

**Wisconsin Shares  
Child Care Subsidy Program for Working Families**

**A FACT SHEET FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND PARENTS**



**TOP THREE FACTS**

A printed **Child Care Authorization** is the **only** valid agreement from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) that the provider will be paid. It describes the dates for which care will be paid, the **maximum** number of hours authorized, and the payment amount. Providers who accept children without a valid Authorization have no guarantee they will receive payment from the Child Care Subsidy Program.

A correctly completed **Child Care Attendance Report** submitted to the county/tribal child care unit or **attendance entered via the Internet (CCPI)** are the only ways to receive payment. Payment will not begin until the children have actually attended the center or home.

The local county/tribal child care unit, usually part of the Department of Human Services can provide more facts and answer questions. They should be contacted in regard to specific questions about Authorizations, Attendance Reports, and payment amounts.



**CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM BASICS**

Wisconsin's Child Care Subsidy program helps families pay for child care.

**Who's Eligible?**

All low-income working families, including families in W-2 approved activities, with gross income at or below 185% of poverty may be eligible. Once found eligible, the family may continue to receive assistance until their income exceeds 200% of poverty as long as the parent continues to participate in an approved activity. **NOTE:** The state law does not allow payments to a child care provider who resides with the child receiving subsidy.

**How Much Is the Subsidy Payment?**

The amount of Child Care Subsidy depends on the maximum reimbursement rate in each county/tribe. Payment to providers is determined by the reimbursement rate minus the parent share ("system deducted co-payment"). The system deducts a co-payment based on the family's income, number of children in subsidized care.

**Licensed providers:** When calculating the authorized amount, the system looks at county/tribal maximum rate and the private-pay rate the provider charges. The system chooses the lower of the two. After that the copay is deducted. The result is the authorized amount that will be paid to the provider.

**Certified providers:** No private-pay rates are collected for certified providers. The system deducts the copay from the agency maximum hourly rate.

Copays are listed at <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/wishares/default.htm>. Link is under "Key Links" on the right.

**Where Do Parents Get the Subsidy?**

Application for the Child Care Subsidy is a two-step process: 1) eligibility determination and 2) authorization of child care. In most counties/tribes, parents apply for child care subsidy at the county/tribal Human Services Department.



**HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS FOR PROVIDERS**

**How Are Providers Chosen?**

Providers are selected by parents. Parents who use the Child Care Subsidy program must select regulated providers (licensed by the state, certified by the county/tribe, or operated by a public school board). If a parent chooses a relative or friend who isn't regulated, the person may become certified by the local county or tribal child care certifier. Parents can find out about providers and how to choose care from their local Child Care Resource and Referral agency

## Child Care Subsidy Program - A FACT SHEET FOR PROVIDERS AND PARENTS

### Who Pays the Provider? How Do Providers Know They'll Be Paid?

The Subsidy is paid to the child care provider by the state. The payments are generally made through Electronic Fund(s) Transfer (EFT) directly to the provider's bank account, or in some cases by a check mailed to the provider. Payment is made **only** if there is an **Authorization** issued by a local county or tribal child care unit and an **Attendance Report** has been completed by the child care provider, and submitted back to the child care agency, or the attendance is reported via the Internet/CCPI. Payment(s) can be made only to a regulated child care provider, or to a program run by a public school. Payment cannot be made if a license or certificate has not yet been issued or if it was suspended or revoked at the time service was provided.

### How Do Providers Bill for Payment?

Providers receive pre-printed Attendance Report forms in the mail for each authorized child for each 2-week attendance period. The provider records the **actual** hours of care provided each day during the period, along with the weekly totals, and returns the report to the tribal/county agency, or enters the attendance via the Internet/CCPI. Payments are usually issued within 15 working days after the Attendance Report is received by the local agency. Information about the web attendance reporting can be found at <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/ccpi/default.htm>



## RATES AND COPAYMENTS

### Does the Child Care Subsidy Program Pay the Full Fee Charged by the Provider?

For most providers, the Child Care Subsidy plus the parent co-payment equals the provider's full fee. Payments are based on the agency maximum rate or the provider's regular fee, whichever is less.

### How Much Will Providers Be Paid?

When parents enroll their child with a center or family child care home, and are eligible for child care assistance, an Authorization is sent to both the parent and the provider. The Authorization shows the Subsidy amount which will be paid to the provider. Any additional payment owed to the provider, including the parents' system-calculated co-payment and provider fees in excess of the maximum rate, is the responsibility of the parent.

