



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 29,821 children in an average month.

Background

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. In addition, the Basic Sliding Fee program, a capped allocation, assists low-income families who are not participating in either program with child care costs.

- Minnesota Family Investment Program child care assistance helps families on assistance and “transition year” participants, who are moving off assistance, 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 low-income families while they work, look for work or attend educational programs.

Eligibility

- Families earning 47 percent of the state median income or less are eligible to enter the Basic Sliding Fee program. Beginning October 2018, that income level was set at \$39,455 for a family of three.
- Families leave the Child Care Assistance Program when their earnings are greater than 67 percent of state median income at redetermination (income level \$56,244), 85 percent of state median income during the eligibility period (income level \$71,354) 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 \(DHS-6413G\)\(PDF\)](#).

Parent copayments

- All families receiving child care assistance and earning 75 percent or more of the federal poverty guideline make copayments based on family income.
- A family of three earning 50 percent of the state median income (\$41,973) would have a total biweekly child care copayment of \$96 for all children in child care.

- A family of three exiting the Minnesota Family Investment Program and earning \$26,784 (or approximately 32 percent of the state median income) would have a total biweekly child care copayment of \$31 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 \(DHS-6413G\)\(PDF\)](#).

Program averages

- For state fiscal year 2018, a monthly average of 16,434 children from 7,830 families received Minnesota Family Investment Program child care assistance.
- For state fiscal year 2018, a monthly average of 13,387 children from 6,970 families received Basic Sliding Fee child care assistance.
- As of February 2019, 1,640 families were on the waiting list for Basic Sliding Fee child care.

Funding

Child Care Assistance Program funding for 2018 was \$254.1 million. This includes:

- \$157.3 million, including federal and state funding for Minnesota Family Investment Program child care assistance
- \$96.8 million, including federal, state and county funding for Basic Sliding Fee child care assistance.

For state fiscal year 2018, the average total monthly assistance per family on Basic Sliding Fee was \$1,157; for a Minnesota Family Investment Program family receiving child care assistance, the average total monthly assistance per family was \$1,674.



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