

DTA TAFDC 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 (CCRR) 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, in an approved employment-related activity, or currently residing in an EA shelter.
- A relative caregiver receiving TAFDC for a child(ren) and is working.
- A former TAFDC client, whose case closed within the past 24 months and is now employed or participating in education or training.

About TAFDC Path to Work

Through the Department of Transitional Assistance's (DTA) TAFDC Pathways to Work, find the best education, employment or training program for you. DTA's Pathways to Work programs help you prepare for and connect with career pathways and resolve barriers to employment. DTA will work with you to pick the best program to meet your goals on your path to economic mobility. Child care and transportation services are available to support you in your transition to employment.

Getting a Child Care Voucher

1. Your TAFDC Case Manager will:

- Contact you to get information about your child care.
- Send the referral to the CCRR saying you are eligible for a voucher and that you have no parent fee*. (CCRR will contact you within 3 days from receiving this referral to set up an intake).

2. You must:

- Select a program that meets your family's needs— tell your CCRR if you need help finding care before your appointment.
- You must provide a valid photo ID at the appointment.

*Once your DTA referral expires, you may be required to pay a parent fee.

Important: You must complete your child care authorization with the CCRR before subsidized child care will be paid for.

What happens when my DTA case closes?

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

When your 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.

If you are not eligible for a Child Care referral from DTA, contact your local CCRR or call 211 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://eelead.my.site.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 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://eelead.force.com/EEC_ChildCareSearch

Questions about TAFDC Pathways to Work or DTA Child Care?

Call your case manager or go to mass.gov/info-details/contact-dtas-employment-staff and find a Full Engagement Worker in your local area.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

