



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Guidance Related to COVID-19: Subsidized Child Care Eligibility and Recertification

(Updated Sept. 7, 2021)

Background

As part of the District of Columbia Government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), and the end of the public health emergency on July 24, 2021, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) is sharing updated guidance regarding the attendance policy, payment processes, and eligible families' recertification processes for subsidized child care providers.

Scope

As of Oct. 1, 2021, the District will begin to process child care subsidy redeterminations for families and children enrolled in the program. Please see below for more details regarding this change.

Date Issued

This guidance was originally issued on Sept. 7, 2021, and will take effect Oct. 1, 2021. It will remain in effect until further notice.

Guidance

I. Families Who Require Recertification of Eligibility

During the public health emergency, families with children under age 13 and who had their 12-month eligibility expire during the emergency remained eligible for subsidized child care throughout the public health emergency. Per [Mayor's order 2021-096](#), the District is no longer operating under a public health emergency; families receiving subsidized child care will need to recertify their eligibility. Families will receive a notice in the mail with a request to come in and recertify from either the Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Care Subsidy Division (CCDS) or their current Level II child care provider. The notice will provide information on scheduling an appointment and the documents required for recertification.

Recertification of child care subsidy services will occur on a one- or two-year delay, based on the family's most recent recertification schedule. The table below provides the details of which month a family will be expected to recertify:

Original Recertification Month	New Recertification Month
October 2020 or October 2021	October 2022
November 2020	November 2021
December 2020	December 2021
January 2021	January 2022
February 2021	February 2022
March 2020 or 2021	March 2022
April 2020 or 2021	April 2022
May 2020 or 2021	May 2022
June 2020 or 2021	June 2022
July 2020 or 2021	July 2022
August 2020 or 2021	August 2022
September 2020 or 2021	September 2022

Families who have entered the child care subsidy program during the public health emergency and are still within their initial 12-month eligibility will recertify when the initial 12-month eligibility period ends. These families will not receive a recertification notice because they are still within their recertification period.

Questions?

If you have questions relating to this guidance, please contact Sara Mead, assistant superintendent of early learning, OSSE, at Sara.Mead@dc.gov.

For resources and information on the District of Columbia Government’s COVID-19 response and recovery, please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.

Related Laws and Policy

- Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act and its implementing regulations, 45 C.F.R. Parts 98 and 99, as administered by the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- District of Columbia’s Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan, current version;
- Child Development Facilities Regulation Act of 1998, effective April 13, 1999 (D.C. Law 12-215; D.C. Official Code §§ 7-2031 *et seq.* (2012 Repl. & 2017 Supp.)) (“Facilities Act”);
- Day Care Policy Act of 1979, effective Sept. 19, 1979 (D.C. Law 3-16; D.C. Official Code §§ 4-401 *et seq.* (2012 Repl. & 2017 Supp.)) (“Day Care Act”).