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**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: 17-09

DATE: 02/01/2017

Child Care

SUBJECT: 2017 Federal Poverty Level Changes for the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program

CROSS REFERENCE: Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Policy Manual, Section 1.5.1.1 – 1.5.1.2, and 2017 HHS poverty guidelines at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 2017

PURPOSE: This memo introduces the 2017 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 (HHS) 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: Beginning February 1, 2017, new applicant eligibility will be determined using the 2017 FPL limits. The 2017 FPL limits will be applied to ongoing cases on February 4, 2017.

The 2017 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
1	\$22,311	\$1,859	\$24,120	\$2,010
2	\$30,044	\$2,504	\$32,480	\$2,707
3	\$37,777	\$3,148	\$40,840	\$3,403
4	\$45,510	\$3,793	\$49,200	\$4,100
5	\$53,243	\$4,437	\$57,560	\$4,797
6	\$60,976	\$5,081	\$65,920	\$5,493
7	\$68,709	\$5,726	\$74,280	\$6,190
8	\$76,442	\$6,370	\$82,640	\$6,887
9	\$84,175	\$7,015	\$91,000	\$7,583
10	\$91,908	\$7,659	\$99,360	\$8,280
Each Additional Person Add	\$7,733	\$644	\$8,360	\$697

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, subsidized guardians under Wis. Statute 48, interim caretakers, and relatives with court-ordered placement who receive a Kinship Care payment is based upon the child's biological or adoptive parents' income tested at 200% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) at the time the child was removed from the home.

CARES/CSAW : The CARES mainframe income limit table, TCCS (Childcare Need Standard), which is used to determine Wisconsin Shares eligibility, has been updated with an effective date of February 1, 2017 and a CARES mass change for Wisconsin Shares eligibility will run the weekend of February 4, 2017. The CARES mass change selects all ongoing Wisconsin Shares cases and compares the household income to the 2017 FPL amounts for February eligibility. Because the income thresholds are increasing, this process will not have a negative eligibility impact for any Wisconsin Shares 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 EBT Child Care Administration on the Web (EBT CSAW) mass change occurs. Currently, the effective date of the new copayment schedule is planned for April 2017. 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 Subsidy and Technical Assistance line at: childcare@wisconsin.gov or (608) 422-7200.