

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

POLICY FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS IN COUNTY FACILITIES

• PURPOSE

According to a 1987 Policy Statement, the County is responsible for making available public facilities for child care and encouraging planned child care facilities in new public buildings.

In order to support these goals this policy has been developed to:

Ensure quality child care is provided in County space by selecting programs that commit to providing affordable and quality child care services, achieving accreditation through state and/or national accrediting systems, registering and publishing in the Maryland EXCELS program and to following research based best practices for early childhood education.

Establish and facilitate a competitive selection process, ensuring equal and fair access to individuals and organizations the opportunity to compete for and use County spaces designed for child care services.

• POLICY

The County will establish written procedures which outline a fair and equitable selection process for the applicant applying for County space for child care services. The procedures shall also include the make-up of the selection committee that will provide the opportunity for participation by community representatives, public agencies and parents. The procedures will include information regarding evaluation and scoring of the applications. Non-profit entities will be given a priority when all scoring requirements are equal between the top qualified applicants during the selection process. The procedures shall be reviewed and revised, as necessary.

Since Child Care in Public Space affords the Child Care providers rental leases below market rates, the County is requiring at least 20% of the enrollment shall be recipients of State and/or County subsidy programs. The program will accept children whose parents participate in State and County child care subsidy programs and actively seek and enroll 20% of their program's current enrollment with families participating in the subsidy program.

Individual providers or organizations are limited to a maximum number of County sites, not to exceed 25% of the total number of such sites, in order to support maximum opportunity for space to a variety of providers. This limit may be waived when deemed in the best interest of the County.

In situations where child care tenants are being displaced from public space resulting in a loss of child care slots, the County may offer the right of first refusal on County child care facilities available in the immediate geographic area in which the loss of child care slots has occurred.

Uma Ahluwalia, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

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