



Child Care Facts:

- **Families need child care** so they can go to work, and children need high-quality child care, including before and after school and summer programs, so they can learn and develop to their full potential.
- Science tells us that the **early years are a critical time** for brain development, laying the foundation for a child's future success in school and life.
- 72% of children under age 6 and 76% of children ages 6 to 17 in Rhode Island **have all parents in the workforce** and need child care so they can work.
- In 2017, the median wage for a child care teacher in Rhode Island was \$11.82/hour, just above the state minimum wage. Child care is the lowest paid teaching job in Rhode Island and **one of the lowest paid professions in the state.**

Rhode Island's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps low- and modest-income working families pay for child care. **In 2018, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed legislation increasing and establishing tiered quality rates** for the Child Care Assistance Program for children under age 6 in child care centers, raising rates for infants and toddlers in child care centers by up to 31% and for preschoolers by up to 21%. Federal funding was used to support these rate increases. Infant and toddler rates in 5-star centers now meet the federal benchmark for equal access to quality. But the **rates for preschoolers and school-age children in centers and for all children in family child care are still too low to support access to high-quality child care.**

What happens when rates are not adequate?

- **Quality suffers** - programs struggle to cover expenses, retain qualified teachers, and provide enriching learning opportunities for children.
- **Families have fewer choices** – some high-quality programs cannot afford to accept children who are using the CCAP program.
- **Middle income families shoulder the burden** -- some programs need to charge private pay families a higher rate to make up for the inadequate state rate.

In 2019, the RI Campaign for Quality Child Care and Pre-K is working to increase CCAP rates to meet the federal benchmark and expand the tiered quality rates structure for all children and all settings.

JOIN US: E-mail Katy Chu at kchu@rikidscount.org to get involved in the Campaign.





H-5106 (Diaz) and S-282 (Crowley) would **expand the tiered child care rate structure to include school-age children in centers and increase rates for preschoolers (ages 3 to 5) and school-age children (ages 6 to 12)**. The legislation ensures providers meeting 5-star high-quality standards are paid at or above the federally recommended benchmark (75th percentile of the most recent market rate survey). It also removes a requirement that state payment rates be no higher than the lowest rate child care providers charge private customers.

Article 10 of the Governor’s proposed FY20 budget would **increase the existing tiered child care rate structure for preschoolers** (children ages 3 to 5) but would still not meet the federally recommended benchmark to ensure equal access to high-quality care (75th percentile of the most recent market rate survey). It also removes a requirement that state payment rates be no higher than the lowest rate child care providers charge private customers.

Article 15 of the Governor’s proposed FY20 budget would **increase and establish tiered quality rates for children under age 6 in family child care**. It also removes a requirement that state payment rates be no higher than the lowest rate child care provider charge private customers.

CCAP Tiered Quality Rates for Child Care Centers (increase over FY18 rate)

Child Age	1 star	2 stars	3 stars	4 stars	5 stars	Benchmark 75 th Percentile
Infant/Toddler						
Current Rates FY19	\$198.48 (+2.5%)	\$203.32 (+5%)	\$218.81 (+13%)	\$232.37 (+20%)	\$257.54 (+33%)	\$256.75
Preschooler						
Current Rates FY19	\$165.75 (+2.5%)	\$169.80 (+5%)	\$177.88 (+10%)	\$182.73 (+13%)	\$195.67 (+21%)	\$230.00
Diaz/Crowley FY20			\$182.73 (+13%)	\$194.05 (+20%)	\$231.25 (+43%)	
Gov Budget FY20	\$166.88 (+3.2%)	\$171.09 (+5.8%)	\$182.73 (+13%)	\$185.97 (+15%)	\$215.07 (+33%)	
School-Age						
Current Rates FY19	\$146.26	\$146.26	\$146.26	\$146.26	\$146.26	\$198.75
Diaz/Crowley FY20	\$149.84 (+2.5%)	\$153.57 (+5%)	\$165.27 (+13%)	\$175.51 (+20%)	\$198.91 (+36%)	

Note: Both the Diaz/Crowley bill and the Governor’s budget proposal build on the tiered increases enacted for FY19. The Diaz/Crowley bill would add an additional 3% increase for 3-star programs, a 7% increase for 4-star centers, and a 22% increase for 5-star programs serving preschoolers (meeting the federal benchmark). The bill would also establish tiered rates for school-age children in centers, with increases ranging from 2.5% to 36%. The Governor’s budget proposal would add an additional 0.7% increase for 1-star centers, a 0.8% increase for 2-star centers, a 3% increase for 3-star centers, a 2% increase for 4-star centers and a 12% increase for 5-star centers serving preschoolers – but would still not meet the federal benchmark for equal access even for 5-star programs. The Governor’s budget proposal does not adjust any rates for programs serving school-age children.

CCAP Rates for Family Child Care Are Not Tiered and Do Not Meet the Federal Benchmark

Child Age	1 star	2 stars	3 stars	4 stars	5 stars	Benchmark 75 th Percentile
Infant/Toddler						
Current Rates FY19	\$175.94	\$175.94	\$175.94	\$175.94	\$175.94	\$200.00
Preschooler						
Current Rates FY19	\$159.95	\$159.95	\$159.95	\$159.95	\$159.95	\$191.50
School-Age						
Current Rates FY19	\$151.41	\$151.41	\$151.41	\$151.41	\$151.41	\$180.00

Note: The Governor’s budget proposal establishes tiered quality rates for family child care providers with increases ranging from 2% to 23% above FY18 rates.