



DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN  
AND FAMILIES  
Secretary Eloise Anderson  
201 East Washington Avenue, Room G200  
P.O. Box 8916  
Madison, WI 53708-8916  
Telephone: 608-266-8684  
Fax: 608-261-6972  
www.dcf.wisconsin.gov

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
Secretary Kitty Rhoades  
1 West Wilson Street  
P.O. Box 7850  
Madison, WI 53707-7850  
Telephone: (608) 266-9622  
FAX: (608) 266-7882  
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov

**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**

<b>DECE/BELP OPERATIONS MEMO</b>			
<b>No:</b>	16-02		
<b>DATE:</b>	02/09/2016		
<b>CC</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>FS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>W-2</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>BC+</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

**SUBJECT: 2016 Federal Poverty Level Changes for the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program**

**CROSS REFERENCE:** Child Care Manual, Section 1.5.1.1 – 1.5.1.2, and 2016 HHS poverty guidelines at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 1, 2016

**PURPOSE:** This memo introduces the 2016 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, 2016 for new applications; and for ongoing cases.

The 2016 FPL table for financial eligibility in the Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy program is as follows:

Group Size	Annual 185%	Monthly 185%	Annual	Monthly 200%
	FPL	FPL	200% FPL	FPL
1	\$21,978	\$1,832	\$23,760	\$1,980
2	\$29,637	\$2,470	\$32,040	\$2,670
3	\$37,296	\$3,108	\$40,320	\$3,360
4	\$44,955	\$3,746	\$48,600	\$4,050
5	\$52,614	\$4,385	\$56,880	\$4,740
6	\$60,273	\$5,023	\$65,160	\$5,430
7	\$67,951	\$5,663	\$73,460	\$6,122
8	\$75,647	\$6,304	\$81,780	\$6,815
9	\$83,343	\$6,945	\$90,100	\$7,508
10	\$91,039	\$7,587	\$98,420	\$8,202
Each Additional Person Add	\$7,696	\$641	\$8,320	\$693

**WISCONSIN SHARES FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY:** the financial eligibility limit for new Wisconsin shares applicants, including cases in which child care has 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. statute 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 (Childcare Need Standard), which is used to determine Child Care (CC) eligibility, has been updated with an effective date of February 1, 2016 and a CARES mass change for CC eligibility will run the weekend of February 6, 2016. The CARES mass change selects all ongoing Child Care cases and compares the household income to the 2016 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 this change will not be effective until a separate Child Care Administration on the Web (CSAW) mass change occurs. 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/wishares/pdf/coordinators.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](mailto:ChildCare@wisconsin.gov) or (608) 267-1657.

\*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.

DCF/DECE/BELP/RH