



Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development
Community Development Division

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MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY OF MADISON ACCREDITED PROGRAMS
FROM: JOLENE IBELING, CHILD CARE COORDINATOR
SUBJECT: CHANGES TO THE CITY OF MADISON CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
DATE: 2/23/2012
CC: VARINIA DEL MORAL-SMITH

This is notification regarding policy changes to the City of Madison Child Care Assistance Program.

The Office of Community Services estimates that Child Care Assistance will be nearly \$200,000 over budget by the end of 2009. This projection is due to the City's over-commitment to families at the close of 2008 and increases in the financial support to families in response to employers instituting reductions in work hours, reduction in wages, and temporary or short-term layoffs. In addition, the program has experienced record-low turnover for the last 18 months, resulting in less cost-savings than projected.

To address this issue the Office of Community Services will be implementing several cost-saving measures that will have an impact on both families and early care and education programs that receive Stabilization Funding and/or currently have City Child Care Assistance families enrolled. The cost-saving measures and time-line for implementation are outlined below.

- All City Child Care Assistance families that are currently assigned a weekly family share will have a ten percent (10%) increase to their weekly family share effective July 13, 2009.
- All City of Madison Child Care Assistance families that currently are not assigned a weekly family share will now have a minimum weekly family share of \$10 effective July 13, 2009.

- Discontinuation of “family adjustments” effective immediately. June 12, 2009 is the last date that family adjustments will be credited.
- No 2009 City child care rate increase. The 2008 maximum child care reimbursement rates will remain in effect through 2009.
- The City will not allocate Stabilization Funding in 2009.
- There is potential for a temporary discontinuation of City of Madison Child Care Assistance from November 30, 2009 through December 25, 2009. Families and programs will receive further notice and information regarding this possibility in the coming months. We have advised families to explore contingency plans now, should the City be required to implement this measure.

Please note that child care authorizations issued by the Office of Community Services will reflect policy and budget changes effective **July 13, 2009**. Without the measures outlined above, the Office of Community Services would be forced to cut child care funding to all families effective October 5, 2009 through December 25, 2009. Currently the program serves 120 children from 80 families enrolled in 43 City Accredited programs.

The Office of Community Services remains committed to preserving quality early care and education, while addressing these budget constraints. We are grateful and appreciative of the programs that have partnered with the City to care for low-income children and their families.

If you have a question regarding funding or an authorization for a specific City Child Care Assistance family enrolled in your program you may contact Varinia del Moral-Smith at (608) 267-4996 or via e-mail at vdelmoral@cityofmadison.com. Questions regarding the cost-saving measures outlined above can be forwarded to Jolene Ibeling at (608) 266-6542 or via e-mail at jibeling@cityofmadison.com.

In our efforts to improve upon an already sophisticated projection and budget tracking system, we have consulted with the City comptroller’s office and have implemented system improvements and policy changes to avert over expenditures and the need for similar action in the future. Any changes, additions, or elimination of the cost-saving measures outlined above will be promptly communicated to providers and families.