



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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News Release

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Frederick County Launches Comprehensive Childcare Initiative to Expand Access and Strengthen Workforce

Collaborative Effort Addresses Growing Need for Quality Childcare

FREDERICK, Md. – To address the critical shortage of quality childcare in Frederick County, the Division of Family Services and Frederick County Workforce Services have partnered to launch a comprehensive Childcare Initiative. This initiative, informed by the recent [Childcare Market Study](#) and [Workforce Engagement Summit](#), aims to expand the local childcare workforce and increase access to reliable, high-quality childcare options for families.

“Every family in Frederick County should have access to reliable, high-quality childcare, and every childcare provider should have the support they need to thrive,” County Executive Jessica Fitzwater said. “This initiative helps families find the care they need and empowers individuals to build rewarding careers in childcare. By investing in our workforce and expanding access to childcare, we’re strengthening our economy and ensuring a brighter future for our entire community.”

Program Highlights

- **Family-Owned Childcare Program** – In partnership with Childcare Choices, this program provides training and resources for individuals interested in opening licensed, family-owned childcare businesses. Participants will receive business development support and childcare-specific training to establish thriving, fully licensed programs.
- **Childcare Certification & Professional Development** – Workforce Services is offering multiple pathways for individuals pursuing careers in childcare:
 - 90-Hour Childcare Certification Program – An in-person course in partnership with Frederick Community College, designed to equip new professionals with the skills needed for a career in childcare.
 - Flexible Online Certification Options – Provided through The Child Care Company, these self-paced 45-hour and 90-hour certification courses are available for new professionals entering the field, along with continuing education courses for current childcare providers looking to enhance their skills and advance their careers.
- **Comprehensive Family Engagement Campaign** – Family Services will partner with Child Care Choices to deliver a multilingual campaign to build family awareness of child care supports, including the [Maryland Child Care Scholarship Program](#) and other resources.

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Through this initiative, up to 70 Frederick County residents will gain access to free training and resources, enabling them to:

- Start and operate a licensed family-owned childcare business.
- Obtain certifications to work in various childcare settings.

Why Pursue a Career in Childcare?

- High Demand – A shortage of licensed childcare providers impacts families and the local economy.
- Career Growth – Numerous opportunities exist for advancement and entrepreneurship.
- Community Impact – Childcare professionals play a vital role in early childhood development and supporting working families.

Participation in these programs is free for eligible individuals, but space is limited. Interested residents are encouraged to apply early. To learn more and submit an application, visit [Frederick County Workforce Services](#) webpage.

By investing in childcare workforce development, Frederick County is strengthening families, supporting economic growth, and fostering a thriving community for all.

Frederick County Workforce Services (FCWS), a department within Frederick County Government's Division of Economic Opportunity, provides high-quality and innovative workforce development services to Frederick County residents and employers. FCWS acts as a conduit between the workforce and the talent needs of local businesses and individuals seeking employment and career opportunities.

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