



March 23, 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
CB-014-2026 Child Care Expansion and Quality Improvement Act

CB-014-2026 (*Proposed by: Council Member Oriadha*)

Assigned to the Committee of the Whole

AN ACT CONCERNING CHILD CARE EXPANSION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT for the purpose of expanding the availability of and quality of child care in the County; defining certain terms; establishing a County Child Care Navigator, requiring a Strategic Plan for Child Care and annual reporting on program implementation; expanding, facilitating and streamlining the use of County and other public facilities by before and after-school care programs; and generally relating to before and after-school care programs.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact

Expenditures: The salary needed to finance this position may have a slightly adverse impact on the County.

Revenues: No anticipated impact on revenues.

Indirect Impact

Likely Favorable.

Legislative Summary:

CB-014-2026 proposed by Council Member Oriadha would seek to expand the availability of childcare in the County. This legislation would establish a new position, a Child Care Navigator, who would serve as a liaison between the County government and the public on childcare related issues. Additionally, they would be tasked with creating a strategic plan for childcare which includes implementation strategies for improving childcare services, seeking new public spaces for childcare to be conducted, forming public-private partnerships, and research on the supply, demand and affordability of child care throughout Prince George's County.

Additionally, the Office of Management and Budget will be charged with providing analysis of the feasibility of childcare facilities within the Capital Improvement Program reports. Utilizing public buildings for childcare may help to alleviate space and cost barriers faced by providers. Childcare providers have reported issues with duplicative inspection requirements between the State and County, experiencing delays to openings.

After speaking with Director of the Children, Youth and Families Division, it was recommended that this legislation should fall under the purview of the Department of Social Services. The Chair expressed openness to this amendment.

Current Law/Background:

State Law:

The Maryland Office of Child Care works to support childcare throughout the State. The Office provides licenses and inspections for childcare centers, while also overseeing the Maryland Child Care Scholarship Program¹. There are numerous forms which elongate the process for childcare providers, some of which serve to be redundant for buildings who have already undergone these inspections. The Child Care Scholarship Program was suspended in May 2025 due to over enrollment, which further shows the need for affordable childcare.

Other Jurisdictions:

Montgomery County established a Child Care Support Services as a part of their Department of Health and Human Services to help ensure all children have equal access to high-quality early care and education². The program provides direct support to parents, including one-on-one consultations with trained counselors, connecting them with licensed child care options, and guidance completing child care subsidy applications.

Through their Child Care Support Services, Montgomery County established the Shared Resources Collaborative, in partnership with 20 Degrees, a nonprofit organization. This Collaborative provides support to child care providers in areas related to business operations. Participating

¹ [Maryland State Department of Education](#)

² [Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services](#)

providers receive assistance from a dedicated child care business coach, financial and operational support services, peer learning opportunities and ongoing training and professional resources.

Montgomery County also established an Early Care and Education Facility Loan Program, which helps support child care providers. The program offers forgivable loans for homes and centers, with a maximum award of \$74,000.³ If the center or home stays open for five years and completes 12 hours of business training annually, the loan is forgiven and doesn't need to be repaid.⁴ In addition, the program offers loans exclusively for centers for up to \$300,000. These loans carry a 0% interest rate, meaning providers must repay the principal amount but are not charged interest.

Resource Personnel:

- Joseph Hamlin, Legislative Officer
 - Tre'von Sawyers, Chief of Staff
 - Dr. Orethea Mattison, Director of Children, Youth and Families Division
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Discussion/Policy Analysis:

Accessible child care is vital for the economic wellbeing of Prince George's County. Affordable childcare places less of a burden on parents, granting them the ability to stay in the workforce and alleviate stress. Additionally, child care options are essential to promote early childhood learning, establishing a foundation for kindergarten readiness. Pushing for a feasibility study of public buildings who can effectively provide locations for childcare programs will help to increase capacity of child care across the County. This doesn't come without challenges.

Overlapping State and County requirements creates additional burden on child care providers, delaying the process of opening child care centers. Additionally, gaining a license for infants is even more difficult, with only 122 homes or centers licensed to accept infants, with a total infant capacity of 927⁵. To put this into proper perspective, there are 71,717 children in Prince George's County from birth through age five⁶.

The need for child care does not end when children reach the age of five. At this stage, most children are still not developmentally prepared to remain unsupervised at home, requiring parents to either secure after-school care or maintain employment with flexible schedules that allow them to pick their children up from school. Through the establishment of this new navigator position, Prince George's County has an opportunity to advance progress toward universal child care, thereby alleviating a significant burden faced by working families.

³ [Reinvestment Fund](#)

⁴ [Loan Program Quick Guide](#)

⁵ [MFN's Statewide 2025 Child Care Demographics Report](#)

⁶ [MFN's Statewide 2025 Child Care Demographics Report](#)

Opening a Child Care Center often is only the beginning of the challenges they face. Child care centers operate on very narrow margins, struggling to generate sufficient revenue to sustain their operations. This handicaps their ability to pay their employees professional wages, despite the essential role childcare professionals play in the early development and well-being of young children. On average in Prince George's County, child care center teachers earn only \$23,116 while childcare providers earn \$34,873 annually⁷.

Through this legislation, it is unclear whether additional staff is necessary to ensure the provisions of this legislation are properly maintained. Child care has a vast number of issues that cast a wide net, all of which are important and must be addressed to comprehensively tackle the burdens that so many parents and providers across the County face.

Fiscal Impact:

- *Direct Impact*

Enactment of CB-014-2026 will have a slightly adverse impact on the county to the extent of the salary for the new Child Care Navigator Position. It is likely this position will fall under either a Community Developer 4G or Administrative Specialist 1G. The salary for these positions can range from \$70,794 to \$168,359.

- *Indirect impact*

Enactment of CB-014-2026 should have a favorable indirect impact on the County by establishing a Child Care Navigator responsible for developing strategies to strengthen the childcare system throughout Prince George's County. Feasibility studies conducted by the Office of Management and Budget can potentially identify additional buildings that could be eligible for use by childcare providers. Additionally, forming private partnerships could increase funding for childcare services, including family scholarships and grant opportunities for providers.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

The proposed Bill shall be effective forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

If you require additional information or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please contact me.

⁷ [MFN's Statewide 2025 Child Care Demographics Report](#)