

CCCAP and UPK: Comparison Chart

Two Programs Working Together for Colorado Families

The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) and Universal Preschool (UPK) programs are two distinct funding sources that can be “stacked” together to support families and provide access to more hours of quality preschool each week.

This chart explains the key differences between CCCAP and UPK.

Funding Source

UPK

UPK is funded through multiple revenue streams including a tax on tobacco and e-cigarettes. Funds are held and distributed through the Preschool Program Cash Fund (PPCF), which is administered by the Department of Early Childhood.

CCCAP

CCCAP is funded with a combination of federal, state and county funds.

Eligibility

UPK

Every child in Colorado who is at least 4 years old is eligible to participate in mixed delivery UPK in the year before they are eligible to attend kindergarten.

A child may be eligible for additional hours of preschool, pending and subject to available funding and enrollment levels, if:

The child is from a family with income at or below 270% of the federal poverty level.

AND

The child meets one of these qualifying factors:

- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Homelessness
- Dual language learner
- Foster/kinship care

Children who are two years before kindergarten eligibility (or under 3 if in Denver or Canon City), who meet one of these qualifying factors may receive 10 hours of preschool services per week (subject to available funding and enrollment levels) through their local school district or a community-based provider that a school district contracts with for preschool services.

CCCAP

Families qualify for CCCAP if they have a child, age 0-13, who is either a U.S. citizen or qualified alien, and a family income below 185% of the federal poverty level (income eligibility varies by county). A family’s assets must be less than \$1 million.

In addition, the parent(s) must be working, searching for a job, or participating in training or post-secondary education.

Families/Children also qualify for CCCAP if a parent is participating in the Colorado Works (TANF) program. The parent must be considered “work eligible”, have a current individualized plan, and participate in allowable work activities through Colorado Works. The family’s referral to CCCAP must come from the Colorado Works caseworker.

Cost to Families



UPK

No cost to families for a minimum of 10 to 15 hours per week of voluntary preschool services during the school year.

Some families will be eligible for additional no-cost hours of preschool programming.

CCCAP

Families must pay parent fees according to the formulas below. Families may also have to pay fees charged by the child care provider.

Low-Income

- 1 to 10% of countable household income plus \$15 per additional child that is receiving care.

Colorado Works

- 1 to 10% of earned income plus \$15 per additional child that is receiving care.
*Parent fees may be reduced due to enrollment in a high-quality child care provider or due to a family hardship.

Care Schedule



UPK

UPK provides up to 15 hours of no-cost preschool per week during the school year, with the possibility of additional hours per week subject to available funding.

The ability for all eligible children to be served also relies on sufficient providers participating in this voluntary program.

CCCAP

The number of hours covered by CCCAP varies based on the child's need for care, however, 24-hour care cannot be provided.

Payment Timeline



UPK

Providers will be paid monthly based on the number of four-year-olds enrolled in a program by the 15th of the prior month. Between August and November, providers will be paid half the monthly rate, for a child that enrolled during the 16th and 25th of the prior month. The half monthly rate will be based on the program the child is enrolled in. CDEC will provide a true-up later in the spring of 2024, as needed.

CCCAP

Weekly payroll for CCCAP is released every Thursday at midnight. The payment is for one week of care, two weeks prior from the payment date.





UPK

For families: Families apply annually through an online application system.

For providers: The application and provider recertification process for UPK occurs annually at the state level.

The full details of the provider recertification process will be determined in the future.

CCCAP

The application and redetermination process for CCCAP **occurs at the county level.**

Low-Income

- Written application with signature
- Proof of income (last 30 days)
- Proof of qualifying activity (employment, job search, education)
- Proof of county residency
- Immunization records, if applicable
- Proof of schedule, if requesting non-traditional hours
- Proof of incapacitation, if applicable
- Proof of custody arrangement/parenting schedule, if applicable
- County may also require an orientation or new applicant interview

Each year, a family must complete a redetermination process to ensure they are still eligible to participate in CCCAP. There is no limit on the number of times a family can go through the redetermination process for CCCAP if they remain within the eligibility guidelines.

Colorado Works

Colorado Works Child Care requires the Colorado Works Child Care Referral Form, which is completed by the Colorado Works caseworker and provided to the county CCCAP office. Child care is authorized for a period of 12 months. There is no CCCAP redetermination for Colorado Works participants. Counties can transition families that are no longer eligible for Colorado Works to the 'Low-Income' category of CCCAP without requiring reapplication.