

2022 DC Child Care Provider Survey

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What is the 2022 DC Child Care Provider Survey?

The 2022 DC Child Care Provider Survey is an online survey of child development facilities licensed by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), in partnership with DC Child Care Connections and Prenatal to Five Fiscal Strategies (P5FS), to understand DC child care providers' costs and revenues. OSSE will use information collected from this survey to inform future child care subsidy reimbursement rates, as well as implementation of the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund in fiscal year 2024 (FY24) and beyond.

Why is OSSE doing this survey now?

OSSE recognizes that child development facilities are very busy and are asked to do many things and may have questions as to why this survey needs to be done now (fall 2022). There are two main reasons: First, OSSE is required by the federal government to update our analysis of the cost to deliver child care every three years to comply with federal requirements regarding child care subsidy payment rates. The data from the survey is needed to update estimated costs to deliver care and to inform future subsidy reimbursement rates. The second reason is that starting in FY24 OSSE will shift from distributing supplemental payments directly to early childhood educators to funding child care providers who agree to pay staff salaries that reflect the recommendations of the Early Childhood Pay Equity Task Force. To ensure that payment amounts are sufficient to meet compensation scale salaries in a way that is sustainable for child care providers, OSSE needs accurate information on child care providers' costs as well as tuition charged to fee-paying families. The 2022 DC Child Care Provider Survey will help OSSE to understand what early childhood educators are currently being paid, as well as the amount of revenue that child development facilities collect through tuition, and variation in compensation and tuition revenues across geographies and types of child care settings within the District. This information is essential to the design and implementation of OSSE policies, programs and payment levels to support the sustainability of child care businesses.

Who is conducting this survey?

The survey is being led by P5FS, a national leader in child care finance, policy and research in partnership with DC Child Care Connections, under contract with OSSE.

Who should participate in the survey?

We need input from all child development facilities in the DC, including child development centers, child development homes and expanded child development homes, regardless of whether you currently accept child care subsidies. We recommend that the survey be completed by the program director, owner/provider, financial manager or whoever has the best knowledge of your program's finances.

Where do I get the link to the online survey?

The link was sent to your facility's point of contact on file with OSSE. If you are the point of contact and do not see an email in your inbox with a link to the survey, it may have been filtered into your "spam" or "junk" folders, so please check there. If you still are unable to find the link to the survey, please email the P5FS survey team at info@prenatal5fiscal.org and we will resend you the link.

Am I required to participate?

No. Participation in this survey is voluntary. However, your responses will help inform future reimbursement rates for child care subsidies and development and implementation of other OSSE programs and policies to support the District's child care businesses. So, while not required, your participation is extremely valuable and greatly appreciated.

Do I receive anything for completing the survey?

Yes, providers who complete the survey will receive a \$20 gift card as a thank you for your time. In addition, the facility you own/operate will be entered in a raffle to win a \$1,000 gift certificate to Kaplan for educational supplies for that facility. If you have multiple facilities and provide data on those facilities, you will receive a raffle entry for each facility. You will receive the gift card by November 15th and the raffle winners will be announced at the November Community of Practice Meeting.

What questions will I be asked?

The survey asks about enrollment, revenue, and expenses (e.g., staff wages, benefits, rent/mortgage, supplies, equipment, etc.) at your facility. To help you answer these questions, **we recommend that you first gather any records** that you have regarding child enrollment, tuition rates, salaries/payroll and other expenses from your program's most recent fiscal year.

What financial documents or other materials should I gather before starting the survey?

The survey asks about enrollment, personnel expenses and non-personnel expenses. We recommend gathering any salary schedule and/or payroll reports, enrollment reports and budget/financial statements from your program's most recent fiscal year. For child development home providers, it is often helpful to pull your most recent [Schedule C](#) tax form.

How long will the survey take?

The average completion time for a survey is about 20-25 minutes if you gather your reference documents/records in advance. There is a place in the survey where you can upload your tuition rate/fee schedule or you can email it to the P5FS team. If you do this, you may skip all the questions that ask about your rates (so the survey will take much less time).

Is there an option to start the survey and come back and finish later?

Yes, the online system allows survey respondents to save their responses and return later. This option is in the top right corner of the screen in the online survey system. When you are ready to return to the survey, you can just click on the original link that you were sent.

Where will my responses be reported?

