Joe Lombardo Governor

Richard Whitley, MS Director



DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Robert Thompson Administrator

DIVISION OF WELFARE AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.

DATE: March 27, 2024

SUBJECT: Changes to the Child Care and Development Subsidy Program

The State of Nevada Child Care and Development Program (CCDP) recognizes the need for affordable, quality child care, and understands that recent changes to the program have caused concerns for Nevada's working families. In an effort to remain transparent with the public and the families served by the child care subsidy program, the agency would like to provide further explanation of these changes.

The Child Care subsidy program was infused with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to help support families as they returned to work during the COVID-19 public health emergency. These funds were allocated to expand child care availability, reduce costs for families, stabilize the child care workforce, and support providers. The program was able to increase provider reimbursement rates, remove waitlist and eliminate co-payments.

As this funding sunsets, the agency must now make adjustments to operate within pre-pandemic budgets. CCDP will be reinstating a wait list for all new applicants, and most families will be required to pay a co-payment as of April 1, 2024, with the first payment being due on May 1, 2024. The following households will be exempt from co-payment requirements:

- New Employees of Nevada (NEON)
- Foster Care/CPS
- Wraparound
- Households experiencing homelessness
- Persons who are attending an approved substance use disorder (SUD) treatment or recovery program through the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

Family co-payment contribution requirements are determined by the household's size and monthly income and is capped at 7%. The maximum monthly income a household of 4 can make to qualify for child care is currently \$6,327.19, the maximum monthly co-payment for that household would be \$442.90. The current income limits and maximum monthly co-payment chart is available <u>online</u>, and households are encouraged to look at these charts to anticipate what they will be required to pay.

At this time the wait list will only apply to new applicants that are determined eligible for the subsidy program. Existing program participants will not be subject to a waitlist requirement but must reapply prior to their existing certificate ending. For questions on existing certificates, or general inquiries families are encouraged to contact <u>The Las Vegas</u> <u>Urban League</u> in Southern Nevada, and <u>The Children's Cabinet</u> in Northern Nevada. The wait list is evaluated monthly and as one family comes off of assistance, another family will be added in their place.

Income limits for participation in the program were increased to 85% of the State Median Income, with the aim of reaching more families as they returned to the work force. At this time income limits are not changing but these higher-than-normal limits will be re-evaluated. Future program changes will ensure that the most vulnerable families will remain eligible for the subsidy program that their family depends on. Any adjustments will be communicated to families, to allow time to prepare for and make alternate plans if needed.

The CCDP recognizes the importance early childhood education plays in the social and emotional growth of children and remains committed to providing assistance to as many qualified families as possible. If families have additional questions about these changes, they can contact The Las Vegas Urban League at (702) 473-9400 in Southern Nevada, and The Children's Cabinet at (775) 856-6200 in Northern Nevada.