

HELP DELAWARE FAMILIES ACCESS CHILD CARE!

Significant Need for Additional State Investments

Delaware has made progress, including: doubling the number of children served in high quality pre-K and making 3,000 more children eligible for Purchase of Care (POC). **And there are still significant needs today in Delaware:**

- **Too few families are served in public programs:** Only 19% of children under age 5 are served in publicly funded early care and education
- **Families cannot access state assistance:** Delaware families must earn below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (below \$60,000 yearly for a family of 4) to be eligible for public programming. Most states serve families up to 250% of FPL and beyond
- **Lack of child care is holding back our economy:** Parents are leaving the workforce and employers are facing staffing shortages
- **Child care providers continue to operate with limited openings** due to low reimbursement rates and staffing shortages

Policymakers: Invest Today

Department of Education: Increase access to state-funded pre-K (ECAP)

1. Expand access for 500 more children
2. Increase eligibility to serve families up to at least 300% of the Federal Poverty Level
3. Provide infrastructure funds to expand early care and education capacity through grants and by allowing public school capital funding to cover pre-K

Department of Health and Social Services: Increase access to child care (POC) for more families

1. Increase per-child Purchase of Care rates to at least the federal benchmark of the 75th percentile so programs can open more classrooms and increase staff pay and benefits
2. Expand eligibility to serve families up to at least 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (making about 5,000 more families eligible)
3. Increase special education rates to cover costs of supporting children's needs

Tell lawmakers today: bit.ly/ECEFY26ASK

Contact your legislator: legis.delaware.gov/FindMyLegislator

Delaware's Child Care Progress: bit.ly/DeICECEProgress