### How Do County/Tribal Rates for the Child Care Subsidy Program Work?

The maximum rates are established based on information received in an annual survey of licensed providers. Providers report their regular weekly fees (the fees charged to private-paying families). Maximums are set at the 75th percentile (the cost at which 75% of the slots can be purchased). There are 4 age categories:

Birth through age 1 Age	4 through age 5 (5 yrs and 11 months)
Age 2 through 3 (3 years and 11 Months)	Age 6 years and older

Regular certified care rates are 75% of licensed family; provisionally certified rates are 50% of licensed family. The county/tribal maximum is raised by 10% for accredited care. Current Child Care Rates are posted at: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/childcare/wishares/rates.htm>.

A special rate may be negotiated for a child who needs services beyond those normally provided, such as a child with an extreme medical condition.

### Are Providers Paid When Children Are Absent?

There are two ways of authorizing payment: **enrollment** or **attendance**. Using **enrollment**, payment is a set weekly amount for the time the child is approved. Using **attendance**, payment is for the time the child attends, up to the maximum time stated in the authorization. The enrollment method is used for most licensed care. The attendance method is used for all certified care and when the need for licensed care varies greatly from week to week.

### How Much Does the Parent Pay?

The parent pays the difference between the authorized amount and amount the provider charges private-pay parents.

### Who Collects the Parent Share?

The provider collects parent payments. In general, collection should follow the provider's established policies. Some local agencies may want to be informed when parents fail to make co-payments. However, local agencies and the state are not required to take any action when co-payments are not paid.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access this information in an alternate format, or need it translated to another language, contact the Bureau of Quality Improvement at (608) 266-9314 (general) or (888) 692-1382 (TTY). For civil rights questions call (608) 266-5335 or (866) 864-4585 (TTY).

# Child Care Co-Payment Schedule for Licensed and Certified Care

Look down the column of the appropriate family size until you find the gross family monthly income level at or just below the family income. Look to the right to find the appropriate co-payment by family size.

