



Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development
Community Development Division

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MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY OF MADISON CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE FAMILIES
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

Attention all families currently receiving City of Madison child care assistance: This is notification regarding budget and policy changes to the City of Madison Child Care Assistance Program.

The Office of Community Services takes great pride in the City's commitment to ensuring quality early childhood care and education for thousand's of Madison residents. Madison is unique in that it is the only local municipality that provides financial support to families while supporting quality early care and education for children using local tax levy. While the program is recognized for its critical service, the need and demand is much greater than funding provides. The Office of Community Services estimates that Child Care Assistance will be nearly \$200,000 over budget by the end of 2009. Like in many businesses and other City departments, the Office of Community Services will be implementing several cost-saving measures, including those outlined below, that will have an impact on families.

Families currently assigned "family shares":

1. All 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. If you have a family share, you are responsible for payment of the share directly to the child care program. You may have a family share for two reasons:
 - a. Your income is above the City income guidelines, which means that you are responsible for a share of the childcare cost.

- b. The center you choose may charge more than the City's maximum rate, in which case you are responsible for the difference.

Families without a current family share:

1. **All families that currently are not assigned a weekly family share will now have a minimum weekly family share of \$10 effective July 13, 2009.** You are responsible for payment of the share directly to the childcare program.
 - a. The center you choose may charge more than the City's maximum rate, in which case you are responsible for the difference.

All families:

1. **Discontinuation of "family adjustments" effective immediately.** June 12, 2009 is the last date that family adjustments will be credited.
 - a. A *family adjustment* is a temporary reduction to the *family share*. In order to qualify for a *family adjustment*, a client with a *family share* must submit to the Child Care Assistance Coordinator verification of personally paid medical or dental expenses, not covered by insurance. An additional payment in the amount of the out of pocket medical expense (with limits) is made to the childcare program. This additional payment is called a *family adjustment*.
2. **No 2009 City child care rate increase.** The 2008 maximum child care reimbursement rates will remain in effect through 2009.
 - a. The center you choose may charge more than the City's maximum rate, in which case you are responsible for the difference
3. **Notice:** There is potential for a temporary discontinuation of child care assistance from November 30, 2009 through December 25, 2009. Families will receive further notice and information regarding this possibility in the coming months. We advise 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**.

These policy changes represent ways by which the program can continue to serve those in need while controlling tax levy spending within the City's child care budget. The Office of Community Services recognizes that these changes place an additional burden on parents and programs to assume more responsibility for their child care arrangements.

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. The measures listed above, along with others that do not have a direct impact on families, were seen as the most equitable way of keeping the program within budget with the least level of disruption to children and families.

If you have a question regarding your child(ren)'s authorization(s) you may contact Varinia del Moral-Smith at (608) 267-4996 or via e-mail at vdelmoral@cityofmadison.com. If you have questions regarding the cost-saving measures outlined above you may contact Jolene Ibeling at (608) 266-6542 or via e-mail at jibeling@cityofmadison.com.

Any changes, additions, or elimination of these cost-saving measures will be promptly communicated to families.