

Briefing Note on the Community Employment Childcare (CEC) Programme

Eligibility criteria for Community Employment:

A CE Applicant who needs childcare in order to take up a place on a CE scheme is eligible for a CE childcare place.

Please note: where a child/children of a CE Participant is participating in ECCE during the same time as the CE Programme (i.e. morning or afternoon), that child cannot transfer to a CE childcare place. However if a parent is participating on CE on an alternative time of day to the child's ECCE programme the parent can also avail of CE childcare for the time of day they are participating on CE.

Further detail in relation to how Community Employment childcare places will be managed is set out below:

1. Childcare Places will be allocated to children up to 13 years of age;
2. There will be 1,200 part-time places available for CE participants with children up to 5 years of age (as CE is a part-time programme), and 800 places available for CE participants with children who require after-school childcare;
3. The Parent contribution is €15 per week and the state contribution is €80 per week for part-time childcare;
4. In the case of after-school Childcare the parent contribution is the same at €15 and the state contribution is €40 per week;

Type of Childcare	Places Available	State Contribution	Parental Contribution
CE Childcare (part-time)	1,200	€80	€15
CE After-School Childcare	800	€40	€15

5. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis;
6. Funding will be ring-fenced within the overall Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) Programmes budget for CE participants;
7. CE participants in receipt of the One Parent Family Payment (OFP) prior to commencement on CE will be particularly welcome to take up a childcare place;
8. Places will be open to existing participants as well as new entrants;
9. Places will be approved for 50 weeks in a 12 month period for CE participants. A parent can re-apply for a CE childcare place after the 50 week period comes to an end, and a place will be approved subject to demand and availability;
10. Places will also be approved for the summer holiday period (10 weeks) only;
11. There is no provision for a participant to continue to access a childcare place if they are absent from CE for a prolonged period. (Refer to the CE Operating Procedures for information on sick leave, the same conditions will apply);
12. Early exits from CE will be notified to the Childcare Provider by the Sponsor.

1.0 The Process for securing a Childcare Place on Community Employment

There are two processes outlined below for securing a childcare place on Community Employment. The first process is for new entrants and the second process is for existing participants.

New Entrants:

1. The County Childcare Committees (CCCs) circulate a list of Childcare Providers to all Schemes.
2. All recruitment onto CE is through Intreo/Employment Services Offices.
3. Following the referral process when a Sponsor offers a CE position to an applicant who has been successful at the interview stage, the Sponsor will advise the applicant of the CE Childcare (CEC) programme and give the applicant a list of Childcare Providers participating in the CEC programme.
4. The successful applicant contacts a childcare provider to book a CEC place, using the letter of offer of a CE place to do this.
5. Once the applicant starts on CE the Sponsor will give the applicant a letter stating they are participating on CE with the start date and end date of the programme.
6. The participant brings this letter to the childcare provider to confirm the take-up of the CEC place.
7. The Sponsor will keep a record of the allocation of CEC places on their Scheme.

Existing CE Participants:

1. The County Childcare Committees (CCCs) circulate a list of Childcare Providers to all Schemes.
2. The Sponsor will notify existing participants of the CEC programme.
3. Participants will self-declare their interest, based on the CEC criteria.
4. The Sponsor will give participants a list of Childcare Providers participating in the CEC Programme.
5. The Sponsor will give participants a letter stating they are participating on CE and the start date and end date of the programme.
6. The participant contacts a childcare provider to book a CEC place and gives the providers the letter from the Sponsor to confirm they are participating on CE.
7. The Childcare Provider accepts the letter and the participant takes up a CEC place.
8. The Sponsor will keep a record of the allocation of CEC places on their Scheme.