

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2026 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-016-2026

Chapter No. \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Oriadha

Introduced by Council Members Oriadha, Hunter, Olson, Dernoga, Blegay and Adams

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction March 31, 2026

**BILL**

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Early Start Child Care Scholarship Program

3 For the purpose of establishing and administering a scholarship program to assist modest-income  
4 families in obtaining child care services for 0 to 3-year-olds in Prince George’s County, subject  
5 to certain conditions; and generally relating to early childhood education and child care.

6 BY adding:

7 SUBTITLE 5C. EARLY CHILDHOOD

8 EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE.

9 Section 5C-112,

10 The Prince George's County Code

11 (2023 Edition; 2025 Supplement).

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
13 Maryland, that Section 5C-112 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is hereby  
14 added:

15 **SUBTITLE 5C. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE.**

16 **DIVISION 5. EARLY START CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

17 **Sec. 5C-112. Prince George’s County Early Start Child Care Scholarship Program.**

18 (a) Early Start Child Care Scholarship Program Established. Subject to the allocation of  
19 funding, families who qualify and are approved in accordance with the requirements of  
20 Subsection (b), below, shall receive a child care scholarship as prescribed in Subsection (c),  
21 below, for eligible child care expenses.

1        (b) Program Requirements.

2            (1) Income eligibility. A family shall only be eligible to receive a child care scholarship  
3 authorized by this Division to compensate for eligible child care expenses if the family has a  
4 household income of less than 30% of the median family income for the Washington-Arlington-  
5 Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Area, as published annually by the U.S. Department  
6 of Housing and Urban Development.

7            (2) Child eligibility. A child for which a family receives a child care scholarship shall be  
8 no older than 3 years of age. A family is only eligible to receive a child care scholarship for a  
9 maximum of two children per household.

10           (3) Application and approval. A family shall only be eligible to receive a child care  
11 scholarship to compensate for eligible child care expenses if the family successfully completes  
12 an application process prescribed by the Department for a child care scholarship for the child for  
13 which the family is incurring or will incur eligible child care expenses.

14           (4) Administration. The Early Start Child Care Scholarship Program shall be  
15 administered by the Department and disbursements shall be made by the Office of Finance in  
16 accordance with regulations prescribed by the Department and approved by the County Council  
17 as set forth in Subsection (d), below.

18        (c) Early Start Child Care Scholarship.

19           (1) The Prince George's County Early Start Child Care Scholarship Fund is hereby  
20 established as a nonlapsing fund that shall not revert to the County fund balance at the end of  
21 each fiscal year and shall solely be used for the purpose of awarding child care scholarships to  
22 eligible families for eligible child care expenses pursuant to this Division.

23           (2) Scholarship amount determination and duration. Each child care scholarship award  
24 shall be for the duration of a 12-month period and must be applied for annually. The maximum  
25 12-month amount per child that the Department is authorized to award for a child care  
26 scholarship authorized by this Division is \$3000 per child. The precise amount of each award  
27 shall be determined in accordance with a formula established by the Department and prescribed  
28 in regulations authorized and mandated pursuant to Subsection (d), below. The award  
29 determination of child care scholarships shall be based on a need-based scale of higher amounts  
30 awarded to families with lower proportionate median household income levels.

31        (d) Regulations authorized, mandatory.

1           The Department shall propose regulations that implement this Division no later than  
2 September 1, 2026 for approval or modification by resolution of the County Council, provided  
3 such regulations are not inconsistent with this Division. Such regulations may be modified from  
4 time to time by proposal of the Department subject to approval or modification by Council  
5 resolution.

6           (e) Reporting. By August 31 of each year, the Department, in coordination with the Office of  
7 Finance, shall provide an annual written summary to the County Executive and County Council  
8 on the progress of the Early Start Child Care Scholarship Program for the previous fiscal year,  
9 including, but not limited to including, non-individual aggregate data on scholarship  
10 expenditures, administrative costs, and recommended policy improvements.

11           SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby  
12 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,  
13 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of  
14 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining  
15 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this  
16 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such  
17 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,  
18 or section.

19           SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)  
20 calendar days after it becomes law.

          Adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2026.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Krystal Oriadha  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna J. Brown

Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Aisha N. Braveboy  
County Executive

**KEY:**

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.

Asterisks \*\*\* indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.