

Who can get child care payment assistance?



Know the Facts

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services offers financial assistance to eligible parents and guardians to help them with child care costs while they engage in work, education, or job training. Families can be eligible to have all or part of their monthly child care expenses paid on their behalf.

Are you a parent or guardian who is:

- Employed
- In school
- In job training
- Receiving Ohio Works First cash assistance
- Homeless
- Required by a children's services case plan to have protective child care for children living in the home

AND

- Your income is at or below 145% of the federal poverty level

OR

- Your family needs care for a child with a county-agency-verified special need, and your income is at or below 150% of the federal poverty level

You may qualify for child care payment assistance. Applying is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

To Apply:

1 Find a Provider

Search and find a licensed provider at childcaresearch.ohio.gov.

2 Have Your Verifications Ready

- Household information
- Income (pay stub) information
- Employer/school information
- Child care provider name and address
- Birth verification(s) for child(ren) needing care

3 Apply

- Online at ssp.benefits.ohio.gov
- In person at **your local county JFS office**
- Complete an **electronic form** and submit it to your county **JFS office**

Questions & Answers

What is the Ohio Benefits Self-Service Portal (OBSSP)?

It is an online site you may use to apply for public benefit assistance, get information about your existing benefits, manage your benefits, and renew your benefits.

Can I submit my needed verifications through the OBSSP once my application is submitted?

Yes, you can upload and update your case information using your OBSSP account.

Can I report provider changes through the OBSSP?

Yes, you may report provider changes by using the “report a change to my case” tab in your OBSSP account.

What is an authorized representative?

An adult other than yourself, who has your permission to submit case information on your behalf. You must submit a written statement to the county department of job and family services (CDJFS) agency informing them of your authorized representative.

Who can be my authorized representative?

You may choose an adult, at least 18 years of age. This individual will have access to your information and the ability to report changes to your case which may affect other benefits you may be receiving such as Cash, SNAP (food), and Medical eligibility. It is not recommended to name your child care provider as your authorized representative.

How long will it take to process my application?

Your local county agency has up to 30 days from receipt of a valid application to determine eligibility.

What is the difference between a valid and a complete application?

Valid Application	Complete Application
<p>Must have the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name Address, and Applicant’s Signature <p>A valid application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows up to 30 days for all verifications needed (see complete application) Eligibility will go back to the valid application date if you are found eligible 	<p>Is a valid application with the following submitted to the CDJFS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verification of citizenship for children needing care Verification of income for all household members Verification of qualifying activity for all caretakers Name and address of eligible provider <p>A complete application allows the CDJFS to determine your eligibility for Publicly Funded Child Care</p>

Important: You are responsible for your benefits, including reporting all changes to your local CDJFS. Changes must be reported within 10 days, changes to your child care provider must be reported prior to starting or within the same week.