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**State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker**

**TO: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
W-2 Agencies
Workforce Development Boards
Job Center Leads and Managers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators**

**FROM: Kath McGurk, Director
Bureau of Early Learning and Policy
Division of Early Care and Education
Department of Children and Families**

DECE/BELP OPERATIONS MEMO					
No: 15-08					
DATE: 3/3/2015					
FS	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>	BC+	<input type="checkbox"/>
SC	<input type="checkbox"/>	CTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FSET	<input type="checkbox"/>
BC+ Basic	<input type="checkbox"/>	BC+ CORE	<input type="checkbox"/>		
CC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	W-2	<input type="checkbox"/>	EA	<input type="checkbox"/>
CF	<input type="checkbox"/>	JAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	JC	<input type="checkbox"/>
RAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	WIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> *
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SUBJECT: 2015 Federal Poverty Level Changes for the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program

CROSS REFERENCE: Child Care Manual, Section 1.6.2-1.6.4, and 2015 HHS poverty guidelines at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/15poverty.cfm>

EFFECTIVE DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2015

PURPOSE: This memo introduces the 2015 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) that is used in determining financial eligibility for the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program.

BACKGROUND: Each year, the federal Department of Health and Human Services updates the FPL guidelines based on the Consumer Price Index. Poverty guidelines are used to determine financial eligibility for Community Services Block Grant programs and several other publicly funded programs, including the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program.

POLICY: The effective dates of the new income limits for Wisconsin Shares are February 1, 2015 for new applications; and for ongoing cases.

The 2015 FPL table for financial eligibility in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program is as follows:

Group Size	Annual 185% FPL	Monthly 185% FPL	Annual 200% FPL	Monthly 200% FPL
2	\$29,472	\$2,456	\$31,860	\$2,655
3	\$37,164	\$3,097	\$40,176	\$3,348
4	\$44,868	\$3,739	\$48,504	\$4,042
5	\$52,560	\$4,380	\$56,820	\$4,735
6	\$60,252	\$5,021	\$65,136	\$5,428
7	\$67,956	\$5,663	\$73,464	\$6,122
8	\$75,648	\$6,304	\$81,780	\$6,815
9	\$83,340	\$6,945	\$90,096	\$7,508
10	\$91,044	\$7,587	\$98,424	\$8,202
Each Additional Person Add	\$7,692	\$641	\$8,316	\$693

Wisconsin Shares Financial Eligibility

The financial eligibility limit for new Wisconsin Shares applicants, including cases in which Child Care has had been closed for more than a calendar month, is 185% FPL. Once financial eligibility has been met, financial eligibility may continue until the income reaches 200% FPL.

Financial eligibility for foster parents, and relatives who receive Kinship Care for a child for whom they also have legal guardianship or court-ordered placement, and Subsidized Guardians under Wis. Stat. § 48, is based upon the child(ren)'s natural or adoptive family income being no more than 200% FPL at the time the child was initially removed from the home.

CARES/CSAW

The CARES mainframe income limit table TCCS used to determine Child Care (CC) eligibility has been updated with an effective date of February 1, 2015 and a CARES mass change for CC eligibility will run the weekend of February 8, 2015. The CARES mass change selects all ongoing Child Care cases and compares the household income to the 2015 FPL amounts for February eligibility. Because the income thresholds are increasing, this process will not have a negative eligibility impact for any Child Care case.

Wisconsin Shares Family Copayments

The copayment schedule will also change as a result of the change in the FPL, but not until a separate Child Care Administration on the Web (CSAW) mass change occurs when the new copayment schedule becomes effective. Parents and child care providers will be notified of the copayment changes and a separate Operations Memo will be issued.

CONTACTS:

For Wisconsin Shares Child Care policy questions outside of Milwaukee County contact your Bureau of Regional Operations (BRO), Child Care Coordinators at <https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/files/regionaloperations/pdf/bro-contacts.pdf>

For Child Care CARES/CWW, CSAW and CCPI Processing Questions statewide and policy questions in Milwaukee County contact the Child Care Help desk at: childcare@wisconsin.gov or (608) 264-1657.

*Program Categories – FS – FoodShare, MA – Medicaid, BC+ – BadgerCare Plus, SC – Senior Care, CTS – Caretaker Supplement, CC – Child Care, W-2 – Wisconsin Works, FSET – FoodShare Employment and Training, BC+ Core – BadgerCare Plus Core, CF – Children First, EA – Emergency Assistance, JAL – Job Access Loan, JC - Job Center Programs, RAP – Refugee Assistance Program, WIA – Workforce Investment Act, Other EP – Other Employment Programs.

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