



Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development
Community Development Division

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Child Care
Community Resources
Community Development Block Grant
Madison Senior Center

Child Care Tuition Assistance Eligibility Changes Made to Improve Access to High Quality Care

The Community Development Division has recently made ordinance and policy changes in order to assist City of Madison low-income families better. The goal is to remove barriers to give families better access to high quality child care.

The ordinance and policy changes are as follows:

Child Care Costs: When a family is determined eligible for Tuition Assistance, their income, eligible deductions (i.e. health insurance, flex plan, etc.) and family size are factored into a calculation that determines the amount of money the City believes they should be able to afford for child care. That is called their Family Share.

Previously, the city paid for care up to the city's maximum rate (the average cost of accredited care) less the Family Share. Often, there was additional out of pocket cost to the family because the city's maximum rate was lower than the rate the center charges privately paying families. With the ordinance change, the city will now pay for the full cost of child care above the Family Share up to 150% of the city maximum payment rate. At no point would the City pay more than the actual cost of care.

Training programs: We have broadened the definition of training programs that would qualify a person for Tuition Assistance to include programs supported by the city, United Way or other employment training programs deemed appropriate by the Early Care and Education manager.

Housing Cost Deduction: We now allow families to deduct any housing expense greater than 30% of their income when determining their ability to pay for child care under the Tuition Assistance program.

Residency: Participants are no longer required to live in Madison for six months before applying for Child Care Tuition Assistance

If you have any questions concerning any of the ordinance changes, please contact the Child Care Assistance Coordinator at (608) 267-4996 or childcareassistance@cityofmadison.com.