



Rhode Island Association for the  
Education of Young Children



May 14, 2026

**The RI Association for the Education of Young Children voices its strong support for H-7319 (Diaz), which would eliminate the sunset date on the Child Care for Child Care Educators Program, as well as modify the eligibility requirement to eighty-five (85%) percent of state median and waive any copayment.**

In August 2023, the state launched a Child Care for Child Care Educators pilot program, which is modeled after a successful program in Kentucky, to attract and retain child care educators by making them categorically eligible for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) to reduce the child care costs for working parents in the field. The program has been funded with existing federal funds through an FY24, but the program is now scheduled to end in FY2028 unless the General Assembly removes the sunset date.

As of October 2024, 570 child care educators with 831 children under age 13 were approved to participate in the program. This number has decreased to 368 educators with 558 children as of August 2025. Increasing eligibility and removing copay barriers will hopefully restore participation in this popular program. With her permission, RIAEYC is honored to share Roshana's story to convey the success of this benefit:

*"I am a mom to a smart, outgoing 1-year-old. I recently had the opportunity to allow my son to attend child care because of the Rhode Island Child Care for Child Care educators program... Before the program, my son was staying with a family member because I could not afford the cost of child care myself. I am lucky enough to have some help, but I always hit a crossroads when one of my helpers was sick or couldn't take him. That caused me to call out of work and miss out on pay or use sick time. With the Child Care for Child Care Educators program, I got to send my son to the early learning center where I work and where he has FLOURISHED. I would be DEVASTATED if my son couldn't attend the center anymore if this program ends."*

To Roshana and the hundreds of educators like her, this program is a life-changing success. **Please keep this benefit in place, or Rhode Island risks further destabilizing the early childhood workforce.**

Sincerely,

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