

Universal Preschool Colorado

Provider Updates November 2023



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Topics

- Payments
 - Allowable uses of Universal Preschool Funds
- Walk-in Enrollment
- Qualifying Factors & Additional Hours Awards
- Provider Resources
- Emergency Rule
- Quality Standards



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Payments



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Payments

- [Participating Provider Resources](#)
- Universal Preschool payments will be made monthly based on a child's Universal Preschool status on a specified date the month leading up to the payment, as defined in the payment schedule.

Payment Schedule	
Payment Date	Includes enrollments as of...
August 1, 2023	July 9
September 8, 2023	August 15 <u>and</u> late enrollments from July 10- Aug 15 (full-month rate)*
October 6, 2023	September 15 <u>and</u> late enrollments from August 16-25 (half-month rate)
November 8, 2023	October 15 <u>and</u> late enrollments from September 16-25 (half-month rate)
December 8, 2023	November 15 <u>and</u> late enrollments from October 16-25 (half-month rate)
January 8, 2024	December 15
February 8, 2024	January 15
March 8, 2024	February 15
April 8, 2024	March 15
May 8, 2023	April 15

- Payments are based on enrollment the prior month, but are meant to be applied to the month they are received on.



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Payments -Scenarios

Q: I have a student who enrolled on October 16th. When will I expect to receive this payment?

- A: The payments for late enrollments will not be included in the next immediate payment but are delayed by two months. For this student you will receive a payment for the ½ month rate on December 8th. October was the last month to receive a ½ month rate for late enrollments.

Q: What do I do if I believe I have not received payment for a student who is attending my program?

- A: Ensure that you have enrolled the student in the provider portal and cross-reference their enrollment date with the [payment schedule](#). If you have verified their enrollment date with the payment schedule and believe you have missed a payment contact your LCO to determine next steps.

Q: When will I get paid for my students who are Enrolled in my program in October?

- A: You will get a full months' payment for students Enrolled (as of Oct. 15th) on November 8th. If a student enrolls between Oct. 16-25 you will receive a half month payment in December.
- The November payment is based on children in enrolled status.

Reminder: Please ensure you are selecting accurate start dates and verifying date of birth (aligning with the district cut-off date) when completing your enrollment form. This ensures accurate payment and that students are in the correct program based on their age. 3 Year Olds should not be in 4 Year Old Programs.



Allowable Uses of Funds

Pursuant to section 26.5-4-208(5), a preschool provider that receives any amount of Universal Preschool funding distributed by CDEC shall use the money only to pay the costs of providing preschool services directly to eligible children enrolled by the preschool provider or by a subcontracted preschool provider.

Universal Preschool dollars can be used to cover the following general education and special education costs:

- Teacher and paraprofessional salaries and benefits;
- The cost of providing to teachers and paraprofessionals any professional development activities associated with the preschool services;
- The costs incurred in purchasing supplies and materials used in providing the preschool services;
- Any additional costs that a preschool provider would not have incurred but for the services provided in conjunction with the preschool services; and
- A reasonable allocation of overhead costs.

Universal Preschool dollars cannot be used for K-12 expenses. Any underspend must be held in reserve for the Universal Preschool program / preschool services and coded as such.



Walk-in Enrollment



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Walk-in Enrollment Process

The last matching round for program year 2023-24 is on
Monday, November 6

After that - all new enrollments will follow the walk-in enrollment process

- Provider supports the family who walked in to complete Universal Preschool application
- Provider informs LCO of placement
- LCO “Accepts” match on behalf of the family
- LCO notifies provider
- Provider completes the enrollment form



Qualifying Factors & Additional Hours Awards



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Qualifying Factors

- Based on available funding for the 2023-24 school year and the Colorado law creating Universal Preschool, families of four-year-olds / children in the year before kindergarten eligibility, who are low income **AND** have one other qualifying factor are eligible for additional hours or full day (30 hours/week) funding.
- Some school districts offer programs for three-year-olds/children two years before kindergarten eligibility. These children are eligible to receive 10 hours per week of Universal Preschool funding if they have at least one of the qualifying factors listed below.

Qualifying factors include:

Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Homelessness

Dual language learner

Foster/Kinship care

Income



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Additional Hours Awards

Additional hours are continuing to be awarded at this time. Additional hours are awarded monthly based on availability of funding.

Providers can tell if a student has been awarded additional hours in two ways

1. Downloaded enrollment report. In the column titled “Awarded Additional Hours” a “Yes” indicates a student has been awarded additional hours.
2. Each months payfile shows students who were awarded additional hours.

*If families need to add qualifying factors to their application after it has been submitted they can contact their [Local Coordinating Organization \(LCO\)](#) to unlock their application and make the necessary changes.



