

Expedited Bill No. 23-25  
Concerning: Early Care and Education  
Coordinating Entity  
Revised: 10/16/2025 Draft No. 3  
Introduced: June 17, 2025  
Enacted: November 4, 2025  
Executive: November 14, 2025  
Effective: November 14, 2025  
Sunset Date: None  
Ch. 26, Laws of Mont. Co. 2025

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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Lead Sponsors: Councilmember Alborno and Council Vice President Jawando  
Co-Sponsor: Councilmember Fani-González

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**AN EXPEDITED ACT to:**

- (1) specify the duties of the Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity;
- (2) clarify the membership of the Board of the Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity;
- (3) alter reporting requirements of the Entity; and
- (4) generally amend the law regarding early care and education in the County.

By amending  
Chapter 10A, Child Care.  
Section 10A-12

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Boldface</b>              | <i>Heading or defined term.</i>                            |
| <u>Underlining</u>           | <i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>             |
| [Single boldface brackets]   | <i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>         |
| <u>Double underlining</u>    | <i>Added by amendment.</i>                                 |
| [[Double boldface brackets]] | <i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i> |
| * * *                        | <i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>                    |

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:*

1           **Sec. 1. Section 10A-12 is amended as follows:**

2   **10A-12. Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity.**

3           (a)   *Findings and definitions.*

4           (1)   Early care and education [(ECE)] is an essential service and  
5                   economic imperative for the well-being of children, families,  
6                   employers, and the greater community.

7           (2)   High quality ECE services prepare young children to enter school  
8                   ready to learn and start on a pathway of success in life.

9           (3)   Accessible ECE programs are economic drivers that allow  
10                  parents to participate in the workforce and support the local  
11                  economy. ECE programs play a key role in workforce  
12                  development by attracting and retaining a talented workforce  
13                  through support to families with young children, and by  
14                  addressing the opportunity gap to ensure a future skilled  
15                  workforce by addressing the opportunity gap.

16          (4)   A strong system of high quality, accessible, sustainable ECE is  
17                  needed to support the well-being of children and families in the  
18                  County and eliminate systemic racism and structures that have  
19                  been barriers for vulnerable, racially and ethnically diverse  
20                  populations.

21          (5)   Designating an independent nonprofit entity to work with  
22                  [parents, employers and providers as] key stakeholders will  
23                  ensure community priorities are reflected in [building] a  
24                  collaborative and robust system that supports all residents having  
25                  access to high quality, affordable early care and education.

(6) For purposes of this Section, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(A) ECE means early care and education.

(B) ECE seat means the capacity of an ECE provider to enroll a child in ECE.

(C) ECE stakeholder includes parents, caregivers, guardians, employers, ECE providers, philanthropy, nonprofit and business communities, and the public sector.

(D) Entity means the early care and education coordinating entity under this Section.

(E) Public sector includes the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Recreation, Montgomery County Public Libraries, Montgomery County Public Schools, institutions of higher education, including Montgomery College[,], and the Universities at Shady Grove, and any County board, committee, or commission that advises the County regarding ECE issues.

\* \* \*

(c) *Board of Directors.* To qualify as the County's Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity, the [Corporation's] Entity's Board of Directors must have no more than [[9]] 7 *ex-officio* voting members and 12 other voting members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. Each member must reside or work in the County. Each member appointed from the public sector as an *ex officio* member represents the public interest and is not precluded from participating in a matter as a board member if that member's

government employer is a party to the matter. The Executive should appoint the following *ex officio* voting members:

- (1) a Council staff member with expertise in early childhood education;
- (2) ~~[two]~~ 2 representatives jointly designated by the County Board of Education and the Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools;
- (3) ~~[[3]]~~ 2 representatives of the County Department of Health and Human Services;
- (4) a representative of the Office of Management and Budget; and
- (5) a representative of ~~[[Montgomery College]]~~ an institution of higher education; and
- (6) a representative of the Universities at Shady Grove]].

