

Child care assistance: Facts and figures

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) provides financial assistance to help families with low incomes pay for child care so that parents may pursue employment or education leading to employment, and that children are well cared for and prepared to enter school ready to learn. Minnesota counties provide child care assistance services for 30,684 children and 15,349 families in an average month.

Background

Families can receive help paying for child care through the Minnesota Family Investment Program or Diversionary Work Program, or through the Basic Sliding Fee Program. The Minnesota Family Investment Program and the Diversionary Work Program help families work toward economic stability. The state fully funds child care assistance for families who participate in either program, or who have moved off the programs in the last year (referred to as “transition year”). The Basic Sliding Fee program, a capped allocation, assists families with low incomes who are not participating in the Minnesota Family Investment Program or Diversionary Work Program with child care costs.

- Minnesota Family Investment Program child care assistance helps families on assistance and transition year participants pay for child care while participating in authorized activities, such as looking for and finding work, or participating in other employment services plan activities.
- Basic Sliding Fee child care assistance helps pay for the child care costs of families with low incomes while they work, look for work or attend educational programs.

Eligibility

- Families earning 47% of the state median income or less are eligible to enter the Basic Sliding Fee program. Beginning October 2019, that income level was set at \$41,070 for a family of three.
- Families leave the Child Care Assistance Program when their earnings are greater than 67% of state median income at redetermination (income level \$58,547), 85% of state median income during the eligibility period (income level \$74,276) or when their copayment exceeds their cost of care.

For information on entrance and exit limits for other family sizes, refer to the chart at [Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program Copayment schedules \(DHS-6413H\)\(PDF\)](#).

Parent copayments

- All families receiving child care assistance and earning 75% or more of the federal poverty guideline make copayments based on family income.

- A family of three earning 50% of the state median income (\$43,692) would have a total biweekly child care copayment of \$100 for all children in child care.
- A family of three exiting the Minnesota Family Investment Program and earning \$28,320 (or approximately 32% of the state median income) would have a total biweekly child care copayment of \$32 for all children in child care.

For information on entrance and exit limits for other family sizes, refer to the copayment chart at [Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program Copayment schedules \(DHS-6413H\)\(PDF\)](#).

Program averages

- For state fiscal year 2019, a monthly average of 16,689 children from 8,065 families received Minnesota Family Investment Program child care assistance.
- For state fiscal year 2019, a monthly average of 13,995 children from 7,284 families received Basic Sliding Fee child care assistance.
- As of January 2020, 2,400 families were on the waiting list for Basic Sliding Fee child care.

Funding

Child Care Assistance Program direct services funding for 2019 was \$249.8 million. This includes:

- \$149.7 million, including federal and state funding, for Minnesota Family Investment Program child care assistance
- \$100.1 million, including federal, state and county funding, for Basic Sliding Fee child care assistance.

For state fiscal year 2019, the average total monthly assistance per family on Basic Sliding Fee was \$1,145; for a Minnesota Family Investment Program family receiving child care assistance, the average total monthly assistance per family was \$1,547.



For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-3809, or use your preferred relay service. ADA1 (1-18)