



March 20, 2026

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

TO: Committee of the Whole

THRU: Dr. Arun Puracken *AP*
Education and Workforce Committee Director

FROM: Caleb Callender *CC*
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CR-015-2026 Child Care Improvement Workgroup

CR-015-2026 (*Proposed by:* Council Member Oriadha)

Assigned to the Committee of the Whole

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING CHILD CARE IMPROVEMENT WORKGROUP for the purpose of establishing a workgroup of subject matter experts to consider and make recommendations to the County Council on improving the availability, affordability, and quality of child care in Prince George's County.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact

Expenditures: No anticipated impact on expenditures.

Revenues: No anticipated impact on revenues.

Indirect Impact

Likely Favorable.

Legislative Summary:

CR-015-2026 proposed by Council Member Oriadha and cosponsored by Council Members Hunter, Olson, Adams, Blegay, Ivey, Adams-Stafford, and Dernoga would establish a child care improvement workgroup to provide recommendations to the County Council on improving availability and affordability of childcare in Prince George's County. The workgroup is charged with providing recommendations to the County Council for State legislative changes and developing a plan for a universal childcare program for the County. The workgroup will also be tasked with providing options for improving and streamlining the permitting process for child care facilities.

Lack of accessibility to affordable childcare places a heavy burden on guardians within Prince George's County, forcing them to make choices potentially limiting their employment opportunities and financial mobility due to the excessive cost of childcare. Overlapping State and County inspection requirements place stress on childcare providers and stand as an impediment for accessible childcare options.

Current Law/Background:

Federal Law:

The Child Care and Development Block Grant authorizes discretionary appropriations to support grants to state agencies to subsidize child care expenses.¹ This grant was established in 1990. Under CCDF, children must be under the age of 13 and reside with a working parent whose income doesn't exceed 85% of the state median income.²

State Law:

The Maryland Office of Child Care is responsible for supporting and regulating childcare across the state. The office administers licensing and inspection requirements for childcare centers and oversees the Maryland Child Care Scholarship Program³. However, the regulatory process requires providers to complete numerous forms, which can significantly prolong approval timelines. In some cases, these requirements may be redundant for facilities that have already undergone comparable inspections. Additionally, the Child Care Scholarship Program was suspended in May 2025 due to over-enrollment, highlighting the significant demand for affordable childcare services.

Other Jurisdictions:

Montgomery County established Child Care Support Services within the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to improve access to high-quality early care and education⁴. The program offers direct assistance to parents, including individualized consultations

¹ [The Child Care and Development Block Grant](#)

² Ibid

³ [Maryland State Department of Education](#)

⁴ [Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services](#)

with trained counselors, referrals to licensed childcare providers, and guidance with completing childcare subsidy applications.

Through this initiative, Montgomery County also launched the Shared Resources Collaborative⁵ in partnership with 20 Degrees, a nonprofit organization. The Collaborative provides operational and business support to childcare providers, including access to a dedicated childcare business coach, financial and operational assistance, peer learning opportunities, and ongoing professional training.

Additionally, Montgomery County created the Early Care and Education Facility Loan Program to support childcare providers. The program offers forgivable loans of up to \$74,000⁶ for home- and center-based providers. If a provider remains operational for five years and completes twelve hours of business training annually, the loan is fully forgiven⁷. The program also offers zero-interest loans of up to \$300,000 exclusively for childcare centers, allowing providers to repay only the principal amount without accruing interest.

Montgomery County also operates the Excel Beyond the Bell program, which provides after-school programming for elementary and middle school students at numerous schools across the county. The program is categorized as instructional and skill-building, rather than childcare, providing students with additional opportunities to reinforce concepts they are learning in school. Students may go through a day of rotation where they start with math, and then go to basketball, or they may start with art and then transition to languages. By combining educational support with engaging extracurricular experiences, the program allows students to strengthen their academic skills while fostering collaboration and a sense of community among their peers.

Resource Personnel:

- Joseph Hamlin, Legislative Officer
- Tre'von Sawyers, Chief of Staff

Discussion/Policy Analysis:

Child care in Prince George's County faces three major challenges: limited capacity, high costs, and low wages for child care professionals. According to the 2025 annual Maryland Family Network Demographics Report⁸, child care capacity in the county decreased by 5% between 2020 and 2023, making it increasingly difficult for families to access care. In 2023, Prince George's County had a total licensed child care capacity of 26,479 slots, including only 927 slots for infants. During the same period, the county had 59,434 children between the ages of 0 and 4, with 35,342

⁵ [Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services](#)

⁶ [Reinvestment Fund](#)

⁷ [Loan Program Quick Guide](#)

⁸ [Maryland Family Network Childcare Demographics Report](#)

of those children under the age of 2⁹. These figures show that the County does not have enough licensed child care capacity to serve even half of its children under age four. By comparison, Montgomery County, which has a similar population of children under age four, has a total child care capacity of 44,656¹⁰, more than 20,000 additional slots compared with Prince George's County.

Not only is capacity decreasing, but the cost of child care has increased from 2015 to 2023 by more than 20% according to the Maryland Family Network¹¹. Throughout Maryland, tuition for center-based infant care is 13% of the median income for married couples vs. 41% of the median income for single parent family households¹². The median household income in Prince George's County is \$100,708¹³, and yet the average cost for child care for ages 0-2 at centers is \$20,170.28¹⁴, 20% of the median income within Prince George's County. This only addresses families who are making that median income. Over 7,000 children under the age of 5 are living in poverty, making the cost of childcare not feasible for these families and providing an additional burden for economic well-being.

Despite the high cost of child care for families, wages for professionals in the child care industry remain relatively low. Child care is essential for development of young people within Prince George's County, and yet the profession of child care can't expect to be competitive with child care teachers earning, on average in Prince George's County, \$23,116¹⁵. Child care providers and directors earn slightly more but still relatively low earnings, at \$34,873 a year for providers and \$41,322 a year for directors, on average.

A workgroup focused on child care that is designed to develop a comprehensive plan has the potential to make a significant impact in Prince George's County. Given the challenges related to capacity, cost, and workforce wages, coordinated action is needed to identify solutions and outline clear next steps for the County. By bringing together stakeholders from different sectors, the workgroup can provide diverse perspectives that help shape effective policies and strategies to strengthen the County's child care system.

Fiscal Impact:

- *Direct Impact*

Adoption of CR-015-2026 is not likely to have any direct fiscal impact.

- *Indirect Impact*

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ [Maryland Family Network Childcare Demographics Report](#)

¹¹ Ibid

¹² [Maryland Comptroller Report](#)

¹³ [Maryland Family Network Childcare Demographics Report](#)

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid

Adoption of CR-015-2026 may chart a path towards creating more affordable childcare options for Prince George's County residents.

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget*

No.

Policy Implementation Timeline:

Workgroup Implementation

- Meeting Dates: The workgroup shall meet in accordance with the Chair of the workgroup, but shall meet no less than two times a month

Transmittal of Findings

- The workgroup shall submit recommendations for improving permitting childcare facilities and streamlining County processes by **July 1st, 2026**.
- The workgroup shall submit recommendations for State legislative changes related to licensing and funding by **September 1st, 2026**.
- The workgroup shall submit a final report of recommendations, including a plan for universal child care throughout the County by **December 1st, 2026**.

Conclusion of Workgroup

- This workgroup shall cease to exist 90 days after submission of final recommendations.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

This Resolution goes into effect on the date of its adoption.

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach me via phone or email.