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 Program

The Child Care and Development Program (CCDP) recently announced upcoming changes to the program that caused concerns for the families it serves. CCDP recognizes that these changes have also caused questions and concerns for you, the providers, and would like to provide further explanation of what these changes mean to your business.

The Child Care and Development Program (CCDP) received historic funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to stabilize the child care workforce, increase availability, reduce costs to families, and support the providers that were vital to Nevada's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as Nevadans returned to work. As this funding sunsets, the agency must now make adjustments to operate within pre-pandemic budgets.

What does this mean for you, the provider?

Existing certificates will be honored. CCDP has reinstated a waitlist for new applicants that are determined eligible for the subsidy program as of April 1, 2024. Existing households will not be subject to a waitlist, as long as the family applies prior to the certification ending. CCDP understands that continuity of care decreases stress for children, creates secure attachments, and strengthens family/caregiver partnerships, so please encourage families to renew their child care certificate timely to prevent any lapse and to avoid being placed on a waitlist. For questions on existing certificates, or general inquiries families are encouraged to contact <u>The Las Vegas Urban League</u> in Southern Nevada, and <u>The Children's Cabinet</u> in Northern Nevada. The waitlist is evaluated monthly and as one family comes off of assistance, another family will be added in their place.

Families will be required to pay a family co-payment contribution that is determined by the household's size and monthly income. Co-payments will range from 0-7% based on income, and will be paid directly to the provider, 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 approved substance use disorder (SUD) treatment or recovery program through the Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

Families asking for information on what co-payments may cost, can be directed to the Child Care Household Size and Monthly income chart that is available <u>online</u>.

Business practices changed in July 2022, when CCDP increased reimbursement rates to 100% of the maximum daily rate, at this time there will be no changes to the way reimbursement rates are paid.

CCDP continues to look at what adjustments can be made to ensure the most vulnerable families remain eligible for child care assistance. Income limits and pilot programs will be evaluated for sustainability and adjusted as recommended. In effort to remain transparent, all future changes will be shared with the providers and families as quickly as possible to allow time for preparations.

CCDP would like to acknowledge the providers for their partnership because without you these programs would not exist. Early childhood education provides the foundation for all future learning and is essential for the emotional and social development of children. Thank you for your continued support and the work that you do. Providers that have additional questions about these changes, 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.