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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: 18-01

DATE: ~~01/30/2018~~ **AMENDED 2/1**

Child Care

**SUBJECT: 2018 Federal Poverty Level Changes for the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program**

**CROSS REFERENCE** [Wisconsin Shares Policy Manual](#), Sections [1.5.1.1](#) & [1.5.1.2](#)  
2018 HHS poverty guidelines at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 1, 2018

**PURPOSE:** This memo introduces the 2018 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, 2018, new applicant eligibility will be determined using the 2018 FPL limits. The 2018 FPL limits will be applied to ongoing cases on February 3, 2018.

The 2018 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	\$30,451	\$2,538	\$32,920	\$2,743
3	\$38,443	\$3,204	\$41,560	\$3,463
4	\$46,435	\$3,870	\$50,200	\$4,183
5	\$54,427	\$4,536	\$58,840	\$4,903
6	\$62,419	\$5,202	\$67,480	\$5,623
7	\$70,411	\$5,868	\$76,120	\$6,343
8	\$78,403	\$6,534	\$84,760	\$7,063
9	\$86,395	\$7,200	\$93,400	\$7,783
10	\$94,387	\$7,866	\$102,040	\$8,503
Each Additional Person Add	\$4,320 Amended \$7,992	\$666	\$8,640	\$720

Note: the miscalculation is limited to the table for this memo. No errors were made when entering the 2018 FPL numbers into Cares Worker Web (CWW). Any eligibility determinations made in CWW using the 2018 FPL numbers are correct.

**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 (and relatives of children in tribal placement homes under a substantially similar Wisconsin tribal law) 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, 2018 and a CARES mass change for Wisconsin Shares eligibility will run the weekend of February 3, 2018. The CARES mass change selects all ongoing Wisconsin Shares cases and compares the household income to the 2018 FPL amounts for February eligibility. Because the income thresholds are increasing, this process will not have a negative eligibility impact for Wisconsin Shares cases.

**Wisconsin Shares Family Copayments:** The Wisconsin Shares copayment schedule will also change as a result of the change in the FPL. This change is planned for March 1, 2018. A separate Operations Memo will be issued for the copayment schedule change.

## CONTACTS:

For Wisconsin Shares Child Care policy questions outside of Milwaukee County contact your Bureau of Regional Operations (BRO), Child Care Coordinators at [BROCCPolicyHelpDesk@wisconsin.gov](mailto:BROCCPolicyHelpDesk@wisconsin.gov).

For Child Care CARES/CWW and CSAW Processing Questions statewide, and policy questions in Milwaukee County, contact the Child Care Subsidy and Technical Assistance line at: [childcare@wisconsin.gov](mailto:childcare@wisconsin.gov) or (608) 422-7200.

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