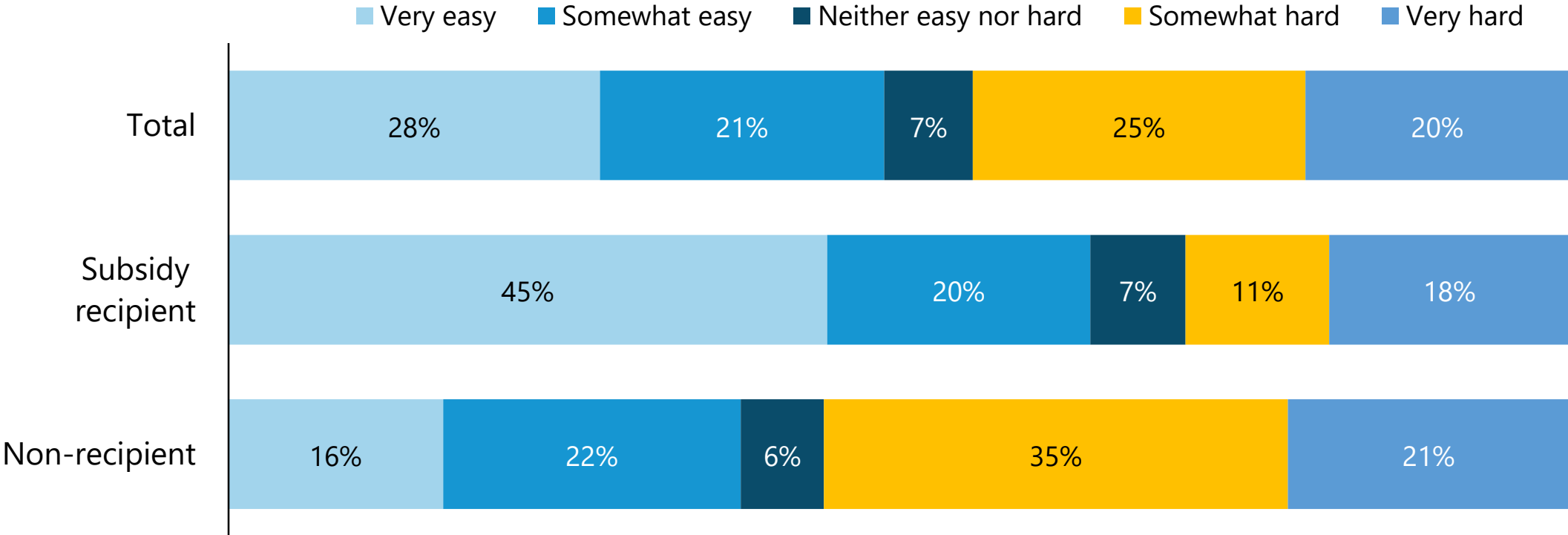
Key Survey Findings

Most parents rated the overall supply of DC child care as fair or good.



❖ Also, 64% said “yes,” they feel they have “**good choices**” for child care near their home. 22% said “no” and 14% said “I don’t know.”

Parents were almost evenly split on their rating of difficulty in finding child care.

