For 2018 new tax changes: 1) child tax credit, 2) dependent care credit/deduction, 3) dependent care FSA (through employer). Do I have to choose one of these only?

- 1) Child Tax Credit: \$2000 for each child under the age of 17 as of December 31st.
- 2) Child & Dependent Care Credit: <u>Deducting Daycare & Summer Camps Child & Dependent Care Credit</u> The amount of the credit is based on whether you have expenses above and beyond any FSA amounts that were designated for dependent care.
- 3) Employer FSA Dependent Care Benefits: Plan the Dependent Care FSA account based on how much you plan to spend in the upcoming year on child or adult care expenses. You can contribute to up to a maximum of:
 - \$2,500 per year if you are married and file a separate tax return
 - \$5,000 per year if you are married and file a joint tax return or if you file as single or head of household

Your maximum contribution may not exceed these earned income limitations:

- If you are single, the earned income limitation is your salary, excluding contributions to your Dependent Care FSA
- If you are married, the earned income limitation is the lesser of your salary, excluding contributions to your Dependent Care FSA, or your spouse's salary

* IRS annual contribution limit for 2018.

No you do not have to choose one or the other, if you qualify you are eligible for all three.