Only members of the P5FS team will have access to the detailed data that providers share. The P5FS team is committed to ensuring that all data collected from providers is kept confidential and secure. Only data that is combined across providers and stripped of all personally identifiable information, will be shared with anyone outside of the P5FS team, including OSSE. We will not publish the responses of any individual child development center or home.

Why should child care providers participate in the survey?

By participating in the survey and confidentially sharing information about your program, you will help inform DC's decisions about future subsidy reimbursement rates and the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund based on the costs to deliver care. It is critical that the survey captures information from those actually caring for children to make sure that policymakers understand what it really costs to provide high-quality child care

and how far current resources go toward covering that cost (or not covering that cost). For this survey to be successful, information is needed from all types of providers from all areas of DC.

My program doesn't accept child care subsidies. Why should I participate in the survey?

OSSE's goal, consistent with federal Child Care and Development Fund requirements, is to ensure that children receiving child care subsidies have equitable access to a range of child care programs and options. Only by collecting information from both subsidy and non-subsidy child care providers can we ensure that the District sets child care subsidy rates that ensure equitable access. Your responses to this survey helps us do that.

Additionally, the information collected by this survey will help inform a variety of OSSE child care policies, programs and initiatives besides child care subsidy rates. For example, OSSE will use survey data, along with the DC Child Care Cost Estimation Model, to understand how child:adult ratios, staff qualifications and other licensing requirements affect child care providers' costs to deliver care. Similarly, information collected through the survey will help inform the design and implementation of the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund. Starting in FY24, this program, which seeks to increase pay for early childhood educators working in both subsidy and non-subsidy child development facilities, will distribute funds to child development facilities that agree to pay staff according to a parity scale established by OSSE—regardless of whether you currently accept child care subsidies. The information you provide in this survey will help OSSE design funding formulas that determine how much funding your facility would receive from the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund.

Finally, we know that many families who do not qualify for child care subsidies still struggle to find affordable child care in the District, or to pay the costs for the child care option they select. The information that you provide will help OSSE and other District Government and private stakeholders to inform the development of strategies to help address access to and affordability of child care for more DC families.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

I am a provider who operates multiple facilities, how should I complete the survey?

We ask that you please complete a survey for each of your facilities in DC. If you have three or more facilities, it will be easier for you to share your data across facilities in a virtual interview. The P5FS team will reach out to your organization's point of contact with OSSE to arrange an interview. If you have not received this information, please feel free to ask your Quality Facilitator (if you participate in Capital Quality) or email the P5FS team at info@prenatal5fiscal.org and someone from our project team will reach out to set up an interview.

Can I see the survey questions before I start filling it out?

You can access a PDF copy of the survey [here](#). Please note, the PDF version includes all the questions for all types of providers, whereas the online version of the survey uses "skip-logic," meaning that the questions you see are based on your answers to prior questions, so when you go to fill out the survey online, you will only see questions that are relevant to your program's services. Please do not be alarmed if you do not see some questions that you saw in the PDF version. The PDF version of the survey should only be used as a worksheet to review the questions and plan for the responses that you will submit using the online survey.

Are there specific costs that the survey is seeking to understand?

The survey is primarily focused on personnel costs – what staff are paid, what benefits are offered, costs to provide benefits and staffing patterns. We know from the research and our personal experience overseeing

programs that these are key drivers of overall programs costs. The survey also asks questions on the major non-personnel costs such as occupancy, supplies, etc.

Can someone else complete the survey on my behalf, such as a coach?

Yes, anyone can complete the survey, but they will need to have access to your program's financial data, program enrollment and tuition rate/fee schedule in order to answer all the questions.

What if I cannot answer one of the questions? Should I provide a guess or estimate?

If you are not sure of the exact amount for an expense but are able to estimate the expense, feel free to fill that in. Some of the questions are required (as indicated by a * next to the question), and you must fill in an answer to continue to the next question. If you do not know the answer or it is not relevant, please put "n/a" or 0 and then use the comments box to explain, if possible.

I have employees that perform several different roles represented by the position titles in the survey. How should I enter their information? Please select the role that they perform most often and put their wage/salary information there rather than trying to divide it across roles. You can also enter an explanation in the comment section to further explain.

SUPPORT

Where do I go if I have questions?

If you have any questions about this survey or need technical support, please email P5FS at info@prenatal5fiscal.org or call/text (202) 780-9078.