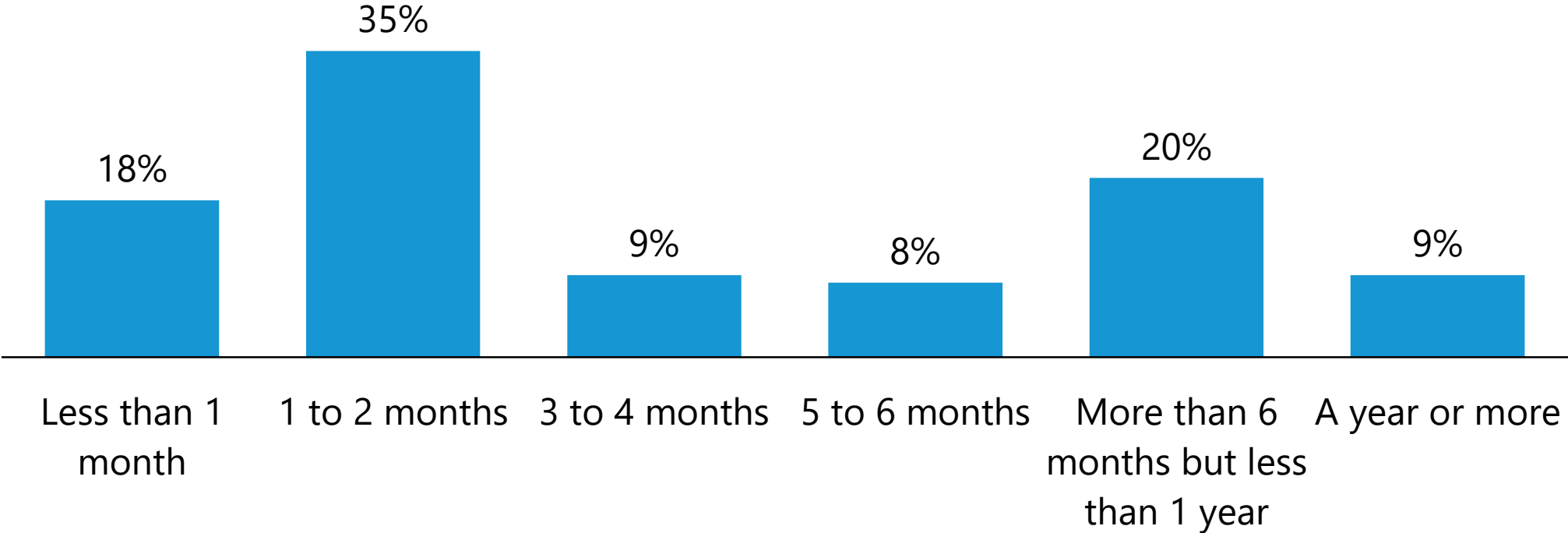


❖ *How easy or hard was the process of finding child care?*

Parents indicated they had difficulty finding a provider who...

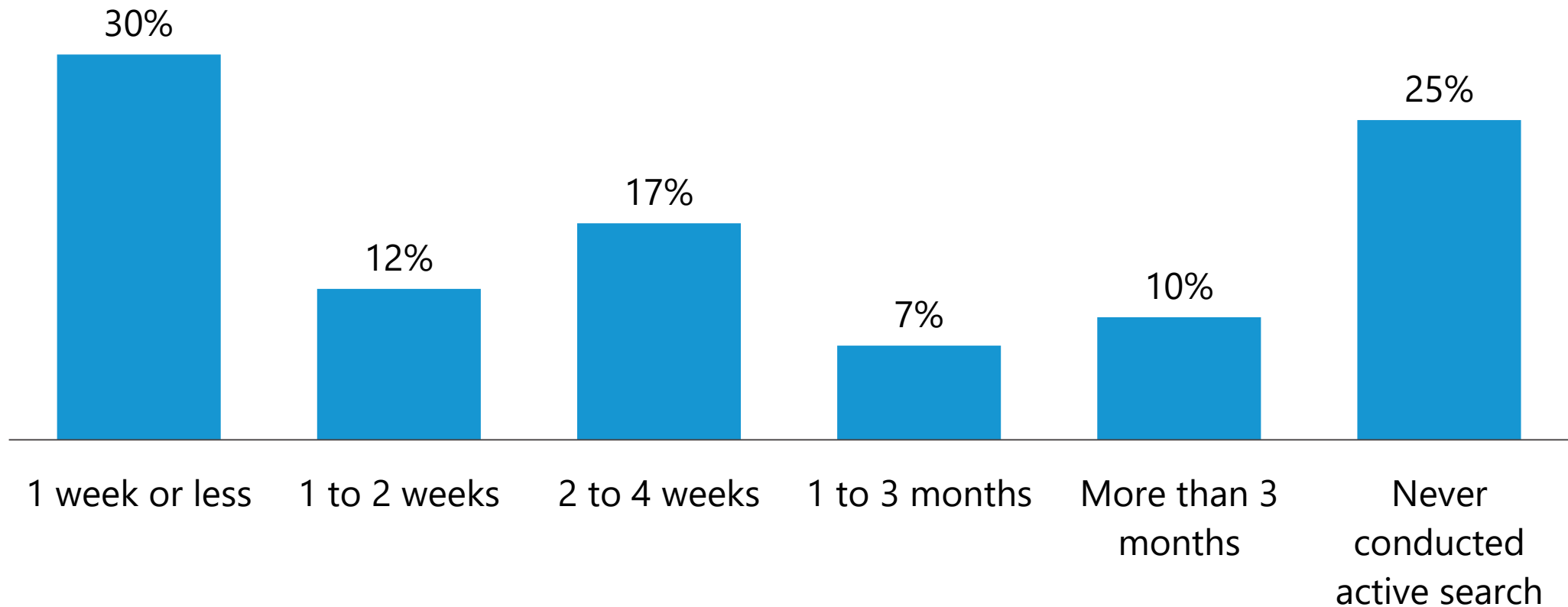
	<i>N</i>	%
Had open slots for new children	66	48.2%
Was affordable	61	44.5%
Was available during the hours needed	48	35.0%
Was in a convenient location	47	34.3%
Was responsive when reached out to	47	34.3%
Had the quality of care desired	40	29.2%
Had the desired level of diversity in the children or staff	31	22.6%
They believed would be a safe place	29	21.2%
Was in the type of care setting they wanted	25	18.2%
Spoke their preferred language	17	12.4%
Could meet their child's individual needs	17	12.4%

