



COMMISSION ON CHILD CARE

Top Policy Priorities Presented to the Health and Human Services Committee of the County Council October 23, 2025

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Co-Chairs, Commission on Child Care**

FY26 Commission on Child Care Priorities

The Commission recognizes that a stable, skilled, and diverse early care and education workforce is essential to the success of children, families, and communities. In FY26, the Commission will advance its mission by focusing on the following two priorities:

Priority 1:

To help address ongoing challenges in recruitment and retention, the Commission will continue to examine the barriers impacting the early care and education workforce. This effort builds on the Commission's work in FY24 and FY25, which laid a strong foundation for understanding workforce needs and elevating the voices of early educators.

Building on that momentum, in FY26 the Commission will continue to research this issue and gather data through ongoing conversations with educators, providers, and community partners. These efforts will inform equity-centered recommendations designed to support and strengthen the early care and education system.

Priority 2:

In FY24 and FY25, the Commission hosted a virtual forum with early care and education providers and leaders from the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and multiple counties in Maryland. During the same period, the Commission also conducted interviews with ECE leaders from other states to better understand workforce challenges and highlight innovative, solution-focused strategies from the field.

In FY26, the Commission plans to present these recommendations to both Montgomery Moving Forward and the Children's Opportunity Alliance, coordinating and aligning its work with broader, systems-level efforts to address workforce challenges in early childhood care.