



Montgomery County Child Care Provider Survey

Frequently Asked Questions

To learn more about the needs and experiences of child care providers in Montgomery County, the Montgomery County Government is conducting an important survey of all providers who are licensed or hold a letter of compliance in the county. Providers will receive the survey in July 2024.

We hope all eligible child care providers will respond to the survey.

Every provider who responds to the survey will be entered into a raffle drawing for one of six \$100 gift cards. Every provider who completes the survey will automatically receive a \$30 gift card and be entered into a second raffle drawing for one of six \$250 gift cards!

Why is the County conducting this survey?

Montgomery County wants to hear from providers about enrollment in their programs, challenges that child care providers face, and how much it costs to operate child care programs. The County will use this information to develop policies and programs that provide financial and other kinds of supports to local child care providers and families with children.

What does the survey ask about?

There are two parts to the survey. The first part asks about the characteristics of your child care program, how many children can be served and the number who are enrolled, and the business challenges you might face in operating a child care program (for example, staff turnover, rising costs, or maintaining full enrollment).

The second part of the survey asks for details about the costs of operating your child care program, including costs for staff, facilities, supplies and materials, and other resources.

How will the information collected from providers be used?

The information from the survey will be used to understand child care availability in Montgomery County, the challenges providers face in operating child care programs, and the cost of providing high-quality child care in the county.

The County has hired two research organizations to analyze the data collected in the survey, The Reinvestment Fund and Brodsky Research and Consulting. All information received from individual providers will be treated confidentially and will not be shared outside of the project team. No information that could uniquely identify a provider will be used in communications with the County or publicly.

Why should my program participate in the survey?

It's important for us to hear directly from providers in the County to understand the challenges they face and what it takes to provide quality child care. This information will help the County provide financial assistance to local providers and families and develop policies that support them.

In addition, every provider who responds to the survey will be entered into a raffle drawing for one of six \$100 gift cards. Every provider who completes the survey will automatically receive a \$30 gift card and be entered into a second raffle drawing for one of six \$250 gift cards!

When will providers receive the survey?

Providers will receive an email with an individual link to the survey by the beginning of July 2024. The survey will be open for about three weeks.

How will providers receive the survey?

A link to the survey will be sent to the primary email address on record for each licensed provider with the Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care.

How long will it take for me to respond to the survey?

We estimate that it will take 45 to 60 minutes to respond to the entire survey. Providers can complete the survey over several sessions if they choose.

What information should I have to respond to the survey?

To respond to the survey questions, it will be helpful to have information about:

- current enrollment and capacity at your center or child care home
- the operations of the center or child care home, such as the number of staff employed, the days that the center or child care home is open, and the funding that it receives
- the program's costs during the most recent full calendar or fiscal year, such as costs for staff, facilities, and supplies.

To answer some of the survey questions, it will be helpful for you to have access to recent financial records, such as expenditure reports, tax records, and other accounting documents.

A center director or assistant director, child care home owner, and/or financial manager might be the best people to respond to the survey.

What if I need help responding to the survey?

A survey "help desk" will be available. If you have questions about the survey or need help responding to it, please use the email provided in the survey to contact the survey administrator.