	Gross Monthly Family Income										WEEKLY CO-PAY AMOUNT									
	FAMILY SIZE										CHILDREN IN SUBSIDIZED CARE:									
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 or more		1	2	3	4	5 or more					
70% FPL	\$950	\$1,068	\$1,286	\$1,504	\$1,723	\$1,941	\$2,159	\$2,377	\$2,595		6	10	15	19	25					
75% FPL	\$911	\$1,144	\$1,378	\$1,612	\$1,846	\$2,079	\$2,313	\$2,547	\$2,781		6	13	18	24	29					
80% FPL	\$871	\$1,221	\$1,470	\$1,719	\$1,969	\$2,218	\$2,467	\$2,717	\$2,966		8	14	20	26	32					
85% FPL	\$1,032	\$1,297	\$1,562	\$1,827	\$2,092	\$2,357	\$2,622	\$2,886	\$3,151		12	18	24	29	38					
90% FPL	\$1,093	\$1,373	\$1,654	\$1,934	\$2,215	\$2,495	\$2,776	\$3,056	\$3,337		14	22	29	36	43					
95% FPL	\$1,153	\$1,450	\$1,746	\$2,042	\$2,338	\$2,634	\$2,930	\$3,226	\$3,522		16	26	35	43	50					
100% FPL	\$1,214	\$1,526	\$1,838	\$2,149	\$2,461	\$2,773	\$3,084	\$3,396	\$3,708		20	29	38	48	55					
105% FPL	\$1,275	\$1,602	\$1,928	\$2,257	\$2,584	\$2,911	\$3,238	\$3,566	\$3,893		23	32	42	50	59					
110% FPL	\$1,336	\$1,678	\$2,021	\$2,364	\$2,707	\$3,050	\$3,393	\$3,735	\$4,078		26	36	43	53	61					
115% FPL	\$1,396	\$1,755	\$2,113	\$2,472	\$2,830	\$3,188	\$3,547	\$3,905	\$4,264		29	37	47	56	64					
120% FPL	\$1,457	\$1,831	\$2,205	\$2,579	\$2,953	\$3,327	\$3,701	\$4,075	\$4,449		32	42	50	58	68					
125% FPL	\$1,518	\$1,907	\$2,297	\$2,686	\$3,076	\$3,466	\$3,855	\$4,245	\$4,634		36	45	53	63	73					
130% FPL	\$1,578	\$1,984	\$2,389	\$2,794	\$3,199	\$3,604	\$4,009	\$4,415	\$4,820		37	49	59	69	80					
135% FPL	\$1,639	\$2,060	\$2,481	\$2,901	\$3,322	\$3,743	\$4,164	\$4,584	\$5,005		41	53	64	75	87					
140% FPL	\$1,700	\$2,136	\$2,573	\$3,009	\$3,445	\$3,882	\$4,318	\$4,754	\$5,191		43	56	68	79	92					
145% FPL	\$1,761	\$2,212	\$2,664	\$3,116	\$3,568	\$4,020	\$4,472	\$4,924	\$5,376		47	59	69	82	94					
150% FPL	\$1,821	\$2,288	\$2,756	\$3,224	\$3,691	\$4,159	\$4,626	\$5,094	\$5,561		50	61	74	85	98					
155% FPL	\$1,882	\$2,365	\$2,846	\$3,331	\$3,814	\$4,297	\$4,780	\$5,264	\$5,747		52	64	76	88	100					
160% FPL	\$1,943	\$2,441	\$2,940	\$3,439	\$3,937	\$4,436	\$4,935	\$5,433	\$5,932		56	68	79	92	104					
165% FPL	\$2,003	\$2,518	\$3,032	\$3,546	\$4,060	\$4,575	\$5,089	\$5,603	\$6,117		57	70	82	93	106					
170% FPL	\$2,064	\$2,594	\$3,124	\$3,654	\$4,183	\$4,713	\$5,243	\$5,773	\$6,303		58	74	85	98	109					
175% FPL	\$2,125	\$2,670	\$3,216	\$3,761	\$4,306	\$4,852	\$5,397	\$5,943	\$6,488		60	75	88	101	111					
180% FPL	\$2,186	\$2,747	\$3,308	\$3,869	\$4,430	\$4,991	\$5,552	\$6,113	\$6,674		62	78	92	104	114					
185% FPL	\$2,246	\$2,823	\$3,399	\$3,976	\$4,553	\$5,129	\$5,706	\$6,282	\$6,859		64	80	94	106	118					
190% FPL	\$2,307	\$2,899	\$3,491	\$4,083	\$4,676	\$5,268	\$5,860	\$6,452	\$7,044		65	82	96	108	120					
195% FPL	\$2,368	\$2,975	\$3,583	\$4,191	\$4,799	\$5,406	\$6,014	\$6,622	\$7,230		68	85	100	111	124					
200% FPL	\$2,428	\$3,052	\$3,675	\$4,298	\$4,922	\$5,545	\$6,168	\$6,792	\$7,415		69	86	103	114	126					

NOTE: The copayment rate for teen parents who are not Learning participants is minimum copay and is found by selecting the lowest income line (70% FPL) and then finding the copayment listed for the appropriate number of children. Parents who have left a W-2 employment position for unsubsidized work also qualify for the minimum copay for one month. Families with children who are authorized for 20 hours or less are subject to one half of their share of the family copay listed above for those children. No copay is required for parents who participate in Learning or Food Stamp Employment and Training. Foster parents do not have a copayment responsibility for the foster children in their care. Kinship care relatives caring for a child under a court order do not have a copayment responsibility. Kinship care relatives caring for a child without a court order pay the minimum copay, unless they are receiving a child care subsidy for another child who is subject to a copayment greater than the minimum copay.

**Table 11**  
**The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Madison, WI MSA, 2004**  
**Dane County**

Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + infant	Adult + infant preschooler	Adult + preschooler schoolage	Adult + schoolage teenager	Adult + infant preschooler schoolage	2 Adults + infant preschooler	2 Adults + preschooler schoolage
Housing	592	716	716	716	716	993	716	716
Child Care	0	867	1696	1314	485	2181	1696	1314
Food	182	266	358	411	473	481	515	565
Transportation	200	205	205	205	205	205	393	393
Health Care	96	204	210	220	244	228	251	261
Miscellaneous	107	226	318	287	212	409	357	325
Taxes	126	609	957	800	403	1393	968	811
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	0	0	0	-92	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-60	-100	-100	-68	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-155	-250	-167	-167
Self-Sufficiency Wage -Hourly	\$7.40	\$16.75	\$23.83	\$20.95	\$13.77	\$31.48	\$13.15 per adult	\$11.70 per adult
-Monthly	\$1,303	\$2,948	\$4,193	\$3,686	\$2,424	\$5,540	\$4,629	\$4,120
-Annual	\$15,633	\$35,379	\$50,321	\$44,237	\$29,084	\$66,484	\$55,552	\$49,434

