

Child Care Assistance Program Updates- October 2019

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps families pay for child care so that parents can work or go to school. It also helps ensure children are well cared for and prepared to enter school ready to learn. CCAP serves approximately 15,000 families and 30,000 children each month. About 3,300 providers are paid each month by CCAP.

Ideas for future legislation

The following ideas are under consideration by the department for future legislation.

- **Update CCAP maximum rates**
 - Update CCAP maximum reimbursement rates to at least the 25th percentile of the 2018 market rate survey, as required by federal law.
 - Update CCAP maximum rates following each market rate survey to achieve continued compliance with federal law. The next survey is 2021.

- **Unlicensed provider requirements for CCAP**
 - Amend definition of “provider” to ensure that child care programs operated by the military can be paid for serving children receiving CCAP.
 - Require background studies for legal nonlicensed providers every five years, rather than every two years. CCAP language does not align with other providers reimbursed by CCAP.
 - Eliminate provisional payment as an option (not currently used).

- **Simplify CCAP disaster response procedure**
 - Require that DHS notify the legislature within 5 business days after granting the waiver, rather than prior to granting the waiver.
 - This change would allow CCAP requirements to be waived beginning on the date of the disaster, and allow a waiver to be approved retroactive to the date of the disaster.
 - In practice, current policy allows assistance to continue even when activities change, but this improves the disaster response process.