

DTA Child Care Fact Sheet

The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) works with the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCRRs) to help eligible families find, enroll in, and pay for child care.

Who is Eligible?

- A DTA client receiving TAFDC who is seeking work, working or in an approved employment-related activity;
- A relative caregiver receiving TAFDC for a child(ren) and is working;
- A former TAFDC client, whose case closed within the past 12 months and is now employed or participating in education or training.

Getting a Child Care Voucher

1) Your TAFDC Case Manager will provide a child care referral:

- If you are *Work Program Required* and **looking for** an approved Employment Services Program (ESP) activity or employment, you can get child care for 3 months.
- If you are **participating in** an approved ESP activity (including work), you can get child care for at least 12 months.

This referral will tell the Child Care Resource and Referral Agency (CCRR) that you are eligible for a child care voucher and will NOT have to pay a parent fee.

2) The CCRR will issue your voucher:

- Once you have the referral from DTA, contact the CCRR to set up an appointment (see other side to find the CCRR near you).
 - Bring your DTA referral and a valid photo ID to the appointment.
 - The CCRR will help you find child care that can best meet your family's needs.
- **Important:** You must complete your child care authorization with the CCRR before subsidized child care will be paid for.

Important Reminder

Contact your DTA case manager when you have a change in:

- Activity (e.g., school to work or change in employment);
- Wages; or
- Your household size.

You MUST notify the CCRR when your TAFDC case closes.

What Happens When My TAFDC Case Closes?

You **WILL NOT** need to renew your child care voucher until it expires, even after your TAFDC case closes.

When your TAFDC voucher is expiring, you will be notified by the CCRR to schedule an appointment to renew your voucher. You will continue to be eligible if you meet:

- EEC Income Requirements; and
- Activity Requirements, such as work, training or school.

You may be required to pay a parent fee.

If you are not eligible for a Child Care referral from DTA, contact your local CCRR or call 211 to find out how to apply for child care assistance.

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCRR) Contact Information

If you are not sure which CCRR to contact:

- 1) Go to https://eeclead.force.com/EEC_CCRRSearch. Select the Massachusetts city/town you live in to see the CCRR information near you.

or
- 2) From any telephone, dial 211, the Massachusetts state-wide Health and Human Services information and referral phone line, and get information on the CCRR near you.

Types of Child Care

Your CCRR counselor will help you choose the type of child care that is right for you:

- **Family Child Care:** In family child care homes, providers care for small groups of children in their own or a friend's home. Often this type of care has one or two caregivers and may offer more non-traditional hours.
- **Group Child Care:** Group child care programs are usually center-based programs that are larger and often group children by age and are generally in non-residential, commercial buildings. Centers have a dedicated director and numerous staff members.
- **Preschool Programs:** Preschool programs are typically offered for children ages 3-5 years old. Preschool programs may be offered through a school, faith-based organization, or a child care center. Head Start is an example of a preschool program.
- **Informal Caregiver:** A relative caregiver cares for your child in your home or the relative's home; or a non-relative caregiver cares for your child in your home.
- **School Age or After School Programs:** School age programs typically provide child care during before and after school hours. They may also offer care during school holidays and summer break.

To Find a Licensed Family, Group or School Age Child Care Program

You can search by both geographic area and child care program type at:

https://eeclead.force.com/EEC_ChildCareSearch