**Table 12**  
**The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Milwaukee-Waukesha, WI PMSA, 2004**  
**Milwaukee County**

Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + infant	Adult + infant preschooler	Adult + preschooler schoolage	Adult + schoolage teenager	Adult + infant preschooler schoolage	2 Adults + infant preschooler	2 Adults + preschooler schoolage
Housing	523	658	658	658	658	824	658	658
Child Care	0	816	1567	1212	461	2028	1567	1212
Food	182	266	358	411	473	481	515	565
Transportation	214	219	219	219	219	219	422	422
Health Care	110	241	248	258	281	265	289	299
Miscellaneous	103	220	305	276	209	382	345	316
Taxes	121	582	893	747	389	1207	912	768
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	0	0	0	-106	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-63	-100	-105	-70	-100	-100	-100
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-167	-149	-250	-167	-167
Self-Sufficiency Wage -Hourly	\$7.12	\$16.23	\$22.62	\$19.93	\$13.44	\$28.73	\$12.62 per adult	\$11.28 per adult
-Monthly	\$1,253	\$2,857	\$3,981	\$3,508	\$2,365	\$5,056	\$4,441	\$3,972
-Annual	\$15,035	\$34,281	\$47,777	\$42,102	\$28,382	\$60,668	\$53,290	\$47,667

**Table 37**  
**The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Green County, WI, 2004**

Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + infant	Adult + infant preschooler	Adult + preschooler schoolage	Adult + schoolage teenager	Adult + infant preschooler schoolage	2 Adults + infant preschooler	2 Adults + preschooler schoolage
Housing	343	437	437	437	437	587	437	437
Child Care	0	542	1180	918	279	1459	1180	918
Food	182	266	358	411	473	481	515	565
Transportation	202	208	208	208	208	208	399	399
Health Care	89	184	191	201	224	209	232	242
Miscellaneous	82	164	237	217	162	294	276	256
Taxes	83	278	555	428	146	751	578	475
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-109	0	-85	-305	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-72	-125	-124	-19	-100	-110	-120
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-158	-66	-250	-167	-167
Self-Sufficiency Wage -Hourly	\$5.58	\$10.30	\$16.33	\$13.93	\$8.75	\$20.68	\$9.49 per adult	\$8.54 per adult
-Monthly	\$981	\$1,814	\$2,875	\$2,452	\$1,539	\$3,639	\$3,340	\$3,005
-Annual	\$11,774	\$21,763	\$34,496	\$29,424	\$18,471	\$43,669	\$40,080	\$36,056

**Table 38**  
**The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Green Lake County, WI, 2004**

Monthly Costs	Adult	Adult + infant	Adult + infant preschooler	Adult + preschooler schoolage	Adult + schoolage teenager	Adult + infant preschooler schoolage	2 Adults + infant preschooler	2 Adults + preschooler schoolage
Housing	343	437	437	437	437	556	437	437
Child Care	0	563	1095	824	292	1387	1095	824
Food	182	266	358	411	473	481	515	565
Transportation	202	208	208	208	208	208	399	399
Health Care	89	184	191	201	224	209	232	242
Miscellaneous	82	166	229	208	163	284	268	247
Taxes	83	287	499	390	135	699	534	456
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	0	-104	-28	-119	-304	0	0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	0	-76	-130	-103	-20	-105	-115	-109
Child Tax Credit (-)	0	-83	-167	-144	-67	-250	-167	-167
Self-Sufficiency Wage -Hourly	\$5.58	\$10.50	\$15.29	\$13.14	\$8.77	\$19.71	\$9.08 per adult	\$8.22 per adult
-Monthly	\$981	\$1,848	\$2,691	\$2,312	\$1,543	\$3,468	\$3,197	\$2,894
-Annual	\$11,774	\$22,179	\$32,293	\$27,745	\$18,516	\$41,622	\$38,370	\$34,732