Most parents reported beginning to look for care about 1-2 months in advance, while others began looking much earlier.



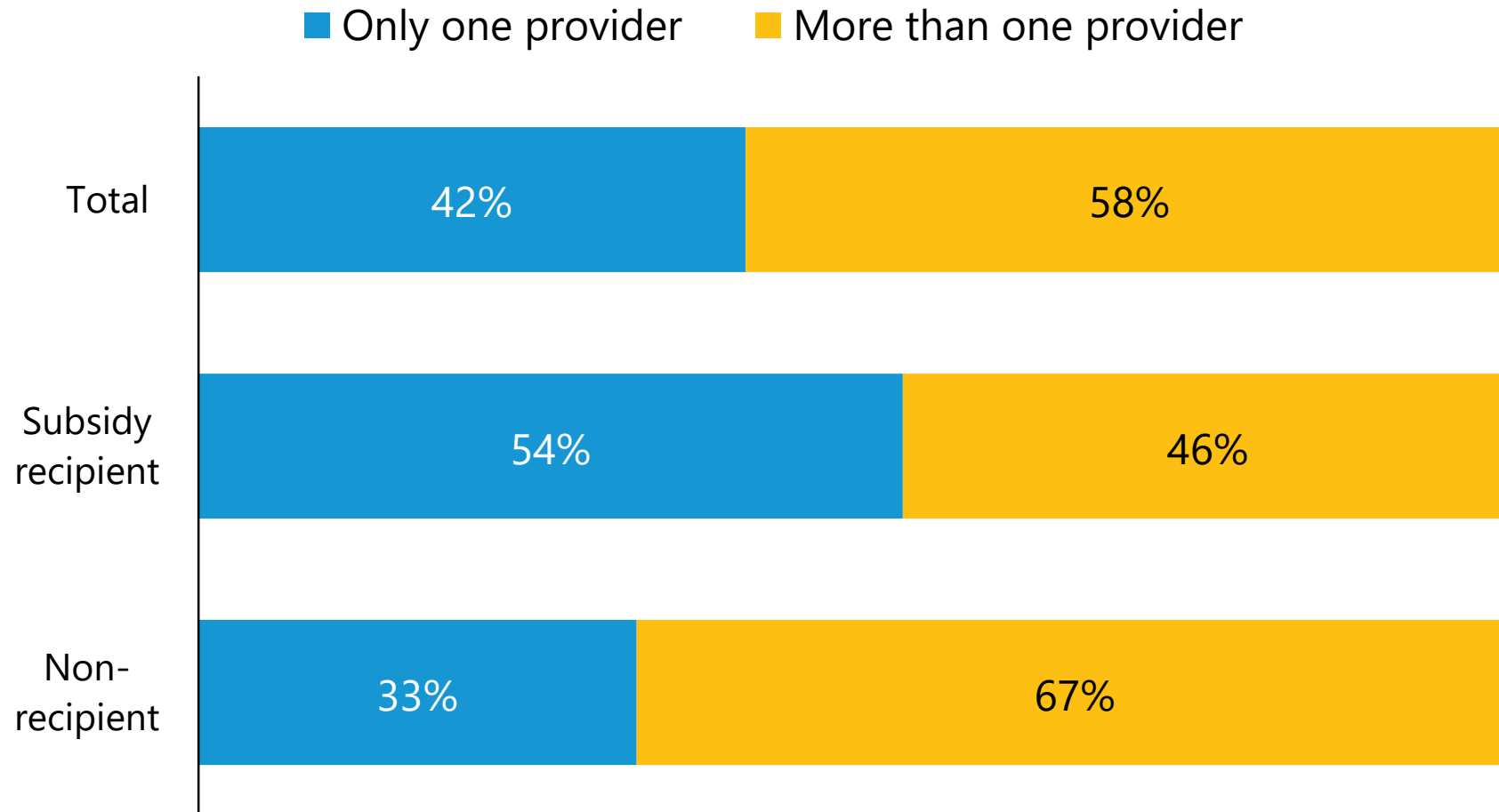
❖ *About how far in advance before you started care at this provider did you begin looking for care?*

