



Town of Chatham

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Frequently Asked Questions Dr. Florence Seldin Family Support Program

How do I know if my child is eligible for the Family Support Program?

- You are a Chatham resident and can provide proof of your residency.
- Your child is either aged 3 or 4 years old by August 31st of the school year and lives with you.
- You can provide a copy of your child's original birth certificate.
- The licensed preschool has agreed to be a vendor.

How much funding is my child eligible to receive?

- Three-year-old children are eligible to a maximum of \$5,000 per year.
- Four-year-old children are eligible to a maximum of \$10,000 per year.

How do I apply for this funding?

- Please complete an application from the Town of Chatham and attach all necessary documentation (If your child is not yet enrolled in a program, select a licensed preschool provider and apply for your child to attend.)

What licensed preschools/childcare centers are eligible under the program?

- Chatham: The Rocking Unicorn
- Harwich: YMCA Cape Cod Harwich, Three Harbors Preschool
- Brewster: The Family School, The Laurel School
- Dennis: Little Stars, Scargo School
- Orleans: The Learning Garden, Meetinghouse Preschool
- Monomoy Integrated Preschool

(This is not an exhaustive list of all licensed preschools in our area. These are suggested options that may be considered by parents and not specific endorsements.)

Is funding based on our finances?

No, it is based on residency, age, and vendor selection. The Town of Chatham wants children to have access to preschool programs just like other school programs. Everyone pays for school via property taxes and not based on income, and this falls under the same concept. The Town supports this program because it supports parents working/being able to work more, which builds our families and local economy and helps cost-burdened parents pay for housing and other necessary costs. This is a subsidy that helps our families and local businesses.

If my child is already in a licensed preschool/childcare program, am I still eligible to apply?

Yes, as long as you meet the eligibility criteria and the vendor is licensed and agrees to be a vendor.

How will the licensed preschool/childcare program be paid?

The Town of Chatham can be billed directly for the service by the provider on a monthly basis, after each month where service was delivered.

Will this money paid by the Town and sent to the licensed preschools/childcare programs be taxable for the parents?

No. Payments go directly to the providers from the Town to pay for the service, like other services the Town provides, so it is neither taxable, nor deductible by parents. (Parents can still deduct any additional payments they make for childcare from their taxes.)

What is the impact of this program?

The goal of our Town is to maintain a vibrant, healthy, and community-oriented year-round community. Neighboring Cape Cod towns have already implemented similar programs and have achieved immediate success. As we look to the future of our Town and its residents, we need to be cognizant of the lack of affordable/attainable housing, rising living costs, and the need to support our young families. This dedication to our young families and children will be further supported by the implementation of this program. It will allow young, working families a greater degree of stability knowing that their children are safe and well cared for while they work via funding and support from their community.