

UMass sponsored child care subsidies for student parents

If you are a UMass student caring for a child and need help with expenses for paid child care (including daycare, before/after school, school vacation care, and summer care) you should consider applying for a child care subsidy. UMass Amherst students can apply for subsidies through three different child care subsidy programs - GEO, GSS and SPP.

The [Graduate Employee Organization \(GEO\) child care subsidy program](#) provides subsidies for school-age dependent care to income eligible UMass graduate student employees working in a GEO-eligible position. The GEO subsidy is administered by the UAW/UMass Health & Welfare Trust Fund.

The [Graduate Student Senate \(GSS\) subsidy program](#) provides subsidies to income eligible graduate students with children under age 12. On-line graduate program and continuing education graduate students are not eligible for GSS subsidies. The GSS subsidy is unique in that some funds are set aside for licensed, documented child care expenses and some are set aside as grants to support low income graduate student parents regardless of child care arrangements.

The [Student Parent Programs \(SPP\) CCAMPIS subsidy program](#) provides subsidies for child care to income eligible undergraduate and graduate students (including in-state undergraduate students enrolled in the University Without Walls degree completion program.) The CCAMPIS subsidy program is unique in that once you are accepted into the program, funding can continue with you while you complete your degree, so long as your eligibility does not change. In addition, the program pairs you with a dedicated staff member to connect you with additional resources and support to help you focus on your educational goals.

See links for:

- [GSS distribution policy](#) with more information about GSS income limits and the formula used to determine GSS subsidy awards.
- [GEO child care subsidy presentation](#) with more information about the GEO subsidy, how to apply and how to estimate the amount you may qualify for.

Visit the Student Parent Programs [webpage](http://umass.edu/studentparent) (umass.edu/studentparent) for more information about the SPP CCAMPIS Program and links to the SPP online undergraduate and graduate student child care subsidy applications.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a child care subsidy?

A child care subsidy is funding for student parents to help pay for eligible child care expenses. It is not a loan - student parents who are approved for funding will either receive money directly as a reimbursement for a portion of documented expenses or payment will be made directly to your child care provider. The method depends upon which subsidy program you are receiving funding from. The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) and the Graduate Employee Organization (GEO) subsidy programs reimburse students directly. Student Parent Programs' CCAMPIS subsidies are generally paid directly to the child care provider through monthly invoices.

How do I know if I am eligible for a child care subsidy?

Eligibility criteria are specific to each subsidy program but all have criteria based on income - we try to give the highest possible reimbursements to applicants who fall in the lowest income levels. All three subsidy programs (with the exception of the GSS portion that is distributed as a family grant) also require documentation of child care expenses and require that the child care provider is licensed or accredited. You can review the attached documents for specific income criteria for GSS and GEO awards - SPP income eligibility is the same as Pell grant income eligibility. If you need help with child care expenses, it's worth applying for a subsidy to see if you qualify.

Which subsidy program should I apply for?

If you are a graduate student and have a GEO eligible position, you should apply to all three subsidy programs. The SPP CCAMPIS awards are made first, so if you do not receive a CCAMPIS subsidy you may still be eligible for GSS and GEO subsidies. You may receive a subsidy via GSS for a portion of your expenses and another from GEO for a portion of the remaining expenses not covered by GSS. If you are a graduate student but not in a GEO eligible position, you will apply to CCAMPIS and GSS subsidy programs.

If you are an undergraduate student, you will apply to the Student Parent Programs subsidy program - it is the only option for undergraduate student parents.

Which expenses will a child care subsidy cover?

All three subsidy programs can cover the costs for daycare, before or after school care, school vacation care from a licensed or accredited provider.* Documentation of expenses is required. GEO can reimburse for summer child care programs, including summer camp. CCAMPIS subsidizes summer child care on a limited basis and only for students who received an award during the academic year.

For more information about the child care subsidies, contact Student Parent Programs at (413) 577-1005.

**The GEO definition of eligible care may be expanding due to COVID-19 for Fall 2020-check the website for updates.*