About 25% of parents said they did not have an “active search.” Many others found their provider within one week.



❖ *Once you started looking, how long did it take you to find [provider name]?*

Parents were more likely to consider only one provider **if they received a subsidy.**



❖ *Did you consider more than one provider as part of your search for child care or did you consider only one provider?*

Top resources parents used while searching for care

	N	%
Used Google or any other search engine	101	73.7%
Asked friends or neighbors with children	95	69.3%
Walked or drove around my neighborhood	73	53.3%
Asked family members	52	38.0%
Searched the <i>My Child Care DC</i> website	52	38.0%
Asked providers I already knew	51	37.2%
Used social media	42	30.7%
Searched the Care.com website	24	17.5%
Got help from a child care subsidy or social services caseworker	23	16.8%
Posted or responded to an ad	17	12.4%
Asked a healthcare provider for information	16	11.7%
Called DC Child Care Connections (CCR&R)	14	10.2%

Focus Group Findings

Focus group themes related to child care search

Key priorities:

- Location (typically wanted care near home)
- Cost and/or acceptance of subsidy vouchers
- Comfort with the program setting (environment and staff)

Factors that made it difficult:

- High cost
- Lack of open slots in desired programs
- Administrative burden of the subsidy voucher
- Difficulty finding information
- Restricted program hours (closing early)
- Concerns about health and safety precautions that met children's needs
- Concerns about care quality

Recommendation to friend looking for child care in DC (subsidy recipient)

“The first thing, if they’re using a voucher, they have to find a place that takes the vouchers and figure out how much on top of that you have to pay in a day. Some places they have you paying different amounts based on their income.

Go into the center to make sure that’s the type of environment you want your child to be in. See how nice the teacher is. As mothers, we want to make sure our babies are okay in school while we are working. We want them to be loved even when we are not there. Meet the teachers and study them for their body language and stuff like that to see if the child will be safe.

Look on Google and look at the reviews.”

Recommendation to friend looking for child care in DC (Non-subsidy recipient)

"Start early. Some of those waitlists we were on—it's unfortunate because you can have a challenging pregnancy, but if you don't start when your baby is still in the womb, you're out of luck. You may have to start earlier than you think you should to find a slot."

Child care experiences in wake of the pandemic

- Heightened concerns about child health and safety
- Inconsistent communication from program staff
- Staff shortages and turnover
- Reduced care hours

“I’ve heard from some teachers that if their [own children’s] day care is closed, they can’t work. If their kid is sick or has COVID, then they can’t work. It’s a pattern of their schedules, and they can’t keep up.”