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Provider Resources



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CDEC Website Participating Providers

Universal Preschool Provider Information



We're excited to have providers participate in Universal Preschool Colorado. Providers will participate once they have registered and created a profile within the Universal Preschool Colorado application system.

We hope this helps providers always be at their desired capacity, more easily communicate with families, and represent their businesses to a wider audience.

Providers must be [licensed](#) to provide services for preschoolers and must sign a [provider service agreement](#). Speak with your LCO to begin your registration process.

Provider Login

Log in using your email address associated with the licensing system.

If you have issues, please contact your Local Coordinating Organization (LCO).

[Participating Provider Guidance](#)

Includes information on:

- Provider Payments
- Qualifying Factors
- Multi-age Settings & Seat Flexibility
- Special Education/IEPs
- Funding
- Application & Matching Process

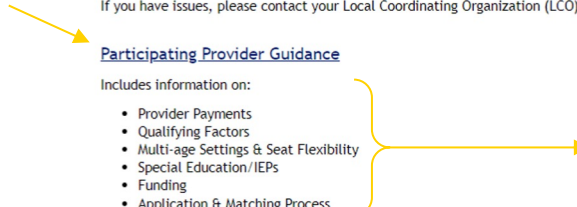
Additional Resources:

[Provider Guide](#)

[Provider Training Video](#)

The screenshot displays a 'Files' section with a grid of document thumbnails. The thumbnails are titled: 'Applications and M...', 'Funding', 'IEPs and Special Ed...', 'Multi-Age Settings ...', 'Payment Schedule ...', 'Provider Payments', and 'Qualifying Factors'. Each thumbnail features the Universal Preschool logo and a preview of the document's content. At the bottom right of the page, there are two logos: the Colorado Department of Early Childhood logo (a stylized mountain and sun) and the CDEC logo (a globe with figures). To the right of these logos is the text 'COLORADO Department of Early Childhood'.

Click here!



Emergency Rule



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Emergency Rule “Children In Poverty”

- Proposing to establish a new qualifying factor for "children in poverty," which is identified at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG)
- If approved, implemented in year two of the program
- Expands the eligibility of children experiencing poverty to receive additional preschool services (hours), and is intended to increase equity and provide additional support to uplift Colorado’s most vulnerable populations.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Please [submit written comments](#) on the draft UPK Qualifying Factors rule ([Redlined Draft](#) | [Clean Draft](#)) by Wednesday, November 22, 2023.



Emergency Rule “Children In Poverty”

NEXT STEPS

CDEC will review and consider all public feedback received, and incorporate the recommendations into the draft UPK Qualifying Factors rule. The Draft UPK Qualifying Factors rule is expected to be reviewed by the Rules Advisory Council (RAC) and adopted on an emergency basis in January 2024, followed by permanent adoption in February 2024.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED

All rulemaking material received and collected including all written comments, and revisions of the draft UPK Qualifying Factors rule, will be publicly accessible and stored in the [UPK Qualifying Factors Public Folder](#). Please review the [CDEC Rule Tracker](#), located on the [Rulemaking and Rules Advisory Council's \(RAC\) webpage](#), for more detailed information regarding the rulemaking timeline for the proposed UPK Qualifying Factors rule.



Quality Standards



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Quality Standards

- [Developmental Concepts for UPK Quality Standards](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
 - [Webinar Recording](#) | [Webinar Slides](#) (from Sept. 2023)
 - [Quality Standards Crosswalks](#)
 - [Preliminary Stakeholder Input Report](#)
 - [Operational Memo on Quality Standards in 2023-24 Program Year](#)
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- Request for Comments: Please [submit written comments](#) on the draft UPK Quality Standards rules ([Redline Draft](#) | [Clean Draft](#)) by **Wednesday, November 22, 2023**.
 - Stakeholder Meeting: November 13, 2023, at 3:00 - 4:00 pm. [Please register to attend the UPK Quality Standards webinar here](#)

As a reminder, all of the above documents, and any future relevant material including the draft rule package once it is available, are posted in the [UPK Quality Standards Public Folder](#). You can also review the [CDEC Rule Tracker](#), located on the [Rulemaking and Rules Advisory Council's \(RAC\) webpage](#), for more detailed information regarding the rulemaking timeline for the proposed UPK Quality Standards rules.



A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a purple shirt and a necklace, is sitting at a table in a classroom, reading a large, colorful book. Several young children are sitting around the table, looking at the book. The classroom background shows shelves with books and a clock on the wall. The text "THANK YOU. Questions?" is overlaid on the image in white and yellow. The word "THANK YOU." is in white, and "Questions?" is in yellow. The text is framed by white L-shaped brackets.

THANK YOU.
Questions?



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