The Executive should appoint the following voting members:

- (1) 3 parents or guardians with children in childcare and/or pre-kindergarten programs, including 2 ~~[low income]~~ parents or guardians who [[qualify for a government benefit based upon income]] earn no more than the self-sufficiency standard of Montgomery County;
- (2) 2 center based early care and education providers;
- (3) 2 family child care providers;
- (4) 2 representatives of an employer who is not an early childhood education provider;
- (5) a representative of a philanthropic foundation; and

(6) 2 representatives of a nonprofit corporation focused on equity and inclusion, youth development, economic development, or workforce development.

The Board must permit the County Executive, the County Council's Lead for Early Care and Education, and the President of the Montgomery County Board of Education, or a designee of each public official, to attend and participate at each Board meeting without voting. The Executive must strive to achieve Board representation from diverse geographic areas, socio-economic groups, and ethnic groups.

\* \* \*

(i) *Duties.* [In developing an equitable system of high quality, accessible, sustainable early care and education and eliminating systemic racism and structures that created access barriers for vulnerable, racially and ethnically diverse populations, the] ~~[[The]]~~ In developing an equitable system of high quality, accessible, sustainable early care and education and eliminating systemic racism and structures that created access barriers for vulnerable, racially and ethnically diverse populations, the Early Care and Education Coordinating Entity must act as a neutral convener of ECE stakeholders and, in collaboration and consultation with ECE stakeholders:

[(1) develop recommendations for increasing availability of and access to high quality early care and education programs, with particular attention to underrepresented and special populations, including low-income children, families of children with special needs, and English language learners and with a focus on children from birth to 5 years old;]

- 102           [(2) convene and solicit input from all ECE stakeholders to identify  
103           unmet needs and barriers to accessing quality ECE services,  
104           develop common goals and priorities for system expansion and  
105           improvement, and identify opportunities for and barriers to  
106           collaboration and coordination among stakeholder groups. The  
107           Entity must seek advice from the members of the Early  
108           Childhood Coordinating Council while the Entity develops final  
109           recommendations for realigning existing County committees and  
110           advisory groups that provide input into the early care and  
111           education system;]
- 112           [(3) solicit board members through a community-based process  
113           involving parent groups and other advisory bodies. Create and/or  
114           maintain existing advisory bodies to ensure continuing direct  
115           input from a wide range of community perspectives;]
- 116           [(4) engage and educate families and the wider community about the  
117           importance of high-quality early care and education programs  
118           and advocate at the Federal, State, and local level for greater  
119           public and private investment in and improvements to the early  
120           care and education system;]
- 121           [(5) research and facilitate innovative service models and strategies to  
122           improve the early care and education system and identify  
123           community needs through periodic mapping of early care and  
124           education services and resources and County-wide needs  
125           assessments;]

- 126           [(6) secure and administer private-sector funding to support the early  
127           care and education system and manage and administer public  
128           funding that is directly appropriated to the Entity;]
- 129           [(7) measure and report on the efforts to improve and expand the early  
130           care and education system with a focus on achieving tangible  
131           results that improve access to high-quality ECE across the  
132           County;]
- 133           [(8) address current inequities imposing barriers to accessible high  
134           quality, affordable care for all communities; and]
- 135           [(9) create, as a neutral convener, a common early childhood  
136           education agenda based on community consensus that all major  
137           stakeholders commit to and maintain a 360 degree view of all  
138           aspects of the County's early childhood education sector.]
- 139           (1) conduct a County-wide needs assessment for ECE programs;  
140           (2) identify and analyze specific ECE needs through periodic  
141           mapping of ECE services and resources throughout the County;  
142           (3) research and evaluate strategies to strengthen and sustain the ECE  
143           system in the County;  
144           (4) analyze and recommend to the County Executive and County  
145           Council how to increase the quantity of, and equitable access to,  
146           high-quality ECE programs, including for children whose parents  
147           or guardians [[qualify for a government benefit based upon  
148           income]] earn no more than the self-sufficiency standard of  
149           Montgomery County, families of children with special needs, and  
150           English language learners;