Some key takeaways

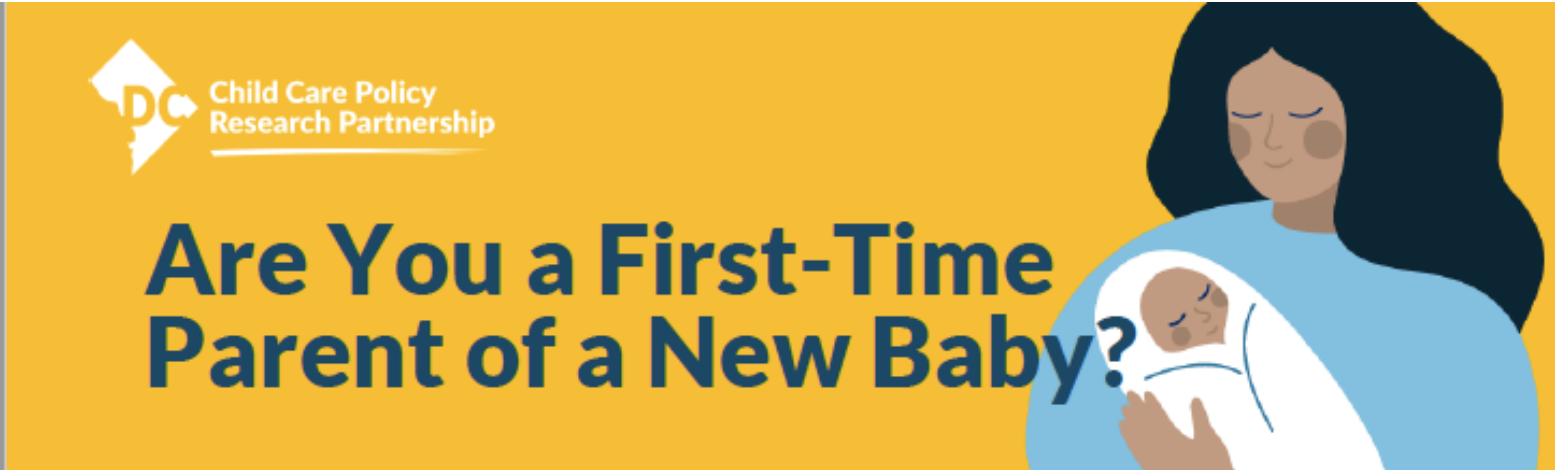
- Parents use a mix of resources to find care, many involving searching websites and social media and asking people they know
- Some surveyed parents reported challenges finding open slots and affordable care
- Families who received a subsidy generally reported easier search and greater affordability than families without a voucher
- Focus groups suggest it's not exactly a supply issue, it's a quality and cost issue
 - Some parents continue to have a hard time finding *quality* care they can afford that meets all their needs
 - Subsidy recipients having a hard time finding a High-Quality program that accepts subsidies
- Many parents don't know about My Child Care DC website; hard to navigate

New Parent Study

Overview of Phase 2 New Parent Study

- Examine the changing nature of parental demand for infant care
- Given their experiences during the pandemic:
 - *What kind of child care do new, first-time parents want?*
 - *What are their priorities, preferences, and needs?*
 - *Do they know about DC Child Care Connections and MyChildCareDC?*
 - *How do they prefer to receive information about child care and early education?*

New Parent Study Survey



We want to hear from you!

The Urban Institute, a nonprofit research organization in Washington, DC, is partnering with DC’s Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) to conduct a voluntary research study about the child care needs and preferences of first-time parents of infants.

To be eligible, you must:

- ✓ Live in the District of Columbia
- ✓ Be the parent or legal guardian of an infant under 12 months
- ✓ Be a first-time parent (birth or adoptive)
- ✓ Be 18 years old or an emancipated minor

ABOUT THE STUDY:

What is involved?	Participation involves a 10-minute online survey . The survey asks first-time parents of infants to describe their ideal child care arrangement and what it’s like to look for child care in DC. The first 500 survey respondents will receive a \$10 gift card .
When?	You can take the survey any time before June 30, 2023 .

In May 2023, launched New Parent Survey

Currently recruiting through June 30!

\$10 Amazon gift card

Contact survey team at DCparent@urban.org to get the flyer

Publications found on project web site

<https://www.urban.org/projects/dc-child-care-policy-research-partnership>

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TOPICS STORIES, DATA TOOLS, BLOGS EVENTS

PROJECT

DC Child Care Policy Research Partnership



Project Home
An Implementation Study of Capital Quality, the District's Enhanced Quality Rating and Improvement System

The District of Columbia Child Care Policy Research Partnership is an active collaboration between the Urban Institute and the District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), DC's Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Lead Agency. Ongoing since 2019, the Partnership brings new data and evidence to questions about access to a supply of quality child care for District



Announcements and Public Comment



Wrap Up and Next Steps