

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES
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



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

TO: **Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff
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: 16-31

DATE: 9/22/16

Child Care

SUBJECT: New Copayment Schedule for MyWICChildCare Implementation

CROSS REFERENCE: Operations Memos 16-02, 16-03, 16-19

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2016

PURPOSE: This memo introduces a change in the way Wisconsin Shares copayments are structured. The new copayment structure is a result of policy and system changes related to the implementation of the MyWICChildCare initiative.

BACKGROUND: Wisconsin is changing the way child care providers are paid for caring for children participating in the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy program. This change is being implemented in two phases across the state. Phase One will occur in Buffalo, Clark, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Vernon, and Trempealeau counties effective October 1, 2016. Phase Two will be implemented in the rest of the state effective February 1, 2017.

Child care subsidy will be placed on a MyWICChildCare EBT card and parents will be responsible for paying their child care provider using the card. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) will no longer reimburse providers based on Attendance Report Forms.

POLICY: Currently, there is one weekly copayment amount based on the number of children in subsidized care. The new copayment schedule includes two separate monthly amounts: a base copayment amount that is determined by the monthly child care hours for the family, and a per child copayment amount that is based on each child's monthly authorized hours.

The 2016 Federal Poverty Level (FPL) on which the copayments are based has not changed; it remains the same until the 2017 FPL is released early next year.

The current weekly copayment schedule and the corresponding calculation methods will be made obsolete upon full implementation of the MyWICChildCare initiative.

Definition of Copayment vs. Parent Share

The Wisconsin Shares copayment is a system-calculated amount that reduces the initial child care subsidy amount based on family size, gross income, and the number of hours of authorized child care for the family.

The Parent Share responsibility is the balance due to the provider which is not covered by the Wisconsin Shares subsidy. This may include the cost of care as well as any additional fees charged by the provider.

Local agency workers should be cautious to not interchange “copayment” with “Parent Share” while discussing child care cases with parents.

Monthly Copayment

A link to the EBT Implementation Child Care Copayment Schedule is posted on the Wisconsin Shares website.

The two new copayment-type amounts both increase as the family’s FPL percentage increases. Each copayment is listed alongside the corresponding FPL in the copayment schedule. The new copayment schedule is designed to have little to no change to the existing copayment requirements for families. Any changes are reductions rather than increases.

Base Copayment

The Base Copayment amount is adjusted based on the monthly child care hours (rounded up to whole numbers) for the family according to the following structure:

Zero to 20 Hours:	10 percent of the Base Copay
21 to 40 Hours:	25 percent of the Base Copay
41 to 80 Hours:	50 percent of the Base Copay
81 or more Hours:	100 percent of the Base Copay

Example 1: Marni’s gross income is at 130 percent FPL. Her two children are in care for a total of 110 hours per month. The Base Copay for 130 percent FPL is \$137. Because the children are in care for 81 or more hours, Marni must pay 100 percent of the Base Copayment.

Marni’s monthly Base Copayment is \$137.

Example 2: Jose’s gross income is at 155 percent FPL. His two children are in care for a total of 37 hours per month. The Base Copay for 155 percent FPL is \$192. Because the children are in care for 21 to 40 hours, Jose must pay 25 percent of the Base Copayment.

Jose’s monthly Base Copayment is \$48.

Per Child Copayment

The Per Child Copayment amount is adjusted based on the monthly hours for an individual child according to the following structure:

Zero to 15 Hours:	10 percent of the Per Child Copay
16 to 30 Hours:	20 percent of the Per Child Copay
31 to 45 Hours:	30 percent of the Per Child Copay
46 to 60 Hours:	40 percent of the Per Child Copay
61 to 75 Hours:	50 percent of the Per Child Copay
76 to 90 Hours:	60 percent of the Per Child Copay
91 to 105 Hours:	70 percent of the Per Child Copay
106 to 120 Hours:	80 percent of the Per Child Copay
121 to 135 Hours:	90 percent of the Per Child Copay
136 or more Hours:	100 percent of the Per Child Copay

Example 3: Marni's gross income is at 130 percent FPL. Her 2-year old Marissa is in care eight hours a day, four days a week while in Marni's placement. Marta is 5 years old and she is in care for three hours a day, four days a week while in Marni's placement. The Per Child Copay for 130 FPL is \$47.

Marissa is in subsidized care for 140 hours per month and Marni must pay 100 percent of the Per Child Copay for more than 136 hours. The total Per Child Copayment for Marissa's care is \$47.

Marta is in subsidized care for 53 hours per month and Marni must pay 40 percent of the Per Child Copay. The total Per Child Copayment for Marta's care is \$18.80.

Marni's total monthly Per Child Copayment for both of her children is \$65.80.

Example 4: Jose's gross income is at 155 percent FPL. Marissa is in care eight hours a day, one day a week while in his placement. Marta is in care for three hours a day, one day a week while in Jose's placement. The Per Child Copay for 155 FPL is \$56.

Marissa is in subsidized care for 35 hours per month and Jose must pay 30 percent of the Per Child Copay. The total Per Child Copayment for Marissa's care is \$16.80.

Marta is in subsidized care for 14 hours per month and Jose must pay 10 percent of the Per Child Copay. The total Per Child Copayment for Marta's care is \$5.60.

Jose's total monthly Per Child Copayment for both of his children is \$22.40.

Wisconsin Shares Conversion to MyWICChildCare and EBT CSAW

The process for converting existing authorizations to EBT CSAW was outlined in Operations Memo 16-19. The new copayments will only exist in EBT CSAW and will not affect authorizations written in regular CSAW.

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, EBT 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. Effective October 1, 2016, the Help Desk can be reached at (608) 422-7200.

DCF/DECE/BELP/HJF