- (5) create, publish, and periodically update a comprehensive common ECE agenda based upon the consensus of ECE stakeholders;
- (6) measure outcomes and progress towards the common agenda;
- (7) engage, educate, [[the]] and build public awareness about the importance of high-quality ECE programs;
- (8) advocate at the federal, state, and local [[level]] levels for greater investment in and improvements to the ECE system; [[and]]
- (9) solicit and accept public and private funding to support the work of the Entity under this Section; and
- (10) use funds only as permitted under subsection (k) of this Section.

\* \* \*

(k) *[Direct Services] [[Independent and coordinating role of the entity]] Use of funds by the Entity.* The Entity *[[must not]] [provide direct services or deliver programs for early childhood education] may use funds:*

- (1) [[provide ECE]] from the County if the Department of Health and Human Services, or another County department or office designated by the County Executive, approves the use of funds in accordance with a contract between the County and the Entity; and
- (2) [[award or fund grants]] from an entity other than the County:
  - (A) if the Board, or the Board's designee, determines that the use of funds:
    - (i) aligns with the common ECE agenda established under subsection (i)(5) of this Section; and



(ii) addresses ECE systems-level change; and

(B) in accordance with any legal terms and conditions placed upon the use of the funds

[(3) enter into a contract with an ECE provider;

(4) provide goods or services to an ECE provider; or

(5) fund ECE seats or the provision of ECE to individuals]].

(l) *Reports.*

(1) The Board of Directors must report annually on the activities and finances of the Entity and provide an audited financial statement of the Entity to the Executive and Council by October 1 of each year. The report must include:

(A) the Entity's plan to solicit and receive additional public and private funding for its operations;

(B) [outcomes] an analysis of available data that measures the progress of early care and education system improvements, including changes in:

(i) the level of public and private investment in the ECE system;

(ii) the availability and use of [early care and education] ECE seats in the County as a whole and disaggregated for isolated and vulnerable populations;

(iii) the provision of ECE seats by private employers;  
and

[(iii)] (iv) school readiness (including academic, physical, and social emotional competencies) rates

broken out by total population, race/ethnicity,  
income categories, and special education status;  
[and]

(C) advocacy and outreach efforts and outcomes for the prior  
year; and

(D) recommendations for developing an equitable system of  
high quality, accessible, sustainable early care and  
education.

(2) The Entity must make [public data sets] available on [the  
internet] its website the Entity's assessments and  
recommendations, the common ECE agenda, community  
mapping, data on outcomes, and links to public data sets, to  
improve public knowledge of the Entity and its operations,  
further its mission, [or] and increase [its] the accountability and  
responsiveness of the ECE system.


(3) The Entity must provide the Executive and Council, upon  
request, all non-confidential data produced and received by the  
Entity, including research, data related to the delivery of early  
care and education services, and minutes of Board meetings.

\* \* \*

**Sec. 2. Effective Date.** The Council declares that this legislation is necessary  
for the immediate protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on the date  
on which it becomes law.

**Sec. 3. Transition.** This Act must not affect any contract or grant executed on  
or before the effective date of this Act. This Act must not affect the term of any  
Board member that began before the effective date of this Act.

*Approved:*

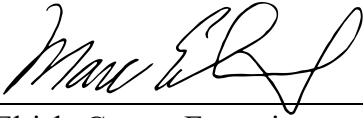


November 4, 2025

Kate Stewart, President, County Council

Date

*Approved:*



November 14, 2025

Marc Elrich, County Executive

Date

*This is a correct copy of Council action.*



November 14, 2025

Sara R. Tenenbaum, Clerk